



Municipality of West Elgin

Minutes

Recreation Committee

July 17, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

West Elgin Community Complex - Hybrid Meeting

160 Main St

West Lorne

Electronic Hybrid Meeting

Present: Nicole Campbell
Cindy da Costa
Megan Bartlett
Michelle Navackas

Regrets: Councillor T. Tellier
Courtney Kreamer

Staff Present: Jenn Vanesse
Magda Badura

1. Call to Order

Chair Megan Bartlett called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved: Nicole Campbell

Seconded: Michelle Navackas

That West Elgin Recreation Committee hereby adopts the agenda as circulated.

Carried

4. Minutes

Moved: Cindy da Costa

Seconded: Nicole Campbell

That the West Elgin Recreation Committee adopts the minutes of June 10, 2024 as printed and circulated.

Carried

5. Business Arising from Minutes

No business arising from the minutes

6. New Business

6.1 Rodney Pool Discussion

There was a special council meeting on Monday to address the pool fee concerns. Residents are upset at the rising cost of the pool and want it for free, but others don't want it to be added to their taxes either. For next year, we need to look at different programming to be offered at the pool, help to increase season pass sales, find ways to get more people to utilize the pool, inquire about an early bird price, or how the passes from the library would work, and utilizing community grants. The aquafit users were the most affected as their fees went from \$5 to \$10. The cost of the pool operation keeps increasing and the fees we are charging are not even close to covering the daily costs. Other suggestions would be to look to the food bank to help utilize passes for low income families, or partner with WECHC for mom & tot swim.

A survey is to be created for all users of the pool, but one just for swimming lessons, and the other for the users of the pool. This will help us to determine what the needs/wants are from the users/families, and help us in making decisions for next year.

A capital budget project will be coming up in 2025/2026 which is replacing the pool liner which right now is \$200,000. We should be looking into any grants that can help offset the cost for this.

This will be flagged for future agendas. Also the statistics for this year will be compiled so we have an idea of what we need for next year.

6.2 Committee Mandate/Focus

The purpose of the council meeting is to gain guidance and direction on what the rec committee does and what our focus should be. The feeling so

far is just planning Canada Day. Some ideas of our purpose is advocating for the community at budget time, educating the community about recreation, and support staff to increase programs. We need a plan for 2025 and help in contributing to the budget which should start in October.

A survey will be drafted to go out to the committee and then the community about Canada Day.

We would look at surveying the community as well on what programs they would be interested in seeing, so we can have an idea on where to focus resources and time. We want to look at creative ways of implementing things, and possibly shared resources or staff.

It would be great to have a rec leader who leads the group and who we go to for questions & answers.

6.3 Canada Day Recap

There were a few supplies that needed added to the list for next year (staple gun and picnic table clips). Having a task list for each person, so they know when they show up what they are supposed to be doing and have the supplies ready for them. Also having everything all together would be more beneficial as the pickleball and basketball didn't get utilized as much as we had hoped. The dance group was very well received, fitborough had a few participants as well. We did run out of cake this year.

It seemed to be a well attended event and kids were engaged in all activities. The lawn bowlers had over 100 people come through to learn lawn bowling. It was very well received and a resource we think is underutilized in the community, and want to help assist on how we can help offer more activities, like a girls night bowl, or a learn how to bowl with kids, etc...

7. Adjournment

Moved: Michelle Navackas

Seconded: Cindy da Costa

That West Elgin Recreation Committee hereby adjourn at 8:01 p.m. to meet again on September 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. as a hybrid format.

Carried

Megan Bartlett, Chair

Jenn VanEsse, Recording Secretary