



MINUTES
CITY OF MERRITT
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 22, 2024
6:00 pm
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
2185 Voght Street
Merritt, B.C

PRESENT: Mayor M. Goetz
Ms. A. Douthwright, Chair
Mrs. B. Porada
Ms. L. DeWinter
Mr. J. Halvorson

REGRETS: Mr. S. Haller

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. C. White, CAO
Ms. L. Brick, Director of Corporate Services
Mr. K. Natkinniemi, Director of Finance and Human Resources
Mr. D. Zakall, Director of Community Services
Ms. A. Gush, Committee Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

We would like to begin this meeting by acknowledging that we are gathered on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Nlaka'pamux and Syilx people.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes - July 11, 2024

THAT the Minutes of the Recreation Advisory Committee held on July 11, 2024 be adopted.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

3. GENERAL MATTERS - Delegations and Recognitions

Nil.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Pickleball Lease

Mr. J. Halverson joined at 6:05 pm.

The Committee discussed the current leases noting that they are outdated; the Committee requested that staff report on the actual cost of maintenance, long standing leases, breakdown of user fees and division of burden. The Committee discussed concerns regarding fee increase, with a goal to minimize impacts on the community.

The Committee discussed an overview of community involvement noting that community members can't always donate funds but can donate machinery, or volunteer time to complete tasks. Staff noted that there is a union piece, these avenues can be explored if time is not taken away from union workers. Additionally, community sponsorship was discussed noting that barriers to sponsorship should be minimized. CAO White detailed the need of a sponsorship and advertisement policy.

The TNRD agreement is outdated, staff noted the review of this agreement will be a goal for this year. A lease template is underway for standardization of lease agreements. CAO White conveyed concerns brought forward from the Policy Committee regarding public access to public facilities such as the pickleball court. The Committee reflected on large scale costs and upgrades required within the community and how the priority of allocating funds is distributed and implement action of sponsorship and advertising policy. Madam Chair enquired into community leasing; CAO White deferred from this year due to the depth of research it will take.

Mayor Goetz suggested the Committee attend the open house on October 9, 2024.

THAT the Committee direct staff to bring forward a report on City recreation expenditures for review and consideration.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

4.2 Merritt and District Tennis Lease

Nil.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Recreation Advisory Building Cost Info

Mr. D. Zakall and Mr. K. Natkinniemi to present.

Mr. Natkinniemi and Mr. Zakall provided an overview on the recreational building cost information. The Committee revisited the ask from staff for next meeting. They are looking for a summary view of facilities, with an understanding of how that compares to other services that the City offers, a break down of what user groups pay, what a percentage increase would look like, and a break down of field usage. Mr. Natkinniemi noted that conversations around separating Central Park and issuing it its own cost codes are underway but will not take place until 2025.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

7. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting terminated at 7:21 pm.

Amy Douthwright

Chair

Certified correct in accordance with Section 124(2) of the Community Charter

Confirmed on the ____ day of ____, 20____