

Recreation and Leisure Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting #: 1
Date: January 12, 2023
Time: 7:33 am - 8:35 am
Location: Zoom

Members Present **Mayor Bent**
 Deputy Mayor Gosse
 Councillor Moores
 Councillor Connors

Staff Present **Nick Miller, Director of Recreation and Leisure Services**
 Liz Davis, Acting Director of Recreation and Leisure Services
 Natasha Hann, Program Supervisor
 Carla Hodder, Program Supervisor

1. Programs and Events

1.a Manuels River Light Walk

Chairperson Moores discussed the Light Walk with the Committee. Points of discussion surrounded the dates for the 2023-2024 display, and the potential of expanding with additional lighted areas throughout Conception Bay South.

A lengthy discussion took place including future duration, equipment and potential upgrades, cost and budgeted monies, and locations throughout Town.

As the Light Walk is an attraction for residents and visitors, which is very well attended each year, the Committee concurred to have any 2023-2024 lighted areas lit from the beginning of December 2023 until the end of the 2024 Winterfest celebration.

In relation to the equipment required, as the current Light Walk uses residential light sets, the need to upgrade to a commercial system would be imperative to ensure it could withstand the proposed duration. For the current Light Walk at Manuels River, the Committee requested that staff look into any potential funding options to cover the cost of this retrofit. Also, this should be completed in the upcoming months, to allow sufficient time to order the commercial light sets for the 2023-2024 displays. For the Community Park, funds have been budgeted to allow the purchase of commercial lights for this area in the 2023 operating budget. In addition to this, the Community Park was developed with sufficient electrical throughout the space to permit a large light display.

Deputy Mayor Gosse left the meeting at 7:53 am.

Regarding additional locations through Conception Bay South, the Committee expressed a desire to see another display in the west end of the Town. The Committee concurred that this would be a nice addition and if funding allowed, staff should research this option further in an effort to make this a reality. It was also requested for staff to explore solar options for the light displays.

1.b Winterfest

Chairperson Moores discussed the Winterfest Celebration with the Committee.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding committee structure, planning timelines, and crossover with the Town's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Regarding Winterfest Committee structure, the Committee expressed a desire to see a restructure of the Volunteer Committee, and the roles taken on by each member. This would include the naming of a co-chair (from volunteers) to work closely with Town staff, as well as the creation of sub-committees to spearhead specific initiatives.

In preparation for the 2024 Winterfest, the Committee would like to see planning timelines moved back to ensure sufficient time to realize all goals. The Committee concurred that planning begin in September 2023 for the 2024 Winterfest.

As Winterfest is the first major festival of the year for the Town, the Committee concurred to include crossover with the Town's 50th Anniversary Celebration wherever possible. This should include involvement in the Shield Hockey Tournaments, and other large events. For example, a youth from a local school could be selected as the Emcee for the Hockey Tournaments.

1.c 50th Anniversary Celebrations

In preparation for the upcoming 50th Anniversary Steering Committee Meeting, Chairperson Moores asked if there were any final ideas or considerations that the Committee would like brought forward to the Steering Committee.

The Committee were looking forward to seeing the ideas that will continue to be developed by this Steering Committee.

2. Potential Problems/Concerns

Nil

3. Recreation and Leisure Services Committee Report

Be it so resolved that the recommendations and decisions of the Recreation and Leisure Services Committee meeting of January 12, 2023 be accepted as presented.

Councillor Moores, Chair

Nick Miller, Director of Recreation
and Leisure Services