

Recreation Advisory Committee

Minutes August 25, 2020

- 1 All were welcomed to the first meeting of the RAC and introductions made. In attendance: Wayne Malone, Andrea Mood-Nickerson, Jody Crook (Chair), Chris Frotten, Jon Langille, Joel d'Entremont, Misty James. The meeting was called to order at 6:09 by Jody Crook.
- 2 & 3 The agenda was approved as circulated: Moved by Wayne Malone, seconded by Andrea Mood-Nickerson
- 4 Chris reviewed the Terms of Reference of the Committee and took questions. Once complete, minutes of the Recreation Advisory Committee are circulated to Council. Any changes to the ToR may be recommended to council for approval.
- 5 Misty reviewed the recreation Strategy development process. The committee agreed with the staff recommendation to do the work internally to allow for a variety of ways to engage residents as well as provide staff the opportunity to get to know the community.

A draft timeline to complete the strategy was developed:

Community profile and inventory of facilities, spaces, programs and services List of community organizations	September meeting
Develop engagement tools, communication and process Identify populations to survey, interview, question	September-October
Conclude engagement and report	December meeting
Organize feedback into priority areas and develop goals and objectives	January
Present strategy to identified focus groups, Council, staff for feedback and approval	February
Develop implementation plan with timeline and outcomes for year 1, 2, etc.	March

6 Staff Reports

- a. Director: Programming consisting of scaled Day Camp style programming, pool rentals and lessons along with different try-it activities and special events were very well received.

Misty continues to sit on several provincial and regional boards and committees including Recreation Nova Scotia, NS Connect management team, ReSport Core Team, South Shore Female Leadership Network and a few ad hoc communications teams.

Fall/ winter priorities include:

Developing partnerships with community organizations that have spaces that may be utilized for recreation.

Streamline and make facility use and accessibility consistent to provide the community with a wide range of services for all ages.

Develop access to outdoor recreation by introducing more activities such as archery, family hikes, special events as well as improve the equipment loan program. We also strive to improve the use of outdoor spaces with signage, creative activities in the space and provision of recreation equipment and play ideas.

Support families who may be experiencing less access to activity for their children due to COVID.

- b. MPAL: Joel put together summer leisure kits with funding through the Active Communities Fund to provide kids of families experiencing difficulty due to financial resources or other issues with equipment to use to play outdoors . He partnered with Schools Plus and Early Childhood Intervention to deliver the kits to families.

Joel is working as part of the South Shore Active Communities Committee to develop signage and messaging to share as a positive reinforcement to people who moved outdoors more often as a result of COVID restrictions.

Youth engagement has been going well with the introduction of Spikeball and due to the participants suggestion; a volleyball net will be installed at Stoney Island.

Joel is looking into doing a punch card challenge much like what Shelburne just completed. Residents are very interested in activities they can pursue on their own time.

A loose parts shed has been installed at Sherose Island Playground and is being used often. Joel has also been speaking with Cobequid Consulting on a natural playground project in the space.

Joel is planning to offer more kayak workshops, as well as walking groups to continue to promote self-directed movement and recreational pursuits.

7 It was determined that the meetings of the RAC will be held the last Thursday of the month (with the exception of December, where it will be held on Dec. 17th this year) at 6:30pm. The committee will continue to focus on the recreation strategy development process for the next several months.

8 The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM
