



Minutes

Community Services Committee

February 19, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marion Koepke
Vice Chair Travis Dodd
Councillor Jon Farmer
Member Brendon Haefling
Member Morgan Kemick
Councillor Suneet Kukreja
Member Lloyd Lewis
Member Lance Thurston

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Member Aly Bousfield-Bastedo

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Aidan Ware, Director and Chief Curator - Art Gallery, Culture, Tourism
Kevin Linthorne, Chief Building Official
Eckhard Pastrik, Manager of Parks and Open Space
Sabine Robart, Manager of Planning and Heritage
Nicole Olmsted, Community Services Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Director of Community Services called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Director of Community Services welcomed Committee members and asked Committee members to introduce themselves.

The Director of Community Services opened the floor for nominations for the position of Chair of the Community Services Committee. Councillor Dodd nominated Councillor Koepke for the position of Chair. Councillor Koepke accepted the nomination.

The Director of Community Services asked twice for further nominations. There being no further nominations, the Director of Community Services declared nominations closed.

The Director of Community Services noted that Councillor Koepke was acclaimed as Chair of the Community Services Committee and she assumed the position of Chair.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Chair Koepke opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice Chair for the Community Services Committee.

Member Kemick nominated Councillor Dodd for the position of Vice Chair. Councillor Dodd accepted the nomination.

Chair Koepke asked for any further nominations. There being no further nominations, Chair Koepke declared nominations closed. Councillor Dodd was acclaimed as Vice Chair of the Community Services Committee.

4. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

5.a Member Kemick - Item 7.a - Deputation from Carlin Val Re: At Last Forest Schools

Member Kemick declared a conflict of interest with Item 7.a being as she has provided consulting advice previously to At Last Forest Schools.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.a Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on January 22, 2025

CS-250219-001

Moved by Councillor Dodd

"THAT the Community Services Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on January 22, 2025."

Carried.

7. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Having declared a conflict of interest with Item 7.a, Member Kemick left the Council Chambers.

7.a Deputation from Carlin Val Re: At Last Forest Schools

Carlin Val provided a deputation regarding a request from At Last Forest Schools (ALFS) to have a fee reduction for use of the Harrison Park Community Centre.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Val noted that At Last Forest Schools is designated as a private non-credential school and is a for-profit business.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Val noted that in the last 10 years, there have been times when they worked with the Park to utilize the former kitchen building in the campground, but that is now a cabin. The Senior Centre was another option that they looked into; however, there was not a lot of availability. In other parks without a building for use, At Last Forest Schools has purchased and used their own camping trailer with a generator.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Community Services clarified that in 2023 the rental fee for a half day, non-prime was \$91.00. In 2024 this was amended and was \$35/hr for a minimum of 5 hours for \$175. In 2025 this will be \$200. The changes in fees in 2024 bookings are 5 hour minimums due to the turnarounds for weekday or weekend bookings and time for staff to clean the building for the next rental.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Val noted that ALFS programs are the Oaks and Acorns Group is for children ages 18 months to 4, half-day and the older group is children ages 4 to 12 and \$63 per student, per day.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Val noted that winter camps are available for rental two days a week: Mondays and Wednesdays for stone building.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter added that Parks and Open Space staff clean inside and outside the facility after each rental.

In response to a question from Committee, the City Manager mentioned that they would need to seek legal advice to determine whether a for-profit organization can receive a reduction under the *Municipal Act*.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter added that staff would be open to discussing this topic further regarding the use of a trailer with Mr. Val.

Member Kemick returned to her chair.

7.b Deputation from Clark Finlay Re: The Proposal for the Pedestrianization of 2nd Avenue East

Clark Finlay provided a deputation regarding the proposal for the pedestrianization of 2nd Avenue East.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Finlay noted that Kincardine is a great example of pedestrianization. When they closed the bridge in Kincardine for construction, the businesses in the downtown thrived. People went downtown because they had to walk to get there and be there for a reason and this gave more opportunity for those patrons to go into other stores and do more shopping while they were down there.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Community Services noted that the City has several initiatives underway to support people in the River District including:

- Update to the Official Plan;
- Update to the River District Action Plan;
- Community Improvement Plan;
 - Façade Grants;
 - Accessibility Grants;
- Sidewalk Patios; and
- Events and Animations.

Ms. Coulter added that the existing River District Action Plan has four pillars of action, including the River District Experience Development. It is a three-year plan investing in animation to bring people to the downtown area, which is outlined in the plan, including the River District Development. There is an action that encourages researching and investigating the closing of a section of the River District to vehicles. This would include community feedback, surveying businesses and developing a plan for the animation of the space.

CS-250219-002d

Moved by Councillor Farmer

“THAT in consideration of a deputation from Clark Finlay on February 19, 2025 respecting the pedestrianization of 2nd Avenue East, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to strike a task force to develop a proposal for a pedestrianization pilot project for consideration as part of the 2026 budget process.”

Defeated.

8. PUBLIC FORUM

- 8.a Simon Furtner, Owen Sound business owner, provided comments in support of the deputation presented by Mr. Finlay respecting a proposal for the pedestrianization of 2nd Avenue East.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

10. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

- 10.a General

10.a.1 Report CS-25-017 and Presentation from the Director of Community Services Re: Committee Orientation and 2025 Community Services Work Plans and Committee Mandate

The Director of Community Services provided a presentation respecting Committee Orientation and the 2025 Community Services Work Plans.

The presentation showcased 5 Successes from 2024, and 5 Highlights for 2025 from each respective Manager of the Departments listed below:

- Planning and Heritage;
- Building;
- Parks and Open Space;
- Facility Bookings and Programs;
- Arena Operations; and
- Tourism and Events.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter added that the City pays full rental fees for the facilities used during the youth camp summer programs, and there is no fee for non-residents.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Pastrok added that there will be future public consultation regarding the Kelso Beach at Nawash Park playground design once the terms of reference on this capital project are finalized.

CS-250219-003

Moved by Councillor Farmer

“THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-017 respecting Committee Orientation, Committee Mandate and 2025 Community Services Workplans, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes.”

Carried.

10.b Parks and Open Space

10.b.1 Report CS-25-006 from the Director of Community Services Re: Extended Parking along the Harbour during the Annual Fishing Derbies

The Director of Community Services provided an overview of the report that provided the history and background relating to the use of public space for extended parking during the fall fishing derbies, an overview of land ownership in the area, the existing regulatory framework and alternatives to update the regulations. Staff presented the outline of the new regulations, which would apply in four areas:

- Harbour North of Cement Silo;
- West Harbour past P&H Elevator;
- Marina; and

- West Side Boat Launch.

A fee of \$150 for the entire derby is proposed for the areas noted above. The proposed \$50 fee for the Marina because it is private property.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the revenue of the 116 spaces, at \$150, was close to \$17,400.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that if Transport Canada requires a ship to be moved, staff would ensure that they have patrons' contact information to provide notice at the appropriate time.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that Harrison Park Family Campground has a number of amenities, including a public pool, water and electrical services. In contrast, there are no amenities and no ability to provide amenities in the area of the Derby.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the no-drinking rule during the Derby in these areas would be enforced by third parties and police services; current rules do not allow alcohol or the open consumption of alcohol in these public areas.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that in the draft regulatory by-law, staff will address the possibility of interruption of use if a ship is moved.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that volunteers for Summerfolk are permitted to camp at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park in the open area adjacent to the soccer fields during the event.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that fines and penalties will be outlined in the draft by-law and report that will come forward to Committee.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the recommended 10-day fee in year 2 is \$150 for the public spaces, \$50 per trailer at Georgian Shores Marina.

CS-250219-004

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-006 respecting Extended Parking along the Harbour during the Annual Fishing Derbies, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to:

1. **Bring forward a report with an updated draft Regulatory By-law for Extended Parking as outlined in Option 2, layout B (116 spaces), including a turnaround area;**
2. **Bring forward a by-law to amend the Fees and Charges By-law to increase the extended parking licence fee for 2025 at \$150 per vehicle with a fee of \$50 per trailer at the Marina; and**
3. **Provide notice of the fee change in accordance with the City's Notice By-law."**

Carried.

10.c Arena Operations

None.

10.d Building

None.

10.e Community and Business Development

None.

10.f Facility Bookings and Community Programs

None.

10.g Planning and Heritage

None.

10.h Tourism, Culture and Events

None.

11. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no matters postponed.

12. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

13. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

13.a Memorandum from the Chief Building and the Manager of Planning and Heritage Official Re: January 2025 Update

The Chief Building Officer provided an overview respecting the January 2025 Development Update.

CS-250219-005

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the February 19, 2025, Community Services Committee agenda, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council receive Item 13.a for information purposes."

Carried.

14. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

15. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Koepke adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.