



Minutes

Community Services Committee

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

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marion Koepke
Vice Chair Travis Dodd
Member Aly Bousfield-Bastedo (via video)
Councillor Jon Farmer
Member Brendon Haefling
Member Morgan Kemick
Councillor Suneet Kukreja
Member Lloyd Lewis
Member Lance Thurston

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Ryan Gowan, Manager of Arena Operations
Eckhard Pastrik, Manager of Parks and Open Space
Sabine Robart, Manager of Planning and Heritage
Andy O'Leary, Facility Bookings Coordinator
Rebecca Ellerdiem, Community & Business Development Advisor
Nicole Olmsted, Community Services Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Koepke called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- 2.a Councillor Farmer Re: Social Media Platforms and Positive Comments for the Downtown River Precinct's Phase Two Project
- 2.b Councillor Kukreja Re: Policy CE002 Flag Flying, Proclamations and Public Awareness Campaigns and a Notice of Motion
- 2.c Chair Koepke Re: Arts and Cultural Awards

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

4. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- 4.a Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on February 19, 2025

CS-250319-001

Moved by Member Thurston

"THAT the Community Services Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on February 19, 2025."

Carried.

5. **DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- 5.a Presentation from Rebecca Ellerdiem and Savanna Myers Re: Grey County's 2024 Annual Report on Economic Development, Tourism and Culture Master Plan

Rebecca Ellerdiem, the City of Owen Sound's Community & Business Development Advisor, introduced Savanna Myers, who provided an overview of the PowerPoint presentation.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Myers noted that economic development is not just about the business aspect; it also involves recreation, being a welcoming community, planning, and looking at all aspects of economic development.

In response to a question from Committee, the City Manager noted that staff will be providing an update to the Community Services Committee in May regarding the new Community Profile and other work.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Myers noted that many consultations with users expanded her understanding throughout the five-year program.

The Community & Business Development Advisor left the meeting.

- 5.b Presentation from Dave Shorey, Georgian College Re: Update from College and Report on Applied Research Project at the City's Two Arenas

Mr. Shorey introduced Dr. Nadja Bressan, Associate Dean of the Georgian College Owen Sound Campus, and Professor Troy Dowdall of Georgian College, all of whom participated in the PowerPoint presentation.

In response to a question from Committee, Dr. Bressan noted that the hope is to implement the applied research across all 18 of Georgian College courses to have the students exposed to the real-world application of learning.

In response to a question from Committee, the City Manager noted that the City has a strong relationship with Georgian College and continues to discuss various projects with Dave Shorey for potential collaboration on multiple initiatives.

The Manager of Arena Operations thanked Georgian College for their collaboration on this project.

The Manager of Arena Operations left the meeting.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

6.a Melody Donald, Owen Sound resident

Ms. Donald explained that she is looking for a resolution to her access concerns on the unmaintained road leading to her house. Ms. Donald advised that access is difficult during the winter and spring months, with the grooming that takes place by the Owen Sound Snowmobile Club.

The City Manager noted that the City has a non-exclusive easement agreement with Ms. Donald and requested that concerns be addressed through the City Solicitor, who is managing this file.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

The Committee discussed Item 8.b.1. at this time.

8.b.1 Report CS-25-020 from the Director of Community Services Re: Draft Contribution Agreement with the SSOGC for the Playground and Splashpad at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park

The Director of Community Services provided an overview of the report.

Paul Crawford and Phil Godfrey from the Order of Good Cheer were present. Mr. Crawford came forward to announce that tickets for the 25th anniversary of the Sunset Cruise on the Chi-Cheemaun are sold out. The event is a four-hour trip on the bay, accompanied by fine dining, featuring silent and live auctions, games, and live entertainment.

The Committee extended their gratitude to the Order of Good Cheer for the generous donation and for past projects completed by the organization.

CS-250319-002

Moved by Vice Chair Dodd

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-020 respecting Draft Contribution Agreement with the Scenic City Order of Good Cheer for the Playground & Splash Pad at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the agreement."

Carried.

8.a Facility Bookings and Community Programs

8.a.1 Report CS-25-021 from the Director of Community Services Re: Proposed One-Year Extension to CWHC Use of the former CN Train Station

The Director of Community Services provided an overview of the report.

CS-250319-003

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-021 respecting a Proposed One-Year Extension to the Expanded Use of the former CN Building at 1155 1st Avenue West, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a one-year extension to the previous agreement."

Carried.

8.a.2 Report CS-25-022 from the Director of Community Services Re: Request by Owen Sound Agricultural Society for Approval to Construct a New Building Under Lease with City

The Director of Community Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the proposed free-standing building's location is to the west of the grandstand, as it would be more consistent with the direction outlined in the Master Plan, as well as with the visibility for the skate and bike areas.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter added that the existing agreement, Master Plans, and Zoning agreement outline standards for maintenance and care of the buildings owned by the Owen Sound Agricultural Society.

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-022 respecting a request from the Owen Sound Agricultural Society (OSAS) to construct a new building, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. Approve the request as required by the lease agreement subject to the OSAS submitting an application for minor site plan approval and obtaining a building permit as outlined in the next steps section of the report; and**
- 2. Direct staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an amended Lease Agreement reflecting the updated building and leased area."**

Carried.

8.b Parks and Open Space

- 8.b.1 Report CS-25-020 from the Director of Community Services Re: Draft Contribution Agreement with the SSOGC for the Playground and Splashpad at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park

Committee discussed this report after Item 7.

8.c Planning and Heritage

- 8.c.1 Report CS-25-023 from the Director of Community Services Re: Replacement Mural for 851 2nd Avenue East and City Funding Allocation from Reserve

The Director of Community Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the renovations to the building for residential apartments had included the installation of windows, which is why the mural needed to be removed. Ms. Coulter added that a new agreement will be required with the building owner, and the mural will be a City asset; therefore, the City will be responsible for its care and maintenance.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that staff recommend the Aluminum Composite Materials (ACM) panel as it will be more durable.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that there were unallocated funds in a reserve from a previous Rural Economic Development (RED) Grant that are proposed to be used to fund the mural project.

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-023 respecting a Replacement Mural for 851 2nd Avenue East and Requested City Funding Allocation, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. Not apply the Public Art Policy to the proposed replacement mural given the timing of the removal (May 2022) and the timing of the updated policy (September 2022);**
- 2. Direct staff to create a policy to address mural projects within the City;**
- 3. Allocate up to \$7,500 from the unallocated River District Reserve to the funding of the design and production of the mural and accessory information signage; and**
- 4. Approve the mural design as illustrated in Attachment One to the report."**

Carried.

8.d Arena Operations

None.

8.e Building

None.

8.f Community and Business Development

None.

8.g Tourism, Culture and Events

None.

9. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no matters postponed.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

11.a Memorandum from the Chief Building Official Re: Annual 2024 and February 2025 Development Update

The Manager of Planning and Heritage provided an overview of the memorandum from the Chief Building Official.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Robart noted that staff will be attending the Home Show again in 2025, and a main topic for them at the event will be education and outreach on Additional Residential Units (ARUs).

- 11.b Site Plan Approval DA 25-002- Royal Rose Court 1259 3rd Ave East
- 11.c Site Plan Approval DA 25-003 - Royal Rose Court Parking Lot 1399 2nd Ave East
- 11.d Site Plan Approval DA 25-005 - 241-261 9th Street West Murphy
- 11.e Site Plan Approval DA 25-001 - 1000 5th Ave East
- 11.f Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) Turtle Stewardship Program

CS-250319-006

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the March 19, 2025, Community Services Committee agenda, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council receive Items 11.a to 11.f for information purposes."

Carried.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- 12.a Social Media Platforms and Positive Comments of the Downtown River Precinct Phase Two Project

Councillor Farmer noted that at the last City Council meeting, a motion was passed questioning the way the City purchases services from companies in the United States, as well as how the City decides whether to continue using or discontinuing the use of social media platforms.

In response to a question from Committee, the City Manager advised that a notice has been sent to all Committees addressing social media platforms used by staff. The City Manager added that the Communications Advisor's Work Plan for 2025 includes developing an external communications strategy and reviewing existing policies, such as Policy CMA 60 and the Staff Social Media Posting Policy, to identify effective tools, sites, and practices.

Councillor Farmer noted that he enjoyed walking around the newly constructed 900 block of 1st Ave East and congratulated the City and staff for the completion of the Downtown River Precinct Phase Two project.

- 12.b Policy CE002 Flag Flying, Proclamations and Public Awareness Campaigns and Notice of Motion

CS-250319-007

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

“THAT the Community Services Committee waive the notice of motion requirement in the City’s Procedural By-law in order to discuss an urgent matter relating to Policy No. CE002, Flag Flying, Proclamations and Public Awareness Campaigns.”

Carried by 2/3.

CS-250319-008

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

“THAT in consideration of Additional Business presented on March 19, 2025 respecting the Policy No. CE002, Flag Flying, Proclamations and Public Awareness Campaigns, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct the City Manager to present an updated version of the policy to Committee, including a guidelines section and circumstances under which other nation flags can be displayed.”

Carried.

- 12.c Arts and Cultural Awards

Chair Koepke announced that the 2025 Arts and Cultural Awards Ceremony has been cancelled this year due to insufficient nominations.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

None.

14. RESOLUTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

CS-250319-009

Moved by Member Kemick

"THAT the Community Services Committee now move into Closed Session to consider one matter regarding personal matters about identifiable individuals respecting Volunteer of the Year, Senior of the Year, and Youth Volunteer of the Year nominations."

Carried.

The Manager of Parks and Open Space and the Manager of Planning and Heritage left the meeting.

15. REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Chair Koepke advised that Community Services Committee returned to the open session at 7:50 p.m.

Chair Koepke advised that in Closed Session, the Community Services Committee discussed one matter regarding personal matters related to identifiable individuals regarding Volunteer of the Year, Youth Volunteer of the Year, and Senior Volunteer of the Year nominations, and direction was provided to staff.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Koepke adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.