



Minutes

Community Services Committee

June 25, 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
Member Morgan Kemick (via video)
Member Lance Thurston
Councillor Suneet Kukreja

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Councillor Jon Farmer
Member Lloyd Lewis
Member Brendon Haefling

STAFF PRESENT: Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Eckhard Pastrik, Manager of Parks and Open Space
Rebecca Ellerdiem, Community and Business Development
Advisor
Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support
Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Koepke called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with all members and staff noted above present except for Councillor Dodd.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

2.a Member Bousfield-Bastedo Re: Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act*

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 May 21, 2025

CS-250625-001

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT the Community Services Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on May 21, 2025."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 5.a Deputation from Jayesh Parmar of the Owen Sound Cricket Team Re: A Possible Cricket Grounds in Owen Sound

Jayesh Parmar of the Owen Sound Cricket Team provided a presentation on the possibility of a cricket pitch in Owen Sound and the history and rise in popularity of the sport, noting that there are over 100 players in the City.

Councillor Dodd joined the meeting.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Community Services noted that at the Special Council Meeting on June 23, 2025, there was a motion for staff to bring forward a report respecting the cost to develop a space for cricket with the 2026 Capital Budget in the fall.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that it is important to book sports fields with the City when using them to ensure the space is available as well as for insurance purposes.

- 5.b Deputation from Christine Hempel Re: Providing Ideas for the Upcoming Zoning Review

Christine Hempel provided a PowerPoint presentation on Upzoning Strategies for Affordable Housing Development, highlighting development processes, local examples, common zoning barriers, and improvement opportunities for the Zoning By-law and Official Plan.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that this presentation will be included as part of the public feedback through the Official Plan and Zoning By-law process. She added that there is an open house regarding the Official Plan, Zoning By-law and Urban Design Guidelines to be held July 17, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at the Bayshore Community Centre.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

- 6.a Anne Finley-Stewart, Owen Sound resident

Ms. Finley-Stewart provided comments regarding the need for emergency access and address signage at Ryerson Park and Owen Heights Park. She

added that the placement of additional picnic tables should be considered in the redesign process for Owen Heights Park.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

8.a Parks and Open Space

8.a.1 Report CS-25-061 from the Director of Community Services Re: Request to Rename Ryerson Park

Ms. Coulter provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that new temporary signage, including the address for emergencies, will be installed at parks that are currently missing them.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter clarified that this current process under the policy is to determine whether or not the park should be renamed, not to choose a new name at this stage. She added that there would be opportunities for public input regarding the new park name at that time in the process should it get to that stage.

In response to a question from Committee, the Manager of Parks and Open Space noted that the wooden pavilion at Ryerson Park was removed in 2024 due to structural issues and that staff are working on a solution to reinstall a structure at the location.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter clarified that the previous Ryerson Park signage came down in 2021 due to vandalism concerns, and the Renaming Policy that is based on either applications from the public or Council direction was approved in 2022. Neither of these items had occurred until this application was received in 2024, which is the reason for delay in possibly renaming the space.

CS-250625-002

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-061 respecting Request to Rename Ryerson Park – Working Group, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council appoint the following staff to support the Working Group: City Manager, Tim Simmonds, City Clerk, Briana Bloomfield, Director of Community Services, Pamela Coulter and Manager of Parks & Open Space, Eckhard Pastrik."

Carried.

8.a.2 Report CS-25-062 from the Manager of Parks and Open Space Re: Design Elements - Owen Heights Park and Comm-er-Ette Park Playgrounds

The Manager of Parks and Open Space provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Pastrik clarified that notices were sent to neighbouring addresses approximately 2 weeks in advance of the public consultations.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Pastrik noted that additional landscaping for both playgrounds, such as trees, will be addressed through the fall tree planting program.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Pastrik noted that staff will investigate the possibility of redistributing current assets to accommodate the request for additional benches and picnic tables at Owen Heights Park.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Pastrik noted that the public feedback gathered at the Comm-er-Ette Park consultation displayed the desire for separate junior and senior play structures.

CS-250625-003

Moved by Vice Chair Dodd

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-052 respecting Design Elements for Owen Heights and Comm-er-Ette Park, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council approve the design and layout generally as presented."

Carried.

8.b Community and Business Development

8.b.1 Report CR-25-015 from the Community and Business Development Advisor Re: Community and Business Development Mid-Year Update

The Community and Business Development Advisor provided an overview of the report.

CS-250625-004

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CM-25-015 respecting Community & Business Development Mid-Year Update, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to lead the preparation and submission of applications to the outlined economic development funding opportunities for project funding to advance sector-wide innovation and economic

development in coordination with Grey County and Georgian College."

Carried.

8.c Arena Operations

None.

8.d Building

None.

8.e Facility Bookings and Community Programs

None.

8.f Planning and Heritage

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: May 2025 Update

Ms. Coulter provided an overview of the correspondence.

CS-250625-005

Moved by Vice Chair Dodd

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the June 25, 2025, Community Services Committee agenda, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council receive Item 11.a for information purposes."

Carried.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12.a Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act*

Member Bousfield-Bastedo asked staff if the City has a plan to respond to Ontario's Bill 5, which received Royal Assent on June 4, 2025, as it relates to environmental protections, invasive species, and Indigenous communities.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that while the bill has been passed and is now law, it is not yet being enforced. She added that a future report can be brought to the Committee in response to the Bill.

CS-250625-006

Moved by Vice Chair Dodd

"THAT the Community Services Committee waives the notice provisions in the City's Procedural By-law in order to discuss an urgent matter respecting Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act*."

Carried by 2/3.

CS-250625-007

Moved by Member Bousfield-Bastedo

"THAT in consideration of additional business presented at the June 25, 2025 Community Services Committee meeting respecting Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act*, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a report regarding Bill 5 to the September 17, 2025 meeting of the Community Services Committee."

Carried.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Koepke adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.