



Minutes

Community Services Committee

**November 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
Councillor Jon Farmer
Member Morgan Kemick
Member Lloyd Lewis
Member Lance Thurston

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Councillor Suneet Kukreja

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Sabine Robart, Manager of Planning and Heritage
Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support
Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

With a delay due to technical difficulties, Chair Koepke called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

2.a Councillor Farmer Re: Upcoming Civic Engagement Opportunities and Learning Sessions

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 October 15, 2025

CS-251119-001

Moved by Member Bousfield-Bastedo

"THAT the Community Services Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on October 15, 2025."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.a Deputation from Dwight Bryant and Peter Debrone of Owen Sound Lacrosse Re: Artificial Turf at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre

Dwight Bryant and Peter Debrone provided a presentation on the Owen Sound Northstars lacrosse program, highlighting the potential benefits of having a turf surface at the Bayshore and the opportunities it could present for the community.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Bryant noted that the turf would take approximately 4 people 6 hours to install and could be removed for concerts and other events if needed.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Debrone noted that the underside of the turf is rubber and could be used during the season where the ice is out of the facility, which is for around 4 months of the year.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Debrone noted that once acquired, the proposal would be to donate the turf to the City. The City Manager added that future repair, replacement and other needs of the asset would be considered in an agreement with the club respecting the turf.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Debrone noted that the predicted life expectancy of the turf is about 25 years, as it will only be used 4 months of the year. He added that this turf would primarily be used for box lacrosse, as use for other sectors may require relining of the turf.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Community Services noted that storage of the turf would also be outlined as part of a partnership agreement. Mr. Debrone added that the cost of a storage container is included in the proposed price.

CS-251119-002

Moved by Vice Chair Dodd

"THAT in consideration of the deputation from Owen Sound Lacrosse provided on November 19, 2025, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to include the proposed costs for the lacrosse turf at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre in the December 2025 Capital Budget update."

Carried.

5.b Deputation from Tasha Schmidt Re: Tree Opportunities

Tasha Schmidt provided a deputation respecting boulevard tree planting in the City, highlighting the tree planting request form and the importance of property owners and residents in keeping the City's tree canopy healthy. She provided ideas for possible initiatives, including a "hug-a-tree month" initiative and the possibility of changing the boulevard tree program that currently requires residents to request a tree, to a program where the City determines where a tree needs to be planted as a proactive measure.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the City is currently only planting trees in boulevards where there are requests from the owner. She added that 369 trees were planted by staff this year, an additional 160 were planted with the Youth Climate Action group, and that the boulevard tree planting program was advertised on social media earlier this year.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Schmidt noted that a hug-a-tree month could be an initiative to promote Owen Sound as a "Tree City" and increase advertising of the boulevard tree planting program.

CS-251119-003

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of the deputation from Tasha Schmidt provided on November 19, 2025 respecting tree opportunities, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to include a review of the boulevard tree planting program in 2026 staff workplans."

Carried.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

6.a Anne Finlay-Stewart, Owen Sound resident

Ms. Finlay-Stewart provided comments respecting the need for shade at the new Owen Heights and Comm-er-Ette playgrounds, as well as comments respecting new trees planted by the hospital. Additionally, she asked for an update on the Ryerson Park Renaming working group, missing emergency signage at Ryerson Park, and an update about the possibility of a cricket pitch.

Ms. Coulter noted that as outlined in the staff report regarding the playground replacements, additional trees will be planted by the City in the spring to provide shade.

Ms. Coulter noted that the Ryerson Park Renaming working group is meeting on Monday, November 24, and a report will be brought back to this Committee including the working group's recommendation in December 2025.

Ms. Coulter noted that a possible cricket pitch was to be brought forward through the capital budget process and added that the cricket group has been connected

with the Bluewater District School Board to facilitate possible use of their outdoor fields as well.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

7.a Bluewater Quilters' Guild Re: Hall Rental Fee Increase

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the group could apply to available grant programs, such as the Community Foundation, to help offset rental fees.

CS-251119-004

Moved by Vice Chair Dodd

"THAT in consideration of correspondence listed on the November 19, 2025 Community Services Committee agenda from the Bluewater Quilters' Guild respecting a hall rental fee increase, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council receive Item 7.a for information purposes."

Carried.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

8.a Planning and Heritage

8.a.1 Report CS-25-118 from the Manager of Planning and Heritage Re: Bill 60, Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 Update

The Manager of Planning and Heritage provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Robart noted that the outlined correspondence in the recommendation can be submitted prior to the meeting minutes being adopted by Council on November 24, as the ERO postings close prior to that Council meeting.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Robart noted that these changes may reduce the number of applications to the Committee of Adjustment going forward.

CS-251119-005

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-118 Bill 60, Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 Update, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to:

- 1. Send this report to the Province of Ontario as the City's comments on Bill 60 and the Environmental Registry of Ontario posting 025-1097, 025-1099 and 025-1100; and**

2. Forward this report to Paul Vickers, MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all party leaders currently in the Ontario legislature."

Carried.

CS-251119-006

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-118 Bill 60, Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025 Update, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to send a letter highlighting the high cost of staff time and difficulty for municipalities to provide comments respecting the increased use of omnibus bills and rapid changes to legislation to Paul Vickers, MPP Bruce-Grey Owen Sound."

Carried.

8.b Parks and Open Space

8.b.1 Report CS-25-115 from the Director of Community Services Re: Derby Camping - Year One Implementation Report

The Director of Community Services provided a presentation on the year one implementation of Derby Camping.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that campground registration and revenue at Kelso Beach and Harrison Park were not impacted by the new Derby Camping requirements.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the increase in parks staff time was primarily for setting up and designing the layout of the parking area.

CS-251119-007

Moved by Vice Chair Dodd

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-115 respecting Derby Camping Year One Implementation, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to implement the improvements as outlined in the report."

Carried.

8.b.2 Report CS-25-063 from the Director of Community Services Re: Design and Location of the Commemorative Forest Monument

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

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the City is unable to replace missing or vandalized plaques due to high costs and added that trees are guaranteed for a limited period once planted.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter clarified that new trees in the program would not have plaques but would be noted on the website in the GIS layer with additional information about the individual or occasion being commemorated.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the plaque at the monument will provide information on the commemorative tree program and the importance of trees in the community.

CS-251119-008

Moved by Member Kemick

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-063 respecting Design and Location of the Commemorative Forest Monument, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council approve:

- 1. The location of the monument, being the west side of the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre, as outlined in Attachment No. 1 of the report; and**
- 2. The design of the monument, generally as presented in Attachment No. 2 of the report, excluding the individual commemorative panels."**

Carried.

8.c Arena Operations

None.

8.d Building

None.

8.e Community and Business Development

None.

8.f Facility Bookings and Community Programs

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: Development Update

The Manager of Planning and Heritage provided an overview of the October development update, highlighting construction value and permits issued.

11.b Site Plan DA-25-018 - 2010 16th Ave E - U-Haul

11.c Site Plan DA-25-019 - 1650 20th St E – Baumberger

CS-251119-009

Moved by Councillor Farmer

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

Carried.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12.a Upcoming Civic Engagement Opportunities and Learning Sessions

Councillor Farmer highlighted an upcoming event hosted by the organization We Vote Local, to provide insight and information about being an elected official in local government. The event is being held on Thursday, November 20 at 7 p.m. at the Rumpus Room, and added that more information is available online at wevotelocal.ca.

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 7:25 p.m.