



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

FROM: Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services

MEETING DATE: November 17, 2009

SUBJECT: Report APRAC09-001
Director's Report, November 2009

PURPOSE

A report to inform the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee on the Restructuring of the Arenas Division, the status of the Little Lake and Morrow Park Master Plans, and the Community Gardens Policy development progress.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC09-001 dated November 17, 2009, of the Director of Community Services, as follows:

That the information on the restructuring of the Arenas Division and the updates on the Master Plans for Little Lake and Morrow Park, and on the Community Gardens Policy be received for information.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct budget or financial implications as a result of this report.

BACKGROUND

Restructuring of the Arenas Division

The City's Arenas Division has experienced considerable change since the retirement of long-standing Manager, Harold Sheldon, in the early summer of 2009. In the short term, Sue Warrington, the Memorial Centre Manager, assumed the role of Interim Division Manager, in addition to her existing responsibilities. A new interim non-union management position, entitled Arena Facilities Coordinator, was created to provide a higher level of technical support. John Preston, the Building Supervisor at the Memorial Centre, successfully competed for this position. Within weeks of this interim restructuring, Brent Copeland, the Box Office Supervisor at the Memorial Centre, tendered his resignation to further his career in Whitby.

These changes created an opportunity to restructure the division and thereby integrate and consolidate certain practices across all four arenas. The former Box Office Supervisor position was expanded to assume a broader range of administrative responsibilities, or "front of house" activities across the entire division. Rob Marsh was successfully recruited from Ajax to assume the responsibilities of the new Assistant Arena Manager position.

Council's approval of the revised organizational structure set the stage for the permanent appointment of Sue Warrington as Divisional Manager and Manager of the Memorial Centre; and the appointment of John Preston, as the Arena Facilities Coordinator with the responsibility for supervising the technical operations of all four of the arenas, or "back of house" activities. Congratulations to Sue, John, and Rob!

Master Plan Updates – Little Lake and Morrow Park

The Planning Partnership completed its final round of public consultations on October 21st with the presentation of a draft Master Plan, which is available on the City's website. The final draft will be presented for Council's consideration early in the new year.

During the late summer, the project steering committee and the project consultants at Brown and Storey Architects Inc. decided to defer the next round of stakeholder and public consultations until early in 2010. It is expected that the development of this Master Plan will resume in January accordingly.

Community Garden Policy Update

In March of 2009, the City's Corporate Policy Coordinator established a Staff working group to begin the process of creating a Community Garden Policy. On April 17th a public consultation was held at City Hall to identify the following information, to assist with the policy drafting process:

- Formal and informal practices currently being used by community gardeners,
- Benefits of community gardening,
- Demand for more community gardens
- Potential locations and key amenities
- Possible roles of the City and other community partners.

In addition to creating the Policy, formalized procedures are required. The working group has secured the assistance of the Trent Centre for Community Based Education (TCCBE) to gather further information on successful community gardening practices used by other municipalities. The TCCBE is to report back with recommendations to the working group by the end of November 2009. The intent is to have the policy and related procedures ready for approval early in 2010.

Neighbourhood residents by Wentworth Park and by Bethune and Simcoe Park have expressed interest in establishing a community garden in each of these parks as soon as possible.

Submitted by,

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Director of Community Services

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