



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

FROM: Terri Lynn Johnston, Permitting Recreationist

MEETING DATE: February 28, 2012

SUBJECT: Report APRAC12-001
Outdoor Sport Fields User Evaluation Process

PURPOSE

A report to inform the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee of the process used by City Staff to obtain annual feedback from the multiple users of the outdoor sport fields, which are permitted through the City's Recreation Division.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC12-001 dated February 28, 2012, of the Permitting Recreationist, as follows:

That report APRAC12-001 be received for information.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of the recommendation of report APRAC12-001.

BACKGROUND

Beginning in the 1990's, the Recreation Division implemented annual meetings to obtain feedback from the organized Sports Users of both rectangle and diamond sport facilities. A separate meeting was organized for the users of each facility type. These are called user evaluation meetings and take place in the fall of each year, when the majority of the playing seasons are finished. City Staff from the Recreation Division and the Public Works Department agreed that they would meet both user groups in the same evening. Each year, the two groups alternate the time they start their meeting, to be fair to everyone.

In addition to City facilities, the Recreation Division is responsible for the permitting of the fields owned by both local school boards. As such, representatives from both School Boards attend these meetings. Fleming College is also represented at the user evaluation meetings, as they are a user of these sport facilities. Fleming has been an excellent partner with the City over the years in providing land for sport facility development.

The user evaluation meetings have proven to be extremely valuable over the years. Rather than being a forum to vent and complain about the fields, the User Evaluation meetings have become very positive and informative for the users and City Staff. Most importantly, each user is given the opportunity to share with the other users and City Staff how their season had gone, what worked well and what could be improved. Other users that might be experiencing the same concerns would speak up on how they handled permitting issues. These user groups have proven to work well together.

All of the issues and concerns are documented by City Staff, so that the Recreation Division and Public Works Staff can work together to address the Users' concerns and make improvements or changes for the following permitting season. These meetings also aid in the direction that Public Works would invest money in the Parks system and what their plans would be for the next season, as far as necessary projects.

To provide a sense of the scope of items that are discussed at the user evaluation meetings, the minutes of the November 2011 meetings are attached as Appendix "A" and Appendix "B".

The user evaluation meetings give the Recreation Division opportunity to present the user groups with the following information:

- start and end dates;
- league contact information;
- maintenance concerns on any of the fields;

- restricted fields taken out for repairs;
- parking restriction on some parks;
- agreements with the School Boards; and
- handing out the request sheets for leagues and tournaments.

At each user evaluation meeting, Staff provides each user group with an information package and facility request sheet pertaining to the next season.

This process works well and the Recreation Division and Parks Division staff will continue to meet annually with all users groups, to discuss items such as new field development, scheduling, permitting items and allow the user groups to interact with one another and share their experiences.

Submitted by,

Terri Lynn Johnston
Permitting Recreationist

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Attachments:

Appendix A – Diamond Field User Evaluation minutes for November 16, 2011

Appendix B – Rectangular Field User Evaluation minutes for November 16, 2011