

Diamond Field User Evaluation Meeting Minutes- November 16, 2011

Present: Bill Green and John Crawford (Peterborough Senior Men's Slopitch), Randy Pagett (Peterborough Men's Church Slopitch), Tyler (GE Slopitch), Clair Leahy (Peterborough Men's Softball), Craig Whitnell (Peterborough Thunder Softball), Brenda McGrath (Peterborough Women's Senior Slopitch), Bill Strode (Special Olympics), Scott Cherwaty (Peterborough Baseball Association), Lynda Bolton (Friday Night Ladies Slopitch), Pradeep Naik (Peterborough Cricket Association), Murray Nugent (Peterborough Weeknight Slopitch), Kelly O'Boyle (PVNCC School Board), Mary McGee (KPR School Board), Phil Jacobs and Dave Barker (Public Works) and Terri Lynn Johnston (Recreation Division).

Regrets: Bill Bowers (Peterborough Slopitch Association), Brenda Bosnell (Sunday Night Ladies Slopitch), Janice Clark (Peterborough Funball Slopitch), Bob Babcock (Peterborough Bankers Slopitch), Mike Mulvaney (Kawartha Slopitch), Nicole Weatherdon (Peterborough New Friends Slopitch), Kathy Blondeau (Peterborough Community Church Softball) and Daryl Stevenson (Peterborough Recreational Baseball).

Terri Lynn welcomed everyone to the meeting and each person introduced themselves to the group. Terri Lynn went through the package that each organization received and reviewed the following information sheets;

- **League contact sheet.** Please complete if there are any changes to President and Schedulers, phone numbers, addresses, emails, etc. If information is the same as 2011, please complete the contact name at the top and then write in same information.
- **Municipal Freedom of Information sheet.** Please sign this sheet as your league contact to allow us to provide your contact information to the community that calls into the Recreation Division looking for your league information.
- **Incident Report-** the City now has a full time staff person that is responsible for Risk management issues. If there has been an injury and the injury was the result of a maintenance issue with the facility, I will need the league contact to complete this form with as much information as possible and return the form to me, as soon as you can after the accident. Any injuries that could result in a claim with the City, now needs to be fully documented. This form will also be on line under the Recreation Division on the City Website. You do not need to report any sports injuries that happened because of the game and with no fault from the facility.
- **Rates** for 2012, budgeted 2.2% increase for fields and tournaments by Recreation Division to City Council. (see budget sheet attached)
- **Facility sheet** for providing allocation requests due January 31, 2011. Only request fields that you will be using, not the fields that you want.
- **Tournament sheet** for providing allocation requests due January 31, 2011.

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- **2012 League Information sheet**
- Start date for 2012 is Friday, May 11th. Weather permitting, we may be able to get on the field earlier, however Phil explained they need at least two full weeks of dry weather, before they can get their equipment on the fields.
- List of **restrictions** for this year (see attached sheet). Terri Lynn did not have the dates for the Peterborough Exhibition at this time.
- Schedules are due by May 1, 2012.
- Long weekends designated for play (see sheet)
- All league and tournament confirmations should be ready by the first of March
- All questions, concerns and maintenance issues will come to Terri Lynn and she will pass on any information that Phil needs to know. Please do not go to Public Works directly.
- **New to Beavermead Food Rights**— For the past few years, Hippy Chippy the French fry truck food vendor has had exclusive rights for the food at Beavermead Park. This year when the RPF goes out to the community, this clause will be changed to reflect that the successful food vendor will only have rights to the front of the park, when the parking lot is. Now, all sports users and special events will be able to provide their own food to their participants as free food or fundraisers. If a third party food vendor would like to work at an event in Beavermead Park, they will still have to go through the process of obtaining a permit from the Recreation Division. This permit is \$4.10 per hour and must be obtained and paid for prior to the event taking place.
- Thank you to all the groups that observed the **Rain Policy** this year. We did have a lot of wet weather in the spring, May and June and again in August and September. This year due to saturated fields, the City and the Board of Education officially closed the fields to the users for a period of time. Please make sure that your team reps have a copy of the rain policy.
- **New Smoking Bylaw**- This is year 4 of the phased in No Smoking by law for the City of Peterborough. In 2011, we saw the addition of sports fields to the bylaw. In 2012, ALL CITY parks will be smoke free. There are now established set fines for smoking in Parks.
- **Parking Restrictions**- Just a reminder from the Cephas Christian Reformed Church on Goodfellow Road for players and spectators using **Kinsmen Ball Diamond**, not to use their lot on Sundays and after Labour Day Weekend. When there is an event at the Church, where they need their parking lot in the spring and summer, they will attempt to give us notice in advance or they will place a sign on the lot advising the ball players that the lot is in use. Please be considerate when the sign is posted.

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- Ball players using East City Bowl and Riverside ball parks are not allowed to use the **Lions Centre Building parking** lot on Burnham Street.
- **Parks with Lights-** This year several times the lights at Bowers Park were left on over night. The City ends up absorbing these hydro costs and would not like to see this to continue to occur. The other new item with lights for this year is that if leagues have double header games with a break in between, they will be charged for the light fees during this time. The Recreation Division realizes that during this break between games the lights are not turned off and the hydro costs still occur.
- **Drinking in the Parks-** Just be aware that drinking in the parks before and after games will not be tolerated. Please inform your team representatives, that the local Police will be patrolling sports fields this year.
- **Garbage at School Board Fields –** There was an issue this year with league leaving plastic water bottles, Tim's coffee cups, etc at the benches and fields of School Board fields. Please remind your team representatives, that it is important to take their garbage with them. The School representatives at this meeting indicated that some schools will not leave garbage containers outside during the summer months because of vandalism. There are also times when custodial staff are not working and there are no staff to pick up the garbage in a timely fashion.

Maintenance Updates:

Terri Lynn and Phil went over the maintenance projects that were completed this year:

- **Brinton Carpet –** The outfield has now been graded, landscaped and seeded and this field will be ready for play for 2012.
- **Bonnerworth fields –** The work needed to be done to repair the infield lip areas on both fields, will need to be completed in the spring. Weather permitting the work can be done in April, however, if we have a wet spring, the work will not get done until May. There could be a delay in the start of the season for these fields, as the work will take one full week to complete.
- **Barnardo - Public Works** will complete fencing this spring along the players benches for safety. This infield has also been selected to change the gravel infield to the red clay. This field would be very similar to the Rube Brady field. Once the renovations are complete, this field would move from a Level C to Level B field for fee rates.
- **Bowers Park-** Public Works will continue on shaping the fields and keeping material from spreading to sides and backstop area. Some work will be completed in early spring and then it will be ongoing education for the staff person responsible for using the diamond master on the fields.

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Peterborough Men's Senior Sloptich- Bill Green and John Crawford

- This league played on Kinsmen ball field. The diamond was in excellent shape and they had very few cancelled games due to rain. They were able to finish their season on time.
- The infield liner machine is in rough shape and needs to be replaced. Phil confirmed that he would be able to provide a new liner for next season.
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Peterborough Men's Church Slopitch – Randy Pagett

- This league only used Bowers Park for their league games. Their only concern was the drainage on the fields at Bowers Park and not being able to play after rain.

GE Slopitch – Tyler

- This league only uses the fields at Morrow Park. One of the concerns this league has is the gravel infield and how hard it is. They wondered about changing to the red clay infields. Terri Lynn stated that since Morrow Park is part of a Master Plan and that there will be changes to the park at some point, the City will not invest money improving the fields, until the decision has been made as to what features will be in the park. The City will need to replace the existing ball fields, should they decide to remove them from Morrow Park.
- There was concern about the short notice given to the City for the Agricultural Society for the exhibition this year and the second event that they had, the Celtic Festival. Tyler wanted to know if they could still use the fields, when there is nothing going on. Terri Lynn noted that the Agricultural Society has an agreement with the City, where by they are allowed to have a specific number of days that are allocated to them. Terri Lynn has tried to work with the Society in the past, to allow ball players on the fields when they are not using them, but this goes against their agreement and has not been allowed in the past. Terri Lynn has already requested the dates for next year.
- Due to the grandstand washrooms being closed this year, the Memorial Staff provided additional portable washrooms and had them located close to the grandstand area. Since they are portable, Tyler has asked if they could be moved closer to the ball fields. Terri Lynn will make this request to the Memorial Centre.

Peterborough Men's Softball – Clair Leahy

- Clair stated that East City Bowl is one of the best ball diamonds in the area. It was well maintained this year. They asked if Public Works would be able to leave a mound of clay that the users could use, when they needed to make small improvements to the park. This can be accommodated next year. There also needs to be some weeds that are growing through the bleachers at the north east entrance.
- Parking has been an issue, with the construction on the Hunter Street bridge, as the workers have a large trailer and equipment in the regular parking areas. Phil thought that the work would be completed before next spring.

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Peterborough Thunder Softball – Craig Whitnell

- Craig also noted that East City Bowl is a beautiful park and that visitors enjoy playing at this park. They had a concern that sometimes the park caretaker is not able to come back to the park, if they come for maintenance and the park is being used. If they do not come back, then the infield does not get raked and can be rough and then there are bad bounces and potential for injury. Phil noted that this staff person has many fields to work on during a day and may not always have time to return to a field for maintenance.
- Craig is interested in hosting a Provincial tournament this year and will provide Terri Lynn the dates as soon as he knows them.
- Craig requested a mound of clay for Kinsmen park as well, so that users can make small repairs. The Senior Slopitch league mentioned that this mound of clay would help them out as well.
- When there was a problem with the screen at Kinsmen this year, it was repaired right away by Public Works.
- Craig asked Public Works if they would be able to mark where the peg holes are in the infield for the bases. Sometimes after the diamond master has been used and the holes are covered up with material, it is often hard to find them. Phil noted that they should be able to mark them in some way
- A request was made to get on the fields earlier in the year, but Public Works noted that the fields are too soft in the early spring and that includes the outfields as well and players will be restricted when they are too wet.
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KPR School Board- Mary McGee

- Mary stated that she was taking notes from the users regarding any school board field concerns.

Peterborough Baseball Association – Scott Cherwaty

- PBA noted that the fields were maintained well this year by Public Works. Their enrolment has increased and they need more fields for practice time. They would like to partner with the school board and make some improvements to St. Patrick's ball diamond. Kelly from the Separate school board said that she would be very interested in hearing a proposal from PBA about improvements. Another school field that there are interested in is Otonabee Valley after the Church league is done with this field.
- They wanted to know if the caretaker at ECB and RIV would be the same person this year. Phil mentioned that these jobs go to the students, so it could be a new person. Scott asked if they could train this person for about ½ a day on what the priority tasks are for baseball. He mentioned that one day, the staff person was working on the weeds on the running track in the outfield, when the infield really needed some work done. Dave Barker can meet with this student and the PBA in the spring.
- There is still an ongoing issue with drainage at the dug outs. Public Works is fairly confident that they can improve one of the benches, by providing a trench or swale where the water can run off. There is not much of a solution for the other dug out area, as there is no where to run the water off too.
- There are trees that need to be trimmed in the outfield, that have grown over the outfield fence. Phil stated that this can be a winter job for Parks staff.

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- PBA would also like a mound of clay at Riverside to use to work on the infield. All the material under the tarp was used up last year and needs to be refreshed.
- There is work that needs to be completed on the infield lip at Riverside. Phil to make a note of this work.
- Northcrest really needs some work to be done before next spring. The backstop is in need of repairs.
- PBA would also like to bring a Provincial tournament to Peterborough this year.
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Special Olympics- Bill Strode and Erica

- The Special Olympics group uses Rube Brady field and St. Alphonsus, both fields. They would like some work done on these fields. Kelly from the Separate School board make a note of these concerns. They have also planted several trees in the school yard that need to be removed, as they are in play in the outfield area and could be dangerous if players ran into them.

Ladies Friday Night Slopitch – Lynda Bolton

- Lynda wondered if their league could have purchase a storage container to leave the four sets of bases at the park instead of having teams bring them. Several times this year, the person responsible for bringing the bases to games did not come. Terri Lynn noted that since the Bowers park building is underused, there would be storage space in the kitchen area. The Friday night league could purchase a storage container with a lock and this could be stored inside the building. They would need to get a key for the room that is kept locked. Presently, squeezes and rakes are kept in this area. The kitchen was only used for one tournament last year.
- Lynda noted that the infields are really hard for trying to put the pegs in. Other user groups have had problems with this as well. There really is not a solution on changing the infield material. Groups may have to use cordless drills to create the hole and use larger pegs.
- Lynda mentioned to the user groups, if they are happy and satisfied with the work the Recreation and Public works does for the sports users that they should let the City Directors or City Councillors know as well.

PVNCC School Board – Kelly O’Boyle

- Kelly noted concerns from the users groups and will take these back to the schools.

Peterborough Cricket Association – Pradeep Naik

- Cricket played most of their games out of town, as they do not have a home field in Peterborough. They did host one team this summer and appreciated that Public Works had prepared the field for them.

Peterborough Weeknight Slopitch – Murray Nugent

- Due to the rain, the slopitch season did not finish until October 5th, which was a really long season, with lots of rain outs and rescheduled games.

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- For the most part, the Bowers fields were in pretty good shape. Still need some work on the drainage on these fields.
- Murray noted that the student, Clayton that they had at Bowers Park this past year was really good and worked hard at the fields. Clayton has expressed an interest into coming back to Bowers park for 2012. Phil will make a note of this.
- It would be appreciated if Public Works could purchase several more squeegees for this season. They work much better than the rakes and do not mark up the field as much.
- There are trees along the 3rd base in play line at Rube Brady park that need to be trimmed, as they are in play. The more trees they could prune back along this year would be good. Phil noted that this could be a winter job for Parks.
- Murray had a concern that when Fleming College practiced at Bowers park this fall for rugby and were using one field, they turned on the lights to all four fields, which was not necessary. This occurred many times. Terri Lynn will remind Fred Batley regarding this year for next year.

Peterborough Slopitch Association – Bill Bowers (by email)

- There are still drainage issues at Bowers Park fields, especially number 2 field.
- They made a request to start earlier and play to the end of September. Phil has made comments about the fields being too wet to start earlier, unless we have a really dry spring in 2012. This league could play later into September, but will not be allocated all the regular fields that they use. One night would still need to be designated for Fleming ball. This could be worked out next year.
- They would like to see the numbered signs on the field screens be moved so that they are facing north, so people arriving can see the sign immediately, when they enter the park.
- Can steel plates at Kinsmen bases be FULLY buried, so that no one else gets injured this year. We had an incident, where a person slide into a base and hit the steel plate and required 28 staples in his calf. This will need to be addressed next year.
- Bill would like to see documented assurance that if Morrow Park is “redone”, that slopitch would always have at least four ball diamonds to use at some location. Terri Lynn will speak with Rob Anderson, Coordinator of Recreation regarding this request.
- Bill would like to pass on the gratitude of our league to the effort put in by City Staff at Bowers park during this challenging 2011 season.. it was excellent!!!!

Meeting adjourned.