



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

FROM: Rob Anderson, Recreation Division Coordinator

MEETING DATE: September 18, 2012

SUBJECT: Report APRAC12-026
Update on Various Recreation Matters

PURPOSE

A report to provide an update on various matters pertaining to Recreation.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC12-026 dated September 18, 2012, of the Recreation Division Coordinator, as follows:

That report APRAC12-026 be received for information.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of the recommendation of report APRAC12-026.

BACKGROUND

Staff is pleased to provide the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (APRAC) with an update on three Recreation Division matters occurring since the last regular APRAC meeting, held in June 2012, as follows:

New Lockable Gates on the Parking Lot at Bowers Park

Fleming College has purchased and installed gates on the entrances to the gravel parking lot at Bowers Park. Fleming's parking staff discovered that this lot was utilized almost to capacity between 7:00 am and 3:00 pm from Monday to Friday, during the school year. Fleming staff monitored the lot usage and determined that is Fleming Students that are parking in this lot during that time period.

With a substantial loss in parking revenue, Fleming Staff approached the City with a request to install lockable gates on the entrances to the Bowers parking lot, at the College's expense. City Staff was supportive of the idea under the condition the gates are unlocked at times when the park is scheduled for any type of community use. Access is required not only for ball diamond users, but also for emergency vehicle access if required during community use of the park.

The following arrangements have been made:

- May 1st to Labour day the gates will be open at all times;
- Labour Day to end of October the gates will be locked from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday to Friday only;
- If there are any special events between 7:00 am and 3:00 pm during weekdays, the Recreation Division would inform Fleming, and arrange to have the gates open for the event; and
- From November to end of April, Fleming would only open the gates, if the City required access to the parking lot.

While it is the College's Parking Staff who have the day to day responsibility of locking/unlocking the gates, City Staff also have keys to the gate locks.

A Concern Raised About Bowers Park

On August 3, 2012, an article appeared on the mykawartha.com website written by Paul Rellinger, titled "City Saves Money But at What Cost". The article expressed concern that the emergency access gate built into the fence surrounding the Bowers Park ball diamonds was locked, and no one seemed to have a key to unlock it when a medical

emergency occurred during a ball game. The article also criticized the Mayor for not issuing a tender to secure a food service operator for the snack bar at Bowers Park.

It was clarified by Recreation Staff that the purpose of locking the gate is to prevent unnecessary vehicle access into the ball diamonds. Keys to the fence gate had previously been provided to the ball league organizers, and there are two located at the Wellness Centre (main reception and the Fleming Office). Public Works agreed to unlock the fence gate between 8:00 am and 11:00 pm, during the permitting season. With this action, there will be no barrier to emergency vehicles requiring access to the ball diamonds, if necessary. Staff at the Wellness Centre now keeps that key separate from all other keys, so it can be accessed quickly in the event of an emergency.

The head umpire was immediately notified that there is a Defibrillator on site, located inside the Wellness Centre. The head umpire was requested by City staff to inform all umpires of the location of the defibrillator.

In regard to issuing a tender to procure an operator for the snack bar at Bowers Park, that had been done in the past. However, there was insufficient volume of business to make a food service operation financially viable at that location. Staff receives requests from food vendors to operate at other City locations, but not at the Bowers Park snack bar. The only private food operator expressing an interest in doing any business at Bowers park is a hot dog vendor (using his own cart), and that is on a sporadic basis.

Peterborough Sport and Wellness Centre Steering Committee for Operations

On July 30, 2012, Council approved the recommendations of report CSRS12-007 to:

- Dissolve the PSWC Steering Committee for Operations and replace it with an Administrative Committee;
- Refer operational matters for which the Peterborough Sport and Wellness Centre Administrative Committee requires direction to the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and the Fleming College Board of Governors respectively; and
- Enact a By-Law authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to execute an amended operating agreement between the Corporation of the City of Peterborough and Sir Sandford Fleming College, for the operation of the Peterborough Sport and Wellness Centre.

These recommendations were endorsed by APRAC at its meeting on June 19, 2012, as per the recommendations of report APRAC12-014.

Submitted by,

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Recreation Division Coordinator

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