



City of
Peterborough

To: **Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee**

From: **Rob Anderson, Recreation Division Coordinator**

Meeting Date: **September 16, 2014**

Subject: **Report APRAC14-034
Sport, Recreation, and Leisure Policy**

Purpose

A report to request input to, and endorsement of a corporate Sport, Recreation, and Leisure Policy.

Recommendations

That The Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (APRAC) approve the recommendations outlined in Report APRAC14-034 dated September 16, 2014, of the Recreation Division Coordinator, as follows:

- a) That input be provided on the corporate Sport, Recreation, and Leisure Policy, as attached as Appendix "A" of Report APRAC14-034; and
- b) That the attached Sport, Recreation, and Leisure Policy be endorsed, including any amendments resulting from recommendation (a) of this report.

Budget and Financial Implications

There is no budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of the recommendation of this report. The creation of a Sport, Recreation, and Leisure Policy

simply provides a framework for the services already being provided by the City. It does not introduce new services or increase municipal costs.

Background

Municipal Access to Recreation Group

On March 18, 2014, the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (APRAC) received Staff report APRAC14-016, informing of City Staff's participation on a County wide Access to Recreation working group. This group, known as the Municipal Access to Recreation Group (MATRG) is now formalized and operating with an established Terms of Reference. MATRG is working collaboratively to create opportunities that improve access to recreation for the residents of the City and County of Peterborough.

As referenced in report APRAC14-016, Selwyn Township submitted an application to the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund, in partnership with the other seven Townships and the City's Recreation and Social Services Divisions. Selwyn was notified in August that the grant application was approved. The grant will support a project known as Activate Peterborough County and City. Having similar Access to Recreation Policies in place for each municipality provides a consistent framework for all municipal partners in this project.

Access to Recreation Policies in the Townships

High quality, accessible recreation opportunities are integral to a well-functioning society. It is broadly recognized that access to recreation involves far more than just the provision of financial subsidies. When developing policy, municipalities should also consider:

- Planning their programs, services and facilities that addresses local needs and issues, in an affordable manner;
- Providing core programs to individuals of all ages and families at low cost or no cost so that financial status does not impact participation;
- Reducing physical barriers in municipal recreation facilities, and providing adaptive equipment for recreational programs where feasible;
- Assisting community partners, whenever possible; and
- Advocating for persons with disabilities in the areas of Policy development and program and service planning.

The Municipal Access to Recreation Group engaged the services of David Clark Consulting Inc. to assist in the development of an Access to Recreation Policy Template. The intent was to create a similar policy in each municipality, for each Council's consideration and approval. All eight townships now have an approved Access to Recreation Policy in place.

City's Recreation Policy

City Staff have taken a slightly different approach than the townships, by creating a Sport, Recreation, and Leisure Policy, which includes but is not limited to addressing access to recreation. Creating the Sport, Recreation, and Leisure Policy to include references regarding access to recreation simply formalizes what is already occurring. It does not introduce new services or increased municipal costs. All existing and future program specific policies and procedures, which are approved at the administrative level, will be in line with the Sport, Recreation, and Leisure Policy approved by Council. The Draft policy is attached as Appendix "A", for APRAC's review and feedback. Staff is seeking APRAC's endorsement of the policy, prior to submitting it to Council for approval.

Submitted by,

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Recreation Division Coordinator

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Attachments:
Appendix A – Draft Sport, Recreation, and Leisure Policy