



City of
Peterborough

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

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

Meeting Date: **April 21, 2015**

Subject: **Report APRAC15-019
Municipal Access to Recreation Group Update**

Purpose

A report to provide an update on the activities of the County-wide Municipal Access to Recreation Group.

Recommendations

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendations outlined in Report APRAC15-019 dated April 21, 2015, of the Recreation Division Coordinator as follows:

- a) That Report APRAC15-019 be received for information; and
- b) That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee continues to support Staff's ongoing participation on the County-wide Municipal Access to Recreation Group.

Budget and Financial Implications

There is no budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of the recommendation of Report APRAC15-019.

Background

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 formalized County-wide Municipal Access to Recreation Group (MATRG). MATRG is working collaboratively to create opportunities that improve access to recreation for the residents of the City and County of Peterborough. The following provides an update on the activities of MATRG.

Policy Development

By the end of September 2014, all eight Townships and the City had Council-approved Policies in place, addressing access to recreation. Having similar Access to Recreation Policies for each municipality provides a consistent framework across the City & County. APRAC was given opportunity to provide input to the City's Sport Recreation and Leisure Policy at its meeting of September 16, 2014, through report APRAC14-034.

Activate Peterborough County and City Project

As referenced in report APRAC14-016, Selwyn Township submitted an application to the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund (OSRCF), 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, to support a project known as Activate Peterborough County and City.

The project has two phases spanning over two years, as follows:

1. Phase one lays the foundation for a strong network of information sharing between sport and recreation groups within each of the nine municipalities throughout Peterborough County, which includes the City.
2. Phase two is the "Activating" portion of the strategy in which the opportunities identified in phase one will be acted on, with the purpose of building capacity within each municipality.

David Clark Consulting Inc. was hired to lead phase one of the Activate Peterborough County and City project. Beginning in November 2014, each municipality hosted a meeting with its sport user groups and recreation service providers, to address the following questions:

1. What are you currently doing to attract people to your programs and services?

2. What are the current challenges you are experiencing in delivering your programs and services?
3. What could be done to deal with the challenges (by your group, municipality, partners, others)?
4. What could be done immediately to help make your programs and services more accessible (by your group, municipality, partners, others)?
5. What could be done over the long term (1-2 years)?

At the MATRG meeting on December 10, 2014, David Clark presented his consolidated report containing the input received at each community group input workshop. The report is attached as Appendix A.

There were a number of common training interests identified across the municipalities. Between March and September 2015, training opportunities will be made available to sport and recreation user groups and service providers, in the areas of:

- Marketing
- Volunteer Development
- NCCP Coaching
- Fundraising/ Grant Writing
- Fundamental Movement Skills in conjunction with Canadian Sport 4 Life
- Canadian Tire Jumpstart Information Sessions
- High Five Quality Assurance Program

Each municipality is in the process of developing its own individual Action Plan designed to foster community collaboration, building capacity, enhancing marketing and promotion, and encouraging healthy lifestyles and building physical literacy.

The Activate Peterborough County and City project is working in conjunction with a parallel project known as Active Together, which is being lead by the Council for Persons with Disabilities (CPD). That project focuses on improving opportunities for access to recreation for persons with disabilities. The lead persons from each project communicate regularly, to ensure the work of the two projects is complementary to each other, and that duplication of efforts is avoided.

Healthy Parks and Play Spaces

MATRG has identified a need to review the manner in which play spaces (playgrounds, sports fields, play areas and open areas) are designed, constructed and maintained to ensure that existing and future facilities will continue to provide healthy and safe experiences to the general public. This need became apparent after the recent playground safety and inspection training program in the fall of 2014.

The Peterborough County City Health Unit is providing the leadership and financial and human resources to complete a two-phase assessment process, as follows:

Phase One has been completed, which involved interviews with key stakeholders (municipalities, First Nations and school boards) to determine current practices used to plan, construct and maintain play spaces and equipment. David Clark Consulting was hired to conduct the Phase One work, and present the findings to MATRG.

Phase Two is currently underway, and involves reviewing current literature and best practices on healthy, safe play spaces which will serve as a resource database for developing future initiatives and/or tools and reference materials for use by the stakeholders in Peterborough County.

MATRG Planning and Evaluation

The Health Unit has hired two evaluators to review how the MATRG functions and its efficiency. The evaluation tools were in the development stage at the time this report was prepared.

Summary

The County-wide Municipal Access to Recreation Group is working collaboratively to create opportunities that improve access to recreation for the residents of the City and County of Peterborough. Staff is seeking APRAC's continued support for the City's ongoing participation on this County-wide Municipal Access to Recreation Group.

Submitted by,

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Attachments:
Appendix A – Phase One Community Group Input Workshops Report