

LACOMBE AND DISTRICT RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURE BOARD

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at 5 PM

Kinsmen Room, Lacombe Memorial Centre and Virtual

Present: Kirstin Bouwsema, County Representative (Chairperson)
Paula Law, Reeve, County Councillor
Jonathan Jacobson, City Councillor
Teresa Johnson, City Representative - attended virtually
Ashely Morrison, County Representative
Diana Wiebe, City Representative
Dani Ducross, City Representative
Ameerah Giesbrecht, Student Representative - attended virtually
Sandi Stewart, Manager of Recreation and Culture
Sonya Beauclair, Recreation & Culture Assistant

Regrets: Emma Vockeroth, City Representative (Vice-Chairperson)

Guests: Diane Piche, Director of Corporate Services
Calvin Bennefield, Manager of Parks and Facilities

1. Call to order/Introductions

Kirstin Bouwsema called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM
Introductions took place

2. Additions to / Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Dani Ducross that the agenda for June 15, 2021, be adopted as presented

CARRIED *unanimously*

3. Adoption of May 18, 2021, Meeting Minutes

- change the minutes to say foul ball nets would be needed on both sides of the diamond rather than should be considered for the diamond

Moved by Ashley Morrison that the minutes of the May 18, 2021 meeting of the Lacombe and District Recreation, Parks and Culture Board be approved as amended

CARRIED *unanimously*

Teresa and Ameerah abstained

4. Presentations/Correspondence

4.0 Dogs on the sports field, Responsible Animal Ownership Bylaw

- Looking for feedback on the proposed change to the bylaw prohibiting dogs on sports fields.
- The City receives many complaints about poop on the fields. This would allow Bylaw Officers to enforce from further away as dogs would be prohibited on the field rather than bylaw having to try to determine if the dog is off-leash or if they did poop and the owner did not pick it up.
- A board member asked if dogs are allowed off-leash in the areas around the sports fields. Under the current bylaw, they are not allowed off-leash anywhere other than the off-leash parks. In addition, dog owners are always supposed to pick up their dogs' poop.
- Bylaw tries to start with educating violators before ticketing, would ticket repeat offenders.
- Bylaw does not have jurisdiction over the school sports fields, so this would only apply to City-owned sports fields. A school could call if there is an at-large dog on their property. The Christian School on 58th street has signs saying no dogs; there have been no complaints about this location.

Moved By Paula Law that the Lacombe & District Recreation, Parks, and Culture Board supports adding Section 5.20, "The Owner of an animal shall ensure that such animal shall not enter a Sports Field area." to the Responsible Animal Ownership Bylaw Amendment 469.1.

CARRIED

One opposed

5. Ongoing Business

5.0 Facility Rental Assistance Grant **(\$8,430)**

5.0.1 Yellow Door Dance Company – Recital **(\$314)** concern

- Sandi reviewed the application with the Board.
- Board would have liked to see registration fees and if there was anything accounted for the Year-End Recital.
- Noted that the group was not willing to take on a community project in exchange for the rental grant

Moved by Teresa Johnson that the Board approve the request from Yellow Door Dance Company in the amount of \$157 for their recital

CARRIED

Two opposed

6. New Business

6.0 2021 Rates and Fees

- Sandi reminded the Board what was discussed at the last meeting. The Board wasn't looking for a comparison and was ok looking at no increase for 2022.

6.0.1 Arena, Ball Diamonds, Soccer Pitches, Campground

- Sandi reviewed the memo, and Administration recommends no increases for the 2022/2023 season. Sandi noted that the Arena rates will be going up 2% on September 1, 2021, as they were set last year and take effect for the 2021-2022 season.
- User groups have requested that the rates stay the same for the 2022-2023 season. Noted that a 2% increase for minor hockey adds up quickly as they use so many hours.
- Some minor sports groups have extended the season, and others are gearing up for a regular-season for 2021.
- The hockey season is long, and there are many expenses associated with running the ice plant. A board member expressed concern about the cost of gas going up and how that would affect the cost of the facility. If we fall behind in cost, then later, there will have to be a more significant jump to catch up. Could do a gradual increase in the future, do 3% for two years to catch up. The goodwill gesture of not increasing rates for one year will be forgotten when we have to increase more later.
- The taxpayers already heavily subsidize the rates. Sports keep kids entertained and out of trouble, so it benefits the whole community.
- There were some layoffs during COVID that helped reduce costs and recover the loss of revenue.

Moved by Diana Wiebe THAT the Lacombe & District Recreation, Parks & Culture Board recommend to Council that the 2022 Arena, Ball Diamond, Soccer Pitches and Campground rates stay the same as 2021

CARRIED

Two opposed

6.0.2 KAC

- Sandi reviewed the memo with the Board.
- The big hikes are due to the material cost for the course and combining some courses.

Jonathan left the meeting at 6:24 PM

Moved By Dani Ducross THAT the Lacombe & District Recreation, Parks & Culture Board recommends to Council that the Kinsmen Aquatic Centre rates be adjusted as shown in the KAC Rate Review Comparison Charts effective January 2022.

CARRIED

Jonathan returned to the meeting at 6:25 PM

6.0.3 LMC

- Sandi reviewed the memo with the Board and reminded them about the changes to the 2020 rate structure and that some of the rates had gone up 10%. These changes were to try and stimulate more use of the facility. Due to COVID, the LMC still has not seen how the new rates are performing and being received.

Jonathan left the meeting at 6:26 PM

- In 2021 we have additional FRAG funding to help reduce the burden to groups using the facility, but we do not know if there will be extra money in 2022.
- Sandi explained that in the past, money had been moved from one account to the facility that was being used depending on the event. I.e. City using the LMC for their meeting, money was transferred from that department's account to the LMC revenue account.

Jonathan returned to the meeting at 6:27 PM

Moved by Diana Wiebe that the Lacombe & District Recreation, Parks & Culture Board recommends to Council that the 2022 LMC rates remain the same as 2021

CARRIED *unanimously*

7. Information

7.0 Recreation Service Monthly Report

- Sandi shared some highlights from the report
- Bylaw 253.3 that would allow drinking in certain parks did not pass.
- Kew Gardens playground replacement was approved by Council as recommended by the Board.
- Deb, the Director of Community Services, has resigned. Recruitment will begin shortly for a new director.

7.1 Kinsmen Aquatic Centre Stats

- The pool has been closed since May 9 due to COVID
- Sandi noted what programs have been able to run

Moved by Dani Ducross that the Board accept the reports as information

CARRIED *unanimously*

7.2 ARPA Conference

- Sandi let the Board know that the Alberta Recreation and Parks Association conference is October 28 to 30 at Chateau Lake Louise and virtually Nov 2-4. If anyone is interested in attending, they should let Sandi know.

7.3 Student Rep and Board Member Terms

- Ameerah is graduating; recruitment will start for a new student rep.
- Dani and Ashely's terms are ending December 31, 2021. Dani will stay on for another term.
- City Bucks is coming out, and the Board can expect to see an email soon about it.

7.4 Other/Round Table

- Jonathan was surprised there was such a vocal group was opposed to the bylaw 253.3 (drinking in certain parks), the bylaw ended up being defeated
- Diana noticed outdoor rinks were being used a lot more with the facilities being closed. She also noted that Les Walker is full of green sludge.
- Kirstin also noted that skating on Cranna was great this last year
- Paula mentioned that the County was recognized for Environmental Stewardship at the 2021 Blue Skies Awards. This year's Kids Farm Safety Day will be a student Farm Safety Film Festival.
- Teresa noted that at Les Walker, the firepit from the gazebo was removed and the three new pits installed outside of the gazebo and wondered if they would be bringing in firewood. Sandi said they don't provide firewood on-site anymore.
- Ameerah is excited to be able to have six people at her grad. It is an outdoor event with time slots for each student. She will be attending U of A for a Bachelor of Design.
- Sonya noted that more sidewalk games have been painted, and more will still be done this year. Outdoor fitness video filming has started and will be posted on the City's social media pages soon. The playground passport has launched, encouraging residents to explore the many playgrounds in Lacombe.
- Dani said CLLLA is winding down for the summer. She has enjoyed teaching people how to use technology during COVID. The Active Living Fair is going ahead in the fall. Money from table fees goes to the learning bursary.
- Kirstin said the library is open, and hopefully, soon, the book stacks will also be open. 225 seniors kits were given out during seniors week. There is a story Walk out the front of the LMC. It is large boards with pages of a story, and you walk along the path to read to store. They will be moving around the community to different parks.

8.0 Next Meeting

September 21, 2021, 5 PM, Kinsmen Room, Lacombe Memorial Centre

9.0 Adjournment

Moved by Ameerah Giesbrecht to adjourn the meeting at 659 PM

CARRIED unanimously.