



**Town of Aurora
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday, December 21, 2023
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

Committee Members: Councillor Ron Weese (Chair)
Irene Clement
Jessie Fraser*
Shaheen Moledina*
Mayor Tom Mrakas* (Ex-officio Member)

Members Absent: Michelle Dakin (Vice Chair)
David Gren
Adrian Martin
Corrina Tai

Other Attendees: Lisa Warth, Manager, Recreation
Matthew Volpintesta, Manager, Parks and Fleet*
Linda Bottos, Council/Committee Coordinator

*Attended electronically

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Committee acknowledged that the meeting took place on Anishinaabe lands, the traditional and treaty territory of the Chippewas of Georgina Island, recognizing the many other Nations whose presence here continues to this day, the special relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory, and that Aurora has shared responsibility for the stewardship of these lands and waters. It was noted that Aurora is part of the treaty lands of the

Mississaugas and Chippewas, recognized through Treaty #13 and the Williams Treaties of 1923.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Irene Clement

Seconded by Jessie Fraser

That the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services be approved.

Carried

4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50*.

5. Receipt of the Minutes

5.1 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2023

Moved by Shaheen Moledina

Seconded by Irene Clement

1. That the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2023, be received for information.

Carried

6. Delegations

None.

7. Matters for Consideration

7.1 Memorandum from Manager, Recreation; Re: Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities

Lisa Warth provided a brief overview of the project scope, community engagement and timelines, and introduced the project consultants. Jodi Ball and Gabrielle Peters of J Consulting Group facilitated the discussion

and invited Committee members to share their experiences and insights on inclusive recreation programs and services, needs and gaps, delivery of programs, and expectations of the assessment.

The Committee provided feedback and discussed various elements including: the need for fully accessible playground and greater information on accessibility of parks and trails, including on the AccessNow app; the need for more summer camp spaces and staff training to make summer camp programs more accessible for children with special needs or behaviours; the need for a study of existing and changing demographics of Aurora; the need for a clear understanding of what the Town already provides as a baseline from an accessible and inclusive standpoint; the importance of also surveying caregivers and family of participants with lived experiences; outreach to York Region Early Intervention Services and school boards to help support accuracy of survey; connect with local sports organizations re best practices; the need for better communication, in multiple languages, on the programs and supports currently available in Town; inclusion vs integration/segregation; and identification of barriers such as financial, transportation, and equipment.

Discussion on expectations included: recognizing the link and possible gaps between programs and services and related built facilities; how to address desired services that may not fall within the purview of the Town; comparator information from other municipalities, public and private organizations and service providers; outcome that includes broad range of demographics, types of disabilities, best practices, solutions, and priorities; and opportunities to build on or create partnerships with other groups.

Moved by Irene Clement

Seconded by Shaheen Moledina

1. That the memorandum regarding Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities be received; and
2. That the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee comments regarding Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

8. Informational Items

None.

9. New Business

None.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Irene Clement

Seconded by Shaheen Moledina

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Carried