



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

Date: Thursday, May 16, 2024
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

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1. Call to Order	
2. Land Acknowledgement	
3. Approval of the Agenda	
4. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof	
5. Receipt of the Minutes	
5.1 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2024	1
1. That the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2024, be received for information.	
6. Delegations	
7. Matters for Consideration	
7.1 Memorandum from Manager of Parks and Fleet; Re: Town Park Accessible Playground Update	5
1. That the memorandum regarding Town Park Accessible Playground Update be received; and	
2. That the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee comments regarding Town Park Accessible Playground Update be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.	
8. Informational Items	

8.1 Memorandum from Manager, Recreation; Re: Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities - What We Heard

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1. That the memorandum regarding Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities – What We Heard be received for information.

9. New Business

10. Adjournment



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

Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: Holland Room, Aurora Town Hall

Committee Members: Councillor Ron Weese (Chair)
Irene Clement*
Michelle Dakin (Vice Chair)
Jessie Fraser*
Shaheen Moledina*
Corrina Tai*

Members Absent: Adrian Martin

Other Attendees: Michelle Johnson, Collections and Exhibitions Coordinator
Phillip Rose, Manager of Cultural Services
Lisa Warth, Manager, Recreation
Linda Bottos, Council/Committee Coordinator

*Attended electronically

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7 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

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

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Michelle Dakin

Seconded by Irene Clement

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 December 21, 2023

Moved by Irene Clement

Seconded by Shaheen Moledina

1. That the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of December 21, 2023, be received for information.

Carried

6. Delegations

None.

7. Matters for Consideration

7.1 Memorandum from Collections and Exhibitions Coordinator; Re: Community Reflection Space

Staff provided an overview of the memorandum and a visual review of the four proposed community reflection space locations for the Committee's

consideration. It was noted that the Committee will have an opportunity to provide input on the design features of the space later in the year.

The Committee and staff discussed the merits and limitations of the proposed locations, as well as the public consultation process and outreach, including risk assessment, emergency services input, and potential user groups and uses of the space. The Committee expressed support for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Park location.

Moved by Jessie Fraser

Seconded by Michelle Dakin

1. That the memorandum regarding Community Reflection Space be received; and
2. That the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee comments regarding Community Reflection Space be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Carried

8. Informational Items

8.1 Memorandum from Manager, Recreation; Re: Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities - Follow-up

Staff provided an overview of the memorandum noting the online survey is now available on the Town's Engage Aurora platform until February 14, 2024, to provide input on the Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities, as well as opportunities to attend a virtual or in-person focus group; visit engageaurora.ca/RNA for more information. Committee members were encouraged to share this information with their contacts.

Moved by Jessie Fraser

Seconded by Shaheen Moledina

1. That the memorandum regarding Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities - Follow-up be received for information.

Carried

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9. New Business

The Committee inquired about the Town's parkland acquisition process and the Chair provided a response.

The Chair advised that member David Gren has resigned from the Committee; therefore, the Town is now recruiting to fill this vacancy for the remainder of the term and applications will be received until February 11, 2024.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Shaheen Moledina

Seconded by Jessie Fraser

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Carried



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Town of Aurora
Memorandum
Operational Services

Re: Town Park Accessible Playground Update

To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: Matthew Volpintesta, Manager of Parks and Fleet

Date: May 16, 2024

Recommendation

1. That the memorandum regarding Town Park Accessible Playground Update be received; and
2. That the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee comments regarding Town Park Accessible Playground Update be received and referred to staff for consideration and further action as appropriate.

Background

Identified in the 2024 Capital Budget, as part of recommendations from Town of Aurora Parks and Recreation Masterplan (PRMP), improvements to the playground at Town Park are slated to be completed later this year. The goal of this improvement project is to create a new and fully accessible playground space, with features that provide opportunities for both junior and senior children aged 18 months to 12 years to play within an intentionally designed space that incorporates both users and caregivers' accessibility needs. Guided by the PRMP, this upgraded playground will serve as one of four accessible playgrounds, as recommended in each quadrant of the Town. Since January 2024, we have been progressing with the design and planning of the playground upgrades, conducting online engagement opportunities through Engage Aurora, an in-person Public Information Centre on February 7, as well as a posted display at the Stronach Aurora Recreation Complex (SARC). Additionally, Town staff heard comments and considerations from residents and park users who requested a follow-up.

Next Steps

After collecting feedback from the engagement opportunities described above, our park development team has incorporated the feedback received and is now finalizing the design ahead of preparing to tender out the manufacturing of required materials.

As part of the improvements, the following features are planned to be included in the final design provided that any additional budget is approved by Council and no other unexpected issues arise.

Key components:

- A junior and senior child combination play structure with included accessible ramps for users and child supervisors.
- A full swing set including junior and senior child options with accessible swing seat.
- Two double side-by-side slides for junior and senior children accompanied by a child supervisor.
- Interactive play board feature (touch and turn features).
- Two spinners, one flush grade for wheelchairs and another with accessible components.
- Accessible roller slider.
- Flush rubber surfacing.
- Direct connection from asphalt to junior and senior combination play structure.

Next steps will include finalizing design and project costing, with a report back to Committee of the Whole in June. Once approved, we will go out for tender to procure the supplied equipment. Depending on lead time to manufacture the specialized equipment, construction is slated for later in 2024 to be fully operational for beginning of 2025. Once design is finalized, staff will provide a rendering and post to the Engage Aurora website.

Attachments

Attachment 1 – Overhead playground concept

Attachment 2 – Elevation playground concept



CONCEPT ILLUSTRATION - OVERHEAD
2024 TOWN OF AURORA PLAYGROUND RENOVATION

TOWN PARK AURORA
WELLS STREET, AURORA, ON

L4



CONCEPT ILLUSTRATION - SKETCH ELEVATION
2024 TOWN OF AURORA PLAYGROUND RENOVATION

TOWN PARK AURORA
WELLS STREET, AURORA, ON

L5



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Town of Aurora
Memorandum
Community Services

Re: Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities – What We Heard

To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: Lisa Warth, Manager, Recreation

Date: May 16, 2024

Recommendation

1. That the memorandum regarding Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities – What We Heard be received for information.

Background

Over the past several months, staff in Community Services have been working with consultants from J Consulting Group to develop a needs assessment as it relates to recreation participation for persons with disabilities. An extensive community engagement plan was developed to gather information from those living with disabilities, those that support individuals with disabilities, and community organizations that serve those with disabilities. Engagement activities included focus groups, interviews, online surveys and telephone surveys.

This memorandum provides a summary of what we heard through these community engagement activities.

Analysis

Who We Heard From:

- 144 disabled people
- 76 caregivers to persons with disabilities
- 25 parents of persons with disabilities
- 16 community organizations

Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities – What We Heard

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- 17 members of Town staff and Council
- 10 members of Town Advisory Committees

What works well:

- There is strong support for the Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities
- Program participants find Town programs welcoming
- Inclusive and empowering programming is fundamental
- Quality of care and support leads to positive experiences
- Summer and Spring Break programs are highly valued

What are the challenges:

- Demand for programming with support is growing
- Many disabled people are not participating in recreation activities
- There are financial barriers to accessing recreation
- The built design in some facilities is not fully accessible
- Transportation is a barrier to accessing programming
- There is a lack of sufficient resources to offer inclusive programming
- There are limited programs for youth and adults
- Some caregivers and persons with disabilities may not be aware of what programs are offered by the Town

How can we improve?

- Increase representation among those with lived experience
- Increase options and variety of programming
- Provide more adaptive sport and fitness equipment options
- Increase one to one supports and lower ratio programs
- Reduce barriers to accessing programming
- Invest in staff training
- Improve awareness of the Town's programs
- Increase community engagement and collaboration

Recreation Needs Assessment for Persons with Disabilities – What We Heard

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Based on the information gathered through the community engagement phase of the project, the following goals were developed:

Inclusive Programming and Empowerment – Ensure diversity of programming that is inclusive, adaptable to individual needs, and empowers participants.

Quality of Care and Support – Prioritize well trained staff and adequate resources to provide support, enhancing the overall experience for participants.

Accessible Spaces and Programs – Address financial, transportation, and accessibility barriers to full participation.

Representation and Engagement – Create volunteer and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, creating more active engagement and representation in all aspects of recreation.

Adaptive Equipment and Supports – Increase the availability of adaptive sport and fitness equipment and provide more support to ensure inclusivity and greater accessibility.

Communication and Awareness – Enhance communication and awareness of program offerings with diverse and accessible information distribution.

As this project progresses, actions and an implementation plan will be developed to support these goals. At that time, staff will present a final memorandum to the committee on this project.

Attachments

None.