



Puslinch Recreation Committee
November 19, 2019
7:00pm
Council Chambers, Aberfoyle

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Vince Klimkosz (Chair)

Bruce Joy (Vice Chair)

Jessica Goyda

Daina Makinson

June Williams

TOWNSHIP STAFF PRESENT

Mike Fowler, Supervisor of Public Works and Parks

Claire Collinson, Legislative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vince Klimkosz (Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 24, 2019 Recreation Committee Minutes

To be approved at February 2020 meeting.

4. DELEGATION/PRESENTATIONS

1. Cameron Tuck – Lighting Needs at Old Morriston

(See attached presentation.)

Council has supported the submission of a second provincial funding grant for the diamond lights. The Committee was also supportive of this grant application.

5. REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Fall Fair Permit Fees – It was suggested that members of the Fall Fair delegate to the Recreation Committee with their fee proposal.



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2. Audio System Update at the PCC (Report REC-2019-002) – The Committee received the report and was supportive of the contents. It was suggested an instruction sheet be provided when the microphones are rented out to help lessen damages. A list of emergency contacts that could help after-hours was also discussed.
3. Tourism – Visit Guelph Guide as an example. Would Puslinch be interested in doing something similar? 2020 is out of the question but maybe for 2021. Can staff report on this? Discussion on print versus digital.
4. Volunteer Recognition – Staff to look into whether or not the Township has a record of the Volunteer of the Year going back 20-30 years. It would be nice to have a public space where we can recognize Township volunteers.
5. Drinking water source at ORC – Should it be recommended to Council that a water fountain be installed at the ORC? There should be some alternative to the tap water given that it is treated by the water softener and people may be on salt restricted diets. Mike advised that two fountains were pulled out of the PCC by the Ministry so they should be consulted first. Committee to do some research and bring back findings to Feb 18th meeting.
6. Website Content – The Committee is happy with the current layout as long as all hyperlinks remain in working order.

6. CLOSED MEETING

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Bruce Joy, seconded by June Williams. Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm

Puslinch Ball Needs Old Morriston Ball Park Lights

Deligation:

Sara Bailey; Treasurer of Puslinch Minor Ball, Lakehead University Kinesiology Grad, Secretary of Badenoch Community Centre Association, Aberfoyle School Volunteer of Parent Council, Former WhistleStop Pre-School President for 6 years and active Puslinch Minor Ball Coach

Cameron Tuck; Secretary of Puslinch Minor Ball, Secretary of Flamborough Oldtimers Fastball League, Lakehead University Phys-Ed Major, former Puslinch Recreation Committee Member, former Puslinch Heritage Committee Member and active Puslinch Minor Ball Coach

Thank you for this opportunity to express the needs of Puslinch baseball to council. It is our pleasure to present the needs of minor ball in Puslinch as well as the needs of leagues utilizing our facilities.

We as a recreation community in the township we understand that funding for projects is at a premium and it is our hope that we can bring forward some capital projects that involve community fundraising, which fit the parks master plan and will be an investment in Puslinch youth as well as adult baseball leagues in Puslinch now and into the future.

Softball style baseball has very long roots within our Township. This is evident by the many trophies on display in the main foyer of the Puslinch Community Centre. Recently the Township underwent a rebranding project which redesigned the Puslinch Crest. An important aspect of this rebranding was our deep roots in history. The main components of Puslinch Heritage are, Community, Farming, and Baseball!

Puslinch is in a very fortunate position. Located close to urban centres, we have two lit diamonds that are centrally located between these urban centres. One aspect of baseball is that it has traditionally been played throughout the week. There have been some suggestions to have one lit diamond and that would be enough to accommodate most needs. This is not a supported recommendation from Puslinch Minor ball or the adult leagues. This was conveyed numerous times when sitting on most of the forums when the master plan was being developed. Most parents have sports for their children on the weekends, hockey, soccer, lacrosse ext. Puslinch youth are able to participate in Puslinch baseball throughout the week and still make their obligations for other sports on the weekend. Baseball specifically has run through the week as weekends have often been left open for tournaments and the different levels of playoffs.

This brings to point the need for two lit diamonds. Currently Aberfoyle is rented under the lights for the entire baseball season Sunday to Thursday. Currently, both lit diamonds in Puslinch host 3 old timer teams from one league!! An impressive stat. However, two of those teams play exclusively out of Aberfoyle with one out of Old Morriston. The difficulty that the teams face playing out of Aberfoyle, 2 old timers, Puslinch Kodiaks, and an outside team, is that in the event of a rain out, all subsequent weeks are booked until the end of the season. We are very fortunate to have another baseball field with lights located in Morriston known as Old Morriston. This equips the ladies team and the other old timers team to play there. Without this diamond our current tenants in Aberfoyle do

not have an opportunity to play their rain outs at our facilities. This results in lost revenue as teams are forced to play in neighbouring municipalities and thus we risk losing them as tenants.

The Parks Master Plan supports the maintenance of old Morriston as a lit diamond. Also Council has recently received a delegation in regards to re-opening the public washrooms in Morriston. Along with this delegation within the capital budget it is recommended to replace the back stop at old Morriston. The baseball community supports both of these initiatives. Council appears to be supporting keeping old Morriston as a baseball diamond. However, the baseball lights are not in the asset management plan or in the fiscal forecast. As a recreational community we do not need another unlit baseball field. Morriston Meadows, a third diamond with no lights, serves a great location for t-ball and three pitch as there is a mini ball diamond and parkette located near by for siblings to play while their siblings learn to play baseball.

The Parks Master Plan does not recommend only having one lit diamond. In contrary it states "The projected number of participants translates into a need for three ball diamonds, two less than what is currently provided". Earlier in the report it states that lit ball diamonds translate to 1.5 regular diamonds. Thus we have Aberfoyle (1.5 diamonds), Old Morriston (1.5 diamonds) Morriston Meadows (1 diamond) and the tee ball diamond as 1 diamond (Unfortunately, we cannot consider it as a diamond as its in very similar condition to the diamonds listed in the report located at Aberfoyle Public School and those one's were discredited because of size, condition and to the limitations in which it can be rented out.). Therefore, 5 diamonds currently. Keeping with the Parks master plan that the Township requires 2 less diamonds. If we assume that Aberfoyle was the preferred lit diamond to keep (because of newer lights already added) that would translate to 1.5 diamonds. The next statement is that the Township needs 2 less diamonds then currently supplied. If you remove two unlit diamonds from the original total of 5 then you end up with 3 diamonds. If you keep Aberfoyle as a lit diamond as a constant, the only way to reach the recommendation from the parks master plan is to reduce the number of diamonds by 2, from 5, and is to keep the two lit diamonds accounting for 1.5 diamond each thus being 3 diamonds and accomplishing the reduction of baseball diamonds by 2 as recommended in the parks master plan.

Another component of the Parks Master Plan concerning baseball under section 26. Engage local ball user groups to identify and prioritize improvements to select municipal ball diamonds. To our knowledge Puslinch Minor Ball or other stakeholders renting Puslinch diamonds have not been consulted. Many local baseball advocates attended the meetings to put the master plan together. Our only concerns were to maintain what we have, not ask for more. It is apparent that Aberfoyle has been identified as one of the 2 diamonds required under the parks master plan. Our goal today, as a recreational community representing Puslinch Minor ball as well as the three Old timers ball teams currently renting diamonds for use under the lights, is to persuade council to recognize the need to identify Old Morriston Ball Park as the second diamond to maintain as recommended in the Parks Master Plan.

With being a former member on the recreation committee in previous years, I really wanted to present this to them first. Unfortunately, with time constraints and being a new board that has just been formed we were unable to do that. Luckily, because of the relationships that I have with the recreation committee and the members on it I have had a chance to speak with some of them about our ideas.

Baseball in general has seen a resurgence in rentals in the township being at par with the other recreational groups. Puslinch minor ball has recently revamped itself. We are in the process of growing a strong and ever growing community of baseball, our numbers over the last two years have seen growth. The age that most players start is four years old and they start in T-ball, age 7 they move up to three pitch and then at age 9 they play Atom and Then Squirt and so on and so on. We've struggled in the past decade with growth after T-Ball, but not this year! Currently looking at supporting two teams at Atom and one at Squirt, and we have a chance to even construct a peewee team. We could see an additional 45 players this year with the addition of two to three teams! We're confident to project a 25% growth in Puslinch minor ball. A lot of this is attributed to the focus of having a larger board running the league which will allow us to do more marketing, fundraising and this year we started out with early registration this fall at the Aberfoyle Farmers Market for more awareness. This also allows us to get in front of more people in the community, not just for increasing numbers of all players but to increase awareness of Puslinch minor ball and for the need of support and help.

We want to have a relationship with this council that is healthy. A relationship to help grow and more importantly maintain the facilities that have been in the past supported by the community and the township. We have already secured a commitment of \$5000 to go towards the fundraising of new lights to be put into The Morriston Old Ball Park. More importantly we are looking at various other avenues of raising more money.

It's important that our facilities are kept up to date and not left behind! We feel the same way about Puslinch minor ball and we are moving forward and are really hoping the township will move in the same direction with us. We believe that sports teams help children in our community grow mentally and physically. With our Phys-Ed and Kinesiology background, we have witnessed the values of sport. Obviously, physical fitness is important, but learning to play with others develops skills that are so needed in today's world for communicating, respecting and working well with others. Also, in the world we live in today, where technology plays such a large influence on our children, it is more important than ever that we promote, encourage and help develop our youth of today into physical activity and provide them these outlets. If we do not continuously move forward or at the very least maintain the sports facilities that we currently have we are in fact impacting the youth of today in a negative manner.

I am not just here though for Puslinch minor ball. As I stated I've been the secretary/convener for the Flamborough Oldtimers league in which Puslinch supports three teams in. We are bringing the entire community of Baseball in Puslinch together this year, to work as one. That includes the three Puslinch Old timers teams, the men's senior team, a ladies team which is currently playing out of Old Morriston and Puslinch Minor Ball which will consist of approximately 5 to 6 teams. when you add that all up we're looking at 10 to 12 teams. 7 to 9 of these teams will require the use of lights. I think we can all see there may be a challenge if we only have one lit ball diamond trying to support this number of teams that are currently here. With the goal of moving Puslinch ball forward, not having a second lit diamond will cause teams to have to re-locate and for Puslinch minor ball not to grow. I don't see the Township Of Puslinch getting smaller I see it growing and moving forward. In order to do so we need to keep in mind that facilities must be maintained and look after in the future for more growth. Our biggest concerns as parents over the upcoming years are that we will not be able to offer our children the choice to represent their community in baseball because the facilities were not sustained and are no longer available. The question which was raised by someone on the recreation committee was, "why not play the games earlier in the evening, so lights are not required?" Puslinch minor ball plays in The Inter-County Softball League and teams come as far away as Port

Elgin. It is a 2 hour drive, the earliest those teams can possibly get down here is 7:30pm. We are also requested by intercounty softball to start games at specific times for specific age groups. The same is requested from FOFL as the league request all games to start at 8:30 at night. I hope this is a clear fact that we do not have enough lit diamonds for future teams and barely enough diamond availability for our current capacity.

Morrison Baseball diamond was a private park since its construction in the late 70's which was built on land donated by local farmers with the intent it stays a lit baseball diamond. The park was owned by the senior men's baseball team and was maintained by volunteers. The deed to the land was held by members of the senior men's baseball team. At a point in history the team had folded and the diamond was still being maintained by the same volunteers. At that point the volunteer's felt that the lit diamond would be best suited deeded over to the Township. Once deeding the lit diamond to the Township for free, they didn't have the concern that the diamond wouldn't be maintained as a lit diamond. It is now apparent that the wishes and desires of the original community members that donated this land and built the Lights has been lost. In hind sight it should have been a condition in the transfer of ownership.

As a representative of this Community, Puslinch Minor Ball as well as three Old Timers teams currently utilizing Puslinch Facilities. We respectfully request that Old Morrison be designated as one of the two diamonds with lights (along with Aberfoyle Baseball diamond) within the Parks Master plan to serve the community post 2031, as well as being added to the asset management plan and fiscal forecast for replacement in 2021. This designation will comply with the recommendation item #26 of the parks to consult the recreational user for the facilities.

Further to our request to designate Old Morrison as one of the two lit diamonds to support the needs of the Baseball into 2031 and beyond, we respectfully request that the Township apply to Provincial Government for grant funding to replace the infrastructure at old Morrison inclusive of baseball lights, public washroom upgrades and a potential playground.

As representatives of Baseball in Puslinch, we have always had a component of community support to our sport. The batting cages and pitching machines at both Aberfoyle and Old Morrison were fund raised from members of Puslinch ball including our current Mayor. We as a community have always understood for decades that partnership is important.

Puslinch baseball would be prepared to contribute a minimum to \$10000 to the replacement of the lights at old Morrison (quote attached \$96000). It is our hope that a grant application to the Province of Ontario for Recreational facilities would be applied and approved. Thank you again, for allowing us to present our facts and concerns here today and hope that you see the importance of moving forward with the upkeep of The Old Morrison Ball Park and the replacement of lights. At this point we would be more than willing to accept questions on your part!