

TOWN OF ANNAPOLIS ROYAL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Draft Minutes
January 9, 2008

The monthly session of the Committee of the Whole was held on Wednesday, January 9, 2008 in the Council Chambers at Town Hall. In attendance were Chair Deputy Mayor Jane DeWolfe, Mayor John Kinsella, Councillors Ron Boulding, Sherman Hudson, Phil Roberts and Doug Shaffner, CAO Amery Boyer, Director of Finance Melony Robinson, Municipal Intern Tammy Bernasky, Recreation Director Grant Potter, Active Living Coordinator Andr_ Bouchard, and Administrative Assistant Jackie Longmire as recording secretary. Several Town and area residents were also in attendance for the Skatepark agenda item.

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

December 5, 2007

Motion #1

It was moved by Mayor Kinsella, seconded by Councillor Shaffner, that the minutes dated December 5, 2007 be approved. Motion Carried.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Under Presentations add:

1. Linda Brown - Annapolis, MD

Under correspondence add:

6. Invitation from the Municipality of the County of Annapolis to attend a Council meeting in Inglewood

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

January 9, 2008

Motion #2

It was moved by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Hudson, that the agenda for the Committee of the Whole meeting dated January 9, 2008 be approved as amended. Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Linda Brown - Annapolis, MD - Ms. Brown was invited to Annapolis, MD in early December and she offered a report to Council on her fabulous visit. She explained how the sister city relationship began during Annapolis Royal's 400th celebrations and how it has continued to grow since then. New and exciting ideas continue to develop as the partnership strengthens and moves forward. She talked about marketing and ongoing events as one of the benefits of partnering.

AS the wharf extension project moves forward, the idea of a regatta becomes more of a reality. Annapolis, MD has agreed to send a party to assist with the extension project, physically and financially. Ms. Brown said that this was a substantial opportunity for Annapolis Royal. The Annapolis Royal Tourism Council is also pleased with the opportunities that the partnership is providing. Ms Brown said that the promotion that Annapolis Royal receives in Annapolis, MD is overwhelming.

Ms. Brown then displayed a picture that was presented to her during her visit. It depicts an Annapolis, MD streetscape adorned with flags of Nova Scotia and Annapolis, MD. This picture will be presented to the Minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture later this month.

BUSINESS ARISING

Item	Decision /Action	Responsibility	Target date
1. Taxi Bylaw	This item is being held for advice from the Town Solicitor George Lohnes.		
2. ADEDA	Deputy Mayor DeWolfe said that the Board Governance training that was held in December went very well. The next meeting will take place later this		

3. Borrowing Resolution	CAO Boyer and the Director of Finance are reviewing the list of completed capital projects. A resolution will be drafted when the review is complete.		
4. Guidelines for Presentations to Council	The Municipal Intern has drafted guidelines that appear to be in keeping with what Council has requested. Councillor Roberts asked that a line regarding set up of computer equipment be added to the guidelines. It was agreed that projectors and other equipment should be set up prior to the meeting.		
5. A recommendation from the Skatepark Committee	<p>Mayor Kinsella explained that at the last Committee of the Whole meeting a recommendation from the Site Selection Committee was received. A motion was then made as a recommendation to Council for approval of the Skatepark location at 752 St. George Street. Mayor Kinsella said that since that time an overwhelming amount of information and correspondence has come forward regarding the St. George Street location. The community has informed Council that there is no community support for a skatepark at that particular location.</p> <p>Mayor Kinsella said that he has spoken to Warden Peter Newton and the Site Selection Committee on this issue and it was agreed that another site should be chosen. He also said that it was important to note that residents have said yes to a skatepark and everyone wants to live in a community where recreation is important but historic landscapes must also be considered.</p> <p>Mayor Kinsella added that he wanted the Site Selection Committee and ABBBA to take responsibility for the site selection decision and hear what the community had to say before this project could move forward.</p> <p>Motion #3 <i>It was moved by Councillor Boulding, seconded by Councillor Roberts to recommend to Council that the previous recommendation to Council regarding the Skatepark, which reads, “.... acceptance and approval of the preferred site location for the Skatepark as 752 St.</i> </p>		

	<p><i>George Street” be revoked.</i></p> <p>Mayor Kinsella said that it was important to note that two members of the Site Selection Committee were specifically involved in the new motion.</p>		
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	<p>The Recreation Director said that the initial part of his report had already been addressed by Mayor Kinsella. He explained that the Site Selection Committee was led through a process for scoring each site. The scores were then forwarded to Council for review. He said that the site which is located adjacent to the Dragonfly Inn scored the second highest but has been ruled out for reasons similar to that of the St. George Street location. The Committee is now seeking approval for the next highest ranking available site which is located in the soccer field area near the High School.</p> <p><i>Motion #4</i> <i>It was moved by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Boulding to recommend to Council acceptance and approval of the location of the Skatepark to be in the soccer field area near Annapolis West Education Centre on Champlain Drive.</i></p> <p>The floor was then opened for comments and questions.</p> <p>Vivian Wright said that the St. George Street location was a very nice area and she believed that visibility was important. She suggested that the park be designed to host other venues such as roller blades, tricycles and playground equipment. She said that all ages working together on a project instills good qualities in the youth and busy teens tend not to cause much trouble. She also said that Annapolis Royal is a leader in many areas and she listed the following as examples: recycling, education and the sewer system.</p> <p>Ms. Wright suggested that protective equipment be required for all activities and several water fountains be located throughout the park.</p>		
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	<p>Richard Hawkins asked for a more specific description of the new location. The Recreation Director said that the new site is beside the Town soccer field, behind Royal View Row, down over the bank where the elementary school playground used to be. Councillor Roberts suggested that the site be moved further west, closer to the school parking area, for visibility purposes. The Recreation Director said that was possible but there was not a lot of space to work with in that area.</p> <p>Blaine Schumacher made mention of the petition that was recently presented to Council regarding the 752 St. George Street location. He said that the petition clearly demonstrates strong objection to the location. He said that he has also heard comments about shuffleboard and other activities being incorporated into the Skatepark. He said that the St. George Street site was not large enough to consider other uses. If the park was located in a bigger area, other activities could be included.</p> <p>Mr. Schumacher said that this was an extensive capital project and he questioned if the Town could afford such an expense. Deputy Mayor DeWolfe said that the project will not affect the Town's budget as the Town is not funding the project. She said that the Town has agreed to make a small financial contribution as well as an in kind contributions. Mr. Schumacher expressed concerns that the Association may run out of funds and the balance of the project would fall on the Town. He also pointed out that the Town is donating the land which is a capital asset.</p> <p>Mr. Schumacher also asked what happens after the park is built. He asked if the children were expected to police each other and who would be responsible for the garbage, graffiti and general up keep.</p>		
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	<p>Mr. Schumacher said that he has heard rumours that the Town is running into a budgetary problem and that there is a possibility of a tax increase. He suggested that a decision not be made on the site until all issues have been reviewed and carefully considered. He spoke of the matrix or rubix that was used in th site selection process and described the process as statistically faulted. The matrix or rubix allowed for the same scoring to be applied to the impact on the neighbourhood as was applied to parking and other services. He noted that Site #2 was ruled out for the sake of one resident and he did not believe that the third site was acceptable either.</p> <p>Mr. Schumacher spoke of due diligence and how issues such as insurance and liability had to be carefully considered. He said that he does not believe that the committee is in a position to make a decision on site selection and that it has lost the confidence of the community. He questioned how the Town could support anything before it was completely known what it was getting into.</p> <p>Jeff Hafting said that it was great to hear that 752 St. George Street is no longer on the table. He said that he completely agreed with the comments of Mr. Schumacher. He also said that the park should be completely designed on paper and then the search for the appropriate site should begin. He expressed concerns over policing based on experiences that he had at his previous place of residence. He said that unless the police are consulted there is no guarantee that the park will be a quiet place. Mr. Hafting said that the park must be properly designed and constructed in a location that will be successful.</p> <p>Cori Horton who operates a Bed & Breakfast close to the second highest rated site, said that if the park was to be located near her business it would</p>		
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	<p>Councillor Roberts said that he remembers similar concerns being raised when the Town considered upgrading the playground on Lower St. George Street. He said that the playground is well used and there have been no complaints. He said the project needs to be put in perspective, there are plenty of other similar parks in other areas and we hear of no major problems.</p> <p>Richard Hawkins said that he has several issues that he would like addressed in relation to the Skatepark and he will draft a letter to the Town. He spoke of the City of Peterborough and the troubles that were encountered with a similar park. Mayor Kinsella asked Mr. Hawkins if he would like to participate in the project and assist the committee, he said that he would.</p> <p>Ms. Wright commented that this is a small Town and there will not be several hundred children using the park at one time.</p> <p>Paula Hafting said that she has concerns over a large concrete structure being placed in the middle of a residential area. She said that most of the other parks are on the outskirts of residential areas.</p> <p>Brian Power-Grimm said that he called the Recreation Director from Berwick, Craig Burgess. He said that he discussed the Berwick Skatepark with Mr. Burgess who reports that he has received only one complaint since the park was opened. The park in Berwick is a wooden structure that creates much more noise than a concrete structure. Mr. Burgess also told Mr. Power-Grimm that skateboarding is one of the fastest growing sports in North America. He also reported that there is some litter and they have had issues with graffiti only 3 times. A curfew has been imposed on the Berwick park and it was actually the Berwick police who suggested that the park be located in a highly visible area. The Town of Berwick budgeted \$2,000.00 for maintenance of its skatepark and Mr. Burgess said that he has not had to</p>		
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	<p>Mr. Power-Grimm said that he is upset over the petition that was presented to the Town. He believes that the petition was biased and inaccurate. He reminded everyone that some petitions have not been taken into consideration in the past.</p> <p>Julie Turner forwarded comments for consideration. She said that 752 St. George Street is a perfect location for a multi-age, multi-use facility. Annapolis Royal is big on firsts and national attention and this type of park would be unique. She said that if the park is located down over the hill near the soccer fields, seniors won't walk down there for a game of bocce ball. She said that this would be a great opportunity for seniors and teens to interact.</p> <p>Mr. Power -Grimm commented that the relationship between seniors and teens is currently being split through this process. There seems to be a lot of paranoia within the group that is opposed to the 752 St. George Street location. He said that he can understand the concerns of property values and noise but the group has come forward with a great deal of anger. He said that there is now a huge division between some residents and several nasty comments have been made, even comments towards the children involved with the project.</p> <p>Mr. Schumacher said that a multi-age, multi-use facility is a wonderful project but a large park needs to be located in a large area and the site at 752 St. George Street is relatively small.</p> <p>He reiterated his comments about due diligence and encouraged the Town to make sure that "all of its ducks were in a row". He also advised that his comments, in no way, could be considered legal advice. He said that he was speaking as a resident of Annapolis Royal and not as a lawyer.</p>		
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	<p>Cathy Witherly said that they are not a group that opposes the park, they just want to be informed of what is happening with the project. She commented on the public meeting that was held in October, 2007 and said that she only found out through the grapevine that it was being held. She asked, "what can we do to help?" She said that in order for the park to be a successful venture there must be communication. She also said that she has never been against the park itself and suggested that everyone move forward together toward a common goal.</p> <p>Mr. Power-Grimm said that he believes that there are members of the group that are against children in general. He also said that he has heard comments and character assassination against Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Potter, Mayor Kinsella and Grant Dares.</p> <p>Councillor Shaffner said that he is looking at the comparison summary and is surprised that the Site Selection Committee is jumping to site #4 which scored low because of visibility. He expressed concerns that School Street and Champlain Drive will become an extension of the Skatepark with children riding their skateboards on the sidewalk. He said that all the residents in that area must agree to the location or he cannot support the proposed site. Mayor Kinsella asked Councillor Shaffner what mechanism he suggests to ensure complete approval. Councillor Shaffner suggested a Town meeting. A survey of the residents in that area was also discussed.</p> <p>John Rodie said that he is wondering why the residents in that area have concerns over noise when schools are also located there and schools generate a lot of noise. He said that if the park is located near the soccer fields he is not sure that noise should be an issue. He also said that noise will be generated from the pool when it opens and a lot of children will be getting to the pool on their bicycles.</p> <p>Mr. Schumacher questioned if the Committee could send out a survey only for the amount of people that would be affected if the park was located in the</p>		
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	<p>Comments were made regarding the advertisement of the Public Meeting that was held in October, 2007. It was noted that every form of advertisement available to the Committee was taken advantage of.</p> <p>Ron Elliott said that his only concern was the location of the park and he was not against “youngsters” having recreation opportunities. He gave Council credit and commented that democracy still rules. He thanked Kathy Witherly for bringing the voice of protest to Council. He wished best of luck and said that he hopes that there is a park constructed somewhere in Town.</p> <p>Mayor Kinsella said that he is pleased with the support and understand the concerns. He said that he loves to hear the sound of happy kids and he is excited about the park. He said that Council has heard the concerns and he agreed that all issues need to be discussed. He also said that many issues raised today have already been discussed by Members of Council. Policing has been addressed and the Town’s Public Works Department will be responsible for maintenance of the park.</p> <p>Mayor Kinsella said that he would support the soccer field area as the new location for the Skatepark and assured that the neighbours of the proposed location would be consulted. He said that community surveys have been done in the past and have proven to be an effective and valuable tool. He thanked those in attendance, those who sent letters and those who signed the petition. He also commented on a note that he received from Reid Power-Grimm who is a member of AABBBBA. The note said that he, Reid Power-Grimm, would be happy if the Skatepark was located near the soccer</p>		
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	<p>Councillor Hudson said that the local folks should be contacted and the current motion should be tabled until that contact is complete. Deputy Mayor DeWolfe thanked everyone for the good discussion. She said that the motion could be tabled or amended. It was agreed that the motion would be amended to read the following:</p> <p><i>Motion #5</i> <i>It was moved by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Boulding to recommend to Council that the acceptance and approval of the location of the Skatepark to be in the soccer field area near Annapolis West Education Centre on Champlain Drive and contingent on surrounding neighbours being consulted.</i></p> <p>The Recreation Director questioned how the surrounding neighbours should be consulted. He was advised that a survey, via phone or paper, be conducted and St. George Street residents should be included.</p> <p>The Active Living Coordinator, Mr. Bouchard asked Councillor Shaffner to clarify what the local residents should be surveyed on. Mr. Bouchard said that as a promoter of active transportation he did not think the local residents should be surveyed about the possibility of children travelling on bikes or boards in the area. It was agreed that the survey would be specific</p>		
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NEW BUSINESS

Item	Decision / Action	Responsibility	Target Date
1. Water Tests	Water tests have been reviewed by the CAO and found to be within the required parameters.	CAO	
2. Request from Peter Davies	Mr. Davies has requested that the Town finance a portion of his trip to Annapolis , MD to attend the Town Crier Competition. It was agreed that the Town would fund the requested amount but that amount would be deducted from the Town Crier budget for the 2008-2009 budget year.		
3. Annapolis Valley Regional Library	For information only.		
4. Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS) - Report Card on Nova Scotia Municipalities	Staff recommended that the Town participate in this project, Council agreed.		
5. FCM	CAO Boyer said that the Town's Green Municipal Fund application has been successful, to an amount up to \$9,020.00. This brings the total amount of grants for the 2007-2008 fiscal year to in excess of \$550,000.00		
6. Canada Nova Scotia Building Fund	CAO Boyer said that the Town will be applying to the fund for phases 2 & 3 of the Champlain/Ritchie Project.		
7. FCM - Land	For information only.		

Management Workshop			
8. Auxiliary Police Officer Bylaw	The bylaw has been reviewed and approved by the Annapolis Royal Board of Police Commissioners. CAO		
9. Town Capital Budget Policy	CAO Boyer and the Director of Finance are in the process of itemizing capital budget items. The policy commits the Town		
10. MOU - Parks Canada and Annapolis Royal	The MOU has been reviewed by the Police Commission in the past. Parks Canada is under the jurisdiction of the		
11. Appointment of Hank Sawchuck as Alternate	Town Planner Roger Sturtevant has recommended that Building Inspector Hank Sawchuck be named as an Alternate		
12. ADBoT - VIC Operational Funding	The Annapolis District Board of Trade has requested \$7,000.00 in funding from the Town for VIC operation. This		

PLANNING AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 10:00 a.m.

Kathie Fearon and Elizabeth Ross were present for this portion of the meeting.

Regrets: Ian Lawrence

BUSINESS ARISING

Item	Decision/Action	Responsibility	Target Date
1. None			

NEW BUSINESS

Item	Decision/Action	Responsibility	Action

1. Heritage Streetscapes	<p>Kathie Fearon said that the members of PHAC added the topic to th agenda because the issue had never been addressed during a PHAC portion of the meeting in the past. She said that the Skatepark was a good idea but the 752 St. George Street location was a bad idea. She said the members of Council and PHAC could not reject a proposal to build a chalet style home in the same area and then approve something as modern as a concrete Skatepark.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor DeWolfe said that it was her personal opinion that the park like setting would enhance the area but the St. George Street location has now been ruled out as a possible site.</p>		
2. Application for changes to heritage property	<p>A drawing was submitted for changes to the exterior of Hutchin's Pharmacy. No application for changes to Heritage Property was actually completed. Mayor Kinsella said that he is pleased to see that the owners are incorporating wheel chair access to the front of the building. It was agreed that more information was required before approval could be granted. CAO Boyer suggested that the property owner be asked if the existing sign on the side of the building is being refurbished for the new design.</p>		

GENERAL / CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter from Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection Re: Annapolis Valley Trails Coalition - Mayor Kinsella said that other areas are continuing to take the same stance as Annapolis Royal. He has prepared a response to Minister Barnett which will be forwarded to all members of Council for review before it is sent.
2. UNSM News Flash - UNSM Board Meeting Outcomes - Mayor Kinsella noted that one of the key points was full taxation for Nova Scotia Power. How that decision will affect the income to the Town was discussed.
3. Anti idling bylaw- For information only

4. Development/Building Permit Report - For information only.
5. Invitation to the Council Meeting of the Municipality of the County of Annapolis being held in Inglewood - Mayor Kinsella said that he will be attending.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Councillor Roberts said that the Head of the King's Theatre Facilities Committee, Michael Gunn has compiled a list of maintenance issues that require attention. It was agreed that a meeting needs to be held with all the relevant people to draft a complete list of all issues and estimated costs. CAO Boyer said that the Town has contributed \$48,000.00 this fiscal year to the Theatre for necessary repairs and maintenance expenses for the property are becoming overwhelming. It was agreed that the King's Theatre lease may have to be renegotiated.
2. Councillor Shaffner asked about a particular property in Town that has had sections of staging erected for several months. The property owner has a legal building permit and there has been improvement to the property. The Building Inspector has visited the location and is familiar with the issues.

IN CAMERA

1. To discuss a staffing matter

Motion #9

It was moved by Councillor Boulding, seconded by Councillor Hudson to move in camera to discuss a staffing matter.

It was moved by Councillor Hudson, seconded by Councillor Boulding to move out of camera.

The following motion is a result of the in camera discussion:

Motion #10

It was moved by Councillor Roberts, seconded by Councillor Boulding, to recommend to Council approval of the recommendation to fund the Marketing/Events Coordinator position for another year, ending in June 5, 2009 with a 3% increase in salary on the one year anniversary date of June 5, 2008.

NEXT MEETING February 6, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mayor Kinsella that the meeting adjourn.

<u>Action:</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Signature</u>
Reviewed by Deputy Mayor DeWolfe		
Changes made by Administrative Assistant Jackie Longmire		
Approved for website by Mayor or CAO		

