



# Committee Report

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## Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee

**Meeting Date:** December 23, 2020

**Meeting Time:** 2:30 p.m.

**Location:** Microsoft Teams

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### Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee Recommendations

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**NOTE:** The following are recommendations from the Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee to be considered for adoption by Council

- [Receive Minutes \(December 23, 2020\)](#)

**Recommended** (Move, second)

THAT Council of The Town of The Blue Mountains receives the Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee Meeting Minutes dated December 23, 2020 as attached, for information purposes.



# Minutes

## Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee

**Meeting Date:** December 23, 2020  
**Meeting Time:** 2:30pm  
**Location:** Council Chambers (Virtual)  
**Prepared by:** Tanya Patterson, Administrative Assistant Community Services

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### A. Call to Order

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Councillor Peter Bordignon called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. with Committee members Bill Abbotts, Scott Bamford, Cathy Innes, Michael Thompson, Marc Anthony Venere, and Barb Weeden present.

Town staff present were Director of Community Services Ryan Gibbons and Administrative Assistant Tanya Patterson.

Also present were Dunbar & Associates Recreation Consultants Peter Dunbar and Chris Fawcett.

- **Traditional Territory Acknowledgement**
- **Committee Member Attendance**
- **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Scott Bamford

Seconded by: Bill Abbotts

THAT the Agenda of December 23, 2020 be approved as circulated, including any additions to the Agenda.

Abbotts, Bill	Yay
Bamford, Scott	Yay
Innes, Cathy	Yay
Thompson, Michael	Yay
Venere, Marc Anthony	Yay
Weeden, Barb	Yay
Bordignon, Peter	Yay

The motion is Carried.

### **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and general nature thereof**

NOTE: In accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the Town Procedural By-law 2019-56, Leisure Activity Plan Steering Committee Members must file a written statement of the interest and its general nature with the Clerk for inclusion on the Registry.

▪ **Previous Minutes (December 10, 2020)**

Moved by: Michael Thompson

Seconded by: Cathy Innes

THAT the Minutes of December 10, 2020 be approved as circulated, including any revisions to be made.

Abbotts, Bill	Yay
Bamford, Scott	Yay
Innes, Cathy	Yay
Thompson, Michael	Yay
Venere, Marc Anthony	Yay
Weeden, Barb	Yay
Bordignon, Peter	Yay
The motion is Carried.	

**B. Staff Reports and Deputations**

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**B.1 Deputations, if any**

None

**B.2 Public Comment Period (each speaker is allotted three minutes)**

NOTE: In accordance with the Town Procedural By-law 2019-56 fifteen minutes is allotted at the Meeting to receive public comments regarding Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee matters included on the Agenda. The speaker shall provide their name and address, and shall address their comments to the Chair. Comments shall not refer to personnel, litigation or potential litigation matters, or matters that are a follow-up to a Public Meeting.

**NOTE:** Committee meetings are taking place virtually to assist with social distancing with respect to COVID-19. Comments received from the public that have not been included on the Agenda will be read at the meeting by the Assistant.

**B.3 Staff Reports, if any**

None

**C. Matters for Discussion**

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**C.1 Interview Report Discussion**

A draft report was reviewed at a previous meeting. The final report was circulated to the Committee for review.

Chris Fawcett provided a brief overview of each section of the report. The report is a summary of all factual comments from the interviews.

It was noted that taxation was addressed in some of the stakeholder interviews, as well as discussed during the focus group sessions. Suggestions included reviewing and

comparing the taxation of similar municipalities, specifically the tax rates that support their recreation amenities. Additionally, it was suggested that it may be beneficial to consider the amenities that other communities have recently built or developed, and the benefits they realized from working with local organizations (i.e. YMCA).

Discussion included identifying the interviewees in more specific groupings rather than generalized to help determine the direction of the comments, i.e. tourism oriented versus residential interests.

A concern was raised regarding the use of specific interviewee quotes relating to one multi-use facility. This puts emphasis on the topic insinuating it was the majority of comments received, whereas other comments in the report suggest multiple multi-use facilities would be appropriate. Peter Dunbar indicated the report is designed to provide a level of dominance in the various topics.

Dunbar & Associates will provide Town staff with a revised report based on the Committee's comments for circulation to the Committee.

The Simcoe County Strategy Plan was referenced in the interview report. Bill Abbotts requested a copy.

## **C.2 Survey Report Discussion**

A draft report was reviewed at a previous meeting. The final report was circulated to the Committee for review.

Discussion included dealing with conflicts in transportation and accessibility throughout the municipality, considering the diversities in age, income and geographical demographics. Peter Dunbar indicated this will be addressed in the final recommendations.

Comments regarding the environment were included in the survey and trends reports, not in the interview report. The interviewees expressed their comments regarding the environment through discussions of additional greenspace and increased maintenance and creativity in the park settings.

Funding and timing of the final decisions of the project were brought forward. Funding is typically considered once the consultant's recommendation report is presented to Council. This document will be beneficial when applying for governments grants and/or funding. Funding for some recommendations will also be included in the Town's departmental budgets.

A multi-use feasibility study would be an important next step to determine the focus of funding and municipal control, i.e. what to build, where to build, funding for the build.

The process of developing the final objectives of the project was discussed. The process will be illustrated more clearly through the consultant's final recommendations. Chris Fawcett indicated the final recommendations will incorporate all the information received to date, using the four summary reports (trends, survey, interview, focus

groups), and as accepted by the Committee. The document will be designed to provide the Town with guiding principles for moving forward and will be presented to the Committee for their comments and approval prior to presenting to Council.

It was agreed that the final recommendations should be divided into short-term and long-term objectives.

Committee members commended Dunbar & Associates for providing detailed reports with good reflections of the comments received through the survey and interviews.

### **C.3 Trends Report Discussion**

A draft report was reviewed at a previous meeting. The final report was circulated to the Committee for review.

Peter Dunbar provided an overview of the trends and desires over the last five years, explaining they are influenced by urban centre visitors/residents, the current pandemic, increase in active transportation and environmental concerns.

Access to biking and walking trails will become more important for active transportation in the near future. The creation of active transportation policies will be included in the final recommendations.

Classifying the parks within the Town will be helpful in determining the requirements for each park, i.e. new playground equipment, shade structures, washroom facilities. Ryan Gibbons has worked with the planning department to create a parks inventory document, which will be available for circulation to the Committee in two to three weeks.

It was suggested that the final waterfront and trail recommendations provide considerations for people with physical disabilities, as well as considerations for scooter trail systems. Ryan Gibbons highlighted that accessibility is considered in every Town park design now as it is at the forefront of all Town projects with staff and the Accessibility Committee.

Environmental, technological, accessibility and inclusivity trends will be included in the consultant's final recommendations for parks and trails.

## **D. New and Unfinished Business**

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### **D.1 Additions to the Agenda**

### **D.2 Items Identified for Discussion at the Next Meeting**

- Draft Focus Group Meeting Report
- Demographics Report

It was suggested that realtors may have demographic statistics.

## **E. Notice of Meeting Dates**

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January 7, 2021  
Microsoft Teams Meeting

## **F. Adjournment**

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Moved by: Scott Bamford

Seconded by: Marc Anthony Venere

THAT the Leisure Activities Plan Steering Committee does now adjourn at 4:05 p.m. to meet again at the call of the Chair.

Abbotts, Bill	Yay
Bamford, Scott	Yay
Innes, Cathy	Yay
Thompson, Michael	Yay
Venere, Marc Anthony	Yay
Weeden, Barb	Yay
Bordignon, Peter	Yay
The motion is Carried.	