

HORNING'S MILLS COMMUNITY PARK BOARD
Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, January 25, 2023

The newly appointed Horning's Mills Community Park Board held its first meeting via Microsoft Teams on the 25th day of January 2023 at 6:00 pm. Members present were Deputy Mayor James McLean, Councillor Bill Neilson, Jim Hill, Nanci Malek, and Lynn Hodgson. The selection of the executive positions of the Board took place. Deputy Mayor McLean was nominated for Chair by Malek, seconded by Hodgson. The vice chair position will be vacant. Hodgson was nominated for secretary by Deputy Mayor McLean, seconded by Malek.

CALL TO ORDER:

Deputy Mayor/Chair McLean called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Deputy Mayor McLean recited the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

ADDITIONS:

None

DELETIONS:

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Approval of the Agenda was moved by Malek, seconded by Councillor Neilson. Carried.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

None

APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES:

The draft minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, were reviewed and approved as circulated - moved by Malek, seconded by Deputy Mayor McLean. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

Deputy Mayor McLean provided an update on the previous recommendations made to Melancthon Township Council.

1. Melancthon Township cover the costs of the 2022 Melancthon Day celebrations.
 - Council approved that Melancthon Township will cover the expenses of the 2022 Melancthon Day event, totalling \$1,299.55.
2. Melancthon Township cover the cost of the 2023 Melancthon Day celebrations.
 - Council approved that Melancthon Township include an amount in the 2023 budget to cover the expenses for this year's event. Deputy Mayor McLean and Malek will draft a budget, as requested by Council.
3. Melancthon Township make a \$500 donation to the Mulmur-Melancthon Fire Department for their volunteer contributions to 2022's Melancthon Day.
 - Council declined the request, as several other groups volunteered at the event.
4. Melancthon Township cover the cost to construct the park walkway.
 - A revised quote will be obtained and the project will be completed in spring 2023.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS:

None

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Melancthon Day - June 24, 2023:

It was suggested to locate the Farmers' Market at the park rather than the hall during the Melancthon Day celebrations. The market would potentially be held in the late afternoon and into the evening, located under the trees along the north side of the park. Gary Heaslip will be asked again to provide music. The Mulmur-Melancthon Fire Department has expressed interest in running the BBQ as well as participating in the First Responders' Challenge alongside members of the County of Dufferin Paramedic Services. The Board will reach out to the Shelburne and District Fire Department asking for its participation in the challenge.

Last year, some parents expressed concern regarding the height of the bouncy castle/slide, as some children were climbing up the outside of the structure. This causes concern respecting liability issues if an injury were to occur. The Board will look at potentially having an inflatable course instead. It was noted that purchasing the Board's own inflatable castle could be an option as well, due to the yearly rental cost. Delaying the start time of the fireworks until 9:45 or 10:00 pm was also suggested, to ensure adequate darkness for the display.

Public feedback from 2022:

1. Additional music bands that would appeal to all age groups.
2. A beer garden, which would require licences, smart servers, a fenced-in area, and security. Malek will inquire about potentially inviting independent brewing companies.

Plans for 2023 - Budget Asks to Council:

Improvements to the park:

1. Pavilion Renovations

Mayor White and Deputy Mayor McLean plan to negotiate with Flato Developments to provide some of the funding for the project. A draft budget outlining the suggested improvements would be required.

2. Ball Diamond Upgrades

Deputy Mayor McLean spoke to the Mansfield Minor Ball Association with regards to the necessary upgrades that the various age groups would need in order to play games at the park. Youth aged 6 to 13 years would require a pitching rubber and electricity to the mound to power a pitching machine. Mansfield Minor Ball will follow up with the permit process and cover the installation expense, with hopes of it being completed by late spring 2023. It was mentioned that Public Works Superintendent Craig Micks should be present during the installation. Youth aged 14 to 18 years would require a pitching mound and potentially an outfield fence. The mound layout and recommended guidelines for the fence were distributed to members of the Board by email.

Other suggested improvements include a slanted roof on the dugouts to protect players from the elements and upgrading the pavilion storage area with a locker system where bases etc. could be stored.

It was agreed that the Park Board would proceed with the minor upgrades, including the pitching rubber, pitching mound, and potential roof over the dugouts. Deputy Mayor McLean will research these improvement expenses and draft a budget. Malek will look into the cost of a locker system.

The Park Board agreed to delay the construction of the outfield fence until potentially 2024. Board members want to obtain valuable feedback from the community, as the fence would break up the green space at the park. Members of the Board plan on doing a spring walk-about to see if the diamond and outfield can accommodate the dimensions required for the fence. A strong commitment is needed from the Mansfield Minor Ball Association prior to moving forward with this expense.

3. Walkway Construction

The pathway in the park, running from the main entrance, angling toward the ball diamond and then to the children's play equipment area, will be constructed and completed in spring 2023,

therefore making these areas more accessible. The Board questioned if there would be any provincial funding available for the project. Deputy Mayor McLean will follow up with Craig Micks on getting an updated quote for the screenings. The labour would be done by the Public Works Department, and the walkway would be lined with a weed barrier fabric prior to laying down the screenings. Deputy Mayor McLean mentioned that an individual had expressed interest in doing some landscaping at the park. The potential plan may be to have flower gardens at the pavilion or a garden integrated with the walkway. He will follow up with the individual to discuss a plan.

Other/Additions:

The outcome of the Melancthon Recreation Task Force Report concerning the Horning's Mills Community Park was discussed by Councillor Neilson.

The following suggestions were made:

- improvements to the playground area
- walking trail
- baseball/softball leagues for youth to adults

Malek volunteered to set up the Horning's Mills Community Park Facebook page, which will communicate upcoming ball games and social events.

DELEGATIONS:

None

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:

None

CONFIRMATION MOTION:

Moved by Malek, seconded by Neilson. Carried.

ADJOURNMENT AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is slated for mid- to late February and will be decided upon at the call of Deputy Mayor McLean.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm. Moved by Malek, seconded by Neilson. Carried.