

Emo Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 12, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: Councillor Phil Whatley, Arena/Parks Manager Jamie Booth, CAO/Clerk-Deputy Treasurer Crystal Gray, Public Works Superintendent Jason Smith, Administrative Services Clerk Ceri Schraa, Maria Fuhrer, Deb Degroot, John Laplante arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Absent: Ken Brown

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: None

Resolutions:

23-12 **Fuhrer – Degroot:** That we hereby approve the agenda for Monday, June 12, 2023, Regular Emo Recreational Committee meeting.

Addition to Agenda: Spray Park

CARRIED

23-13 **Fuhrer – Degroot:** That we hereby approve the Emo Recreational Committee May 1, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

CARRIED

23-14 **Fuhrer – Degroot:** Be it resolved that the volleyball court be repurposed from sand to grass for easier care.

CARRIED

23-15 **Degroot – Fuhrer:** That we hereby adjourn to meet again on July 31, 2023.

CARRIED

The Committee discussed the following:

Soccer/Baseball:

- Soccer & baseball seasons have gone well, having lots of volunteers has been very helpful.

- Deb brought forward the need for a policy to be put in place regarding cancellation of soccer when there is a thunderstorm forecasted. Parents were expressing their frustration towards Deb when she had to call a game due to a storm moving in.
- Improvements for 2024 – roster list prior to the start of soccer so know coaches' names and which child belongs on what team, registration doesn't need to be as early as Spring Break. Maria felt Spring Fever Days would be early enough and could do registration for soccer and baseball at the same time.
- Final night for baseball is June 21 and soccer is June 22.
- A windup for both soccer and baseball will be planned for the end of the season. It was suggested to have hotdogs, freezies and pop. Registration fees will cover expenses for this. Maria suggested getting volunteers from the high school. Once a date is decided it will be advertised on Facebook and the Township website.

Sports Field Garage:

- Jamie provided a drawing of the plan for the Sports Field garage. Old fencing from the tennis court will be used for dividers. Some shelving will be needed, Jamie will build these. Each sport will have a separate area that will be locked to limit mix up of equipment and it will also limit who is in the garage getting equipment out.

Tennis/Pickle Ball Court:

- Deb suggested using the cement pad at the Sports Field with the portable net for now.
- The portable net pole is being repaired by Jack Esselink, who has donated his time to repair it.
- Crystal spoke about the potential liability issues with the lack of parking by the park area. Council and Committee members could be held responsible personally if there was an accident/incident. Parking is an issue either way regardless of the tennis court being finished or not.
- Deb expressed that if the tennis courts are started up that it will draw more people to the park area, therefore causing more parking issues.
- Maria stated that she would withdraw from the committee if individuals could be held accountable personally if there was an accident/incident.
- The idea was brought forward about the potential of moving the location for the tennis courts and using the current location for parking.

Multi-Use Facility:

- Maria suggested planning out what could be added to the park area prior to moving forward with the multi-use facility, then work on establishing a long-term plan. Maria also stated that she wouldn't be voting on anything regarding the multi-use facility.

- Questions were raised about how much the grant covers for the facility and how much Recreation has in reserves. Crystal informed everyone that the grant covers \$140,000, but the costs must be paid upfront and that there is approximately \$420,000 in the reserve account for Recreation.
- Deb feels that there should be someone to organize and run activities for the multi-use facility otherwise it may not be well used.
- Maria and Deb stated that only having community volunteers wouldn't work and the town would need to hire someone.
- Phil brought forth the idea of making a motion to Council to move forward with the multi-use facility, but committee members were not prepared to do so.
- Jason mentioned that he was approached regarding running summer programs for ball hockey.
- Concern from committee members about there being enough employees for the care and maintenance of the facility.
- Questions brought up regarding insurance coverage. Crystal would have to follow up on this.
- It was brought up again regarding Cornerstone School having their rink available to be used by community members outside of school hours.

Facebook Page:

- The new Recreation Facebook page is up and running. Working well.
- Deb would like access to post on the page. Ceri will set this up.

Walking Trail:

- A full history of the walking trail was provided to the committee. Phil's thoughts are that the walking trail will not be moving forward at this time.
- Jason suggested that Parks mow the grass around the edge of the Sports Field shorter so that people can walk if they want to.

Extra Programs & Community Garage Sale:

- Deb would like to promote having extra programs and weeklong camps through the summer such as chef classes, sports, gardening.
- Crystal advised that most grant deadlines are in December.
- Discussion regarding the community garage sale that has been done in past years. Would need to get community members signed up and advertise via social media. A date will need to be chosen for this.

Spray Park:

- Maria requested that the Spray Park be added to the agenda. She wanted clarification as to why it wasn't opened yet as she has had community members questioning her.

- Jason explained how he had done some maintenance on the Spray Park prior to the weekend and that he has to order a part.
- There was further explanation that the Township is hiring a second Public Works employee because right now Jason is the only one and unfortunately the Spray Park is not at the top of the priority list. The town will try to get the Spray Park open as soon as possible.

Beach Volleyball Court:

- Jamie brought forward that the upkeep on the beach volleyball court is challenging. He suggested removing the sand and just having grass. They could put the sand by the swing area. This would make maintenance of the area much easier.

Next meeting is July 31, 2023.

John Laplante left the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.