



Co-An Park Committee Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2021, 5:00 PM

Location: Electronic Meeting

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request by contacting the Co-An Park office at 519-726-5434

Present: Jim Meloche - Co-Chair Town of Essex Committee Member
Kim Verbeek – Town of Essex Ward 2 Councillor
Leo Meloche – Deputy Mayor Town of Amherstburg
Jennie Lajoie – Town of Amherstburg Committee Member
Vacancy -Town of Amherstburg

Also Present: Joanne Bissonnette – Secretary Treasurer for the Co-An Park
Doug Sweet – Town of Essex Director of Community Services and Deputy CAO

Regrets: Christine McAgy – Chair -Town of Essex Committee Member

Absent: Jonathon Little – Town of Essex Committee Member
Murray Sellars – Town of Amherstburg Committee Member

1. Call to Order

The Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest noted at this time.]

3. Adoption of Published Agenda

3.1 Co-An Park Committee Meeting Agenda for May 12, 2021

CAP 21-03-008

Moved by Amherstburg Deputy Mayor Leo Meloche

Seconded by Essex Ward 2 Councillor Kim Verbeek

That the published agenda for the May 12, 2021 Co-An Park Committee Meeting be adopted as presented with the following amendments:

1. Add under Unfinished Business #5.4 Entrances at Co-An park
2. Add under Correspondence #7.2 Preceding Covid

Carried

4. Adoption of Minutes

4.1 Co-An Park Committee Meeting Minutes for February 10, 2021

CAP 21-03-009

Moved by Essex Ward 2 Councillor Kim Verbeek

Seconded by Amherstburg Deputy Mayor Leo Meloche

That the minutes of the Co-An Park Committee Meeting held February 10, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

Carried

5 Unfinished Business

5.1 Capital Projects – Perimeter fence on western border of park

Discussion took place, more specifics need to be added to RFQ, to confer with Doug Sweet at the Town of Essex for past specs used.

5.2 Concession Stand Lease 2021

With the present lock down and the cancellation of some major events the fate of the concession stand for 2021 has been set in stone, it will not be financially feasible to open

Co-An Park Committee CAP 21-03-010

Moved by Essex Ward 2 Councillor Kim Verbeek

Seconded by Jennie Lajoie

That the Co-An Concession Stand remain closed for the 2021 season and the Lease be offered to Tricia Meloche in 2022

- **5.3 Bookings 2021**

- All events have cancelled up to July 17, 2021; some functions following this date are hoping to hold their event
- Minor baseball and soccer have cancelled their 2021 seasons
- Adult leagues are hoping to have a shorter season adapting to covid restrictions
- Tennis Courts have been closed during lockdown; orange fence has been put up and nets taken down; persons have cut barricades and are bringing in their own nets; committee suggests calling the Essex By-Law officer Mike Deemer

Committee agrees that we must wait to see Provincial guidelines before making any decisions and 5.3 Bookings should be revisited in June.

- **5.4 Park Entrances**

Discussion took place that when the park is not in operation, the park gates at both ends of property will remain closed. Doug will look into matching keys for Essex Steam and Gas Engine Museum, Co-An Park and the police department

6. Reports from Administration

6.1 Costing Report

CAP-21-03-011

Moved by Amherstburg Deputy Mayor Leo Meloche

Seconded by Jennie Lajoie

That the 2020 Year End Financial Report listed in Agenda Item 7 be received and approved for distribution.

Carried

7. Correspondence

7.1 Why Not McGregor News Article – Capital Funds

Leo Meloche has made it a concern with Amherstburg Council and noted McGregor should be on Master plan and is pushing to have direction as to why not and what has to be done to make it happen

Doug Sweet confirmed Co-An park was part of the Town of Essex 2016 Master Plan but co-ownership between the Town of Essex and the Town of Amherstburg has played a part as to why nothing to date has happened on major capital projects for the park. It was also noted in the Town of Essex 2022 forecast \$88,000 has been slated for storm water management plan for the Co-An parking lot and improved lighting within the park but these proposed projects will be discussed at 2022 Essex budget deliberations..

Presently both towns have Co-An park on their radar and allocate \$15,000 each year towards Capital and \$20,000 towards Operating. Doug would like to see an improved system and has been speaking to Amherstburg's new Director Heidi Baillargeon and has requested that they meet possibly with the Co-An Committee to discuss layers of projects that they have been requesting, like a Splash Pad and get a commitment from both Councils, as well meet yearly possibly in August to discuss next season's projects. Present protocols on capital items are that the Co-An Committee contract the project, Town of Essex remits the bill, recaptures HST and then bills 50% to the Town of Amherstburg.

Leo Meloche agrees system needs to be amended and stated that when he was first appointed to council that there were councillors from Amherstburg that had no idea they were co-owners to the Co-An Park and needed to pay 50% and he understands the park is given \$30,000 jointly annually which covers the little stuff but larger capital items need addressing as well and why not have the same as the rest of the town, but

Co-An has been the low end of the priority scale, and Essex may be thinking of drainage for the park but it's not on Amherstburg's radar at all.

Kim Verbeek states Co-An has been low priority historically and since she's been looking into this matter she's been fighting for improvements for McGregor and will continue to advocate for capital funding into Co-An park and bring it up to par with other parks in the municipality. Co-An Park is such a gem and needs the support of both the Town of Essex and the Town of Amherstburg. Kim states Doug Sweet has been extremely helpful and is excited that he will be meeting with Heidi and pushing forward, it is a start to get a discussion going with residents on both sides of Walker Road and develop a 5-year plan

Kim also noted there is a LED lighting project underway in the Town of Essex and asked if the Co-An could be incorporated, Doug was not familiar with this project and will contact Richard Beausoleil.

7.2 Preceding Covid

Committee suggests when Co-Vid restrictions allow that we invite all Councillors to the Co-An Park for a park tour and show off our beautiful park

8. Adjournment

CAP 21-03-012

Moved by Amherstburg Deputy Mayor Leo Meloche

Seconded by Jennie Lajoie

That the meeting be adjourned at 6:10 PM

9. Future Meetings

Next meeting June 9, 2021 at 5:00 PM

Location: Electronic Teams Meeting



Jim Meloche Co-Chair



Joanne Bissonnette - Secretary Treasurer