



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

REPORT

Item No.

REPORT TO: Reeve Vincent and Members of Council
PREPARED BY: Pat Newson, Director of Recreation and Facilities
DATE: 22/08/2016
SUBJECT: Blyth Arena Board
ATTACHMENTS: Draft Blyth Leaf Account Policy

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby dissolve the Blyth & District Community Centre Board and revise the North Huron by-law 5-2016 and remove the Blyth & District Community Centre Advisory Committee from the list of Committees of Council on the appointment by-law.

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron direct the staff of the Recreation and Facilities Department to hold bi-annual meetings (user group forums) in the fall and spring to review with facility local user groups of the Blyth & District Community Centre and grounds to discuss the facility and services.

AND FURTHER THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron direct the Clerk to prepare an authorizing by-law for the new Blyth Leaf Account Policy to ensure the ongoing administration of this donor program for the Blyth & District Community Centre and grounds.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Blyth and District Community Centre Advisory Board has recommended that this Blyth Board dissolve. The evolution of the board is such that the committee's interests can be served in the future with a new Blyth Leaf Fund Policy, and through North Huron Recreation and Facilities department hosted bi-annual meetings (user forums) of all the building users.

DISCUSSION

The Blyth & District Community Centre Board has struggled over the past years trying to define their purpose and role, and with recruiting members and with meeting attendance. The North Huron Committee Appointment Policy was discussed at the past two Blyth & District Community Centre Board meetings, and feedback was that representatives on the committee were not in favour of continuing as a Committee of Council or as Volunteer/User Group Committee. At the meeting on April 20, 2016 the committee identified that their primary purpose was to direct the spending of the Blyth Leaf Account and make recommendations to Council, and as the users of the Blyth and District Community Centre and grounds, to provide feedback to North Huron on the facility and services. Staff were asked to provide a Blyth Leaf Account draft policy for their review, and to provide details on how the goal of user feedback can continue to be facilitated by the Recreation and Facilities Department.

The committee has struggled with achieving attendance at meetings of all the user groups, and members have not stepped forward to Chair the committee, which is a requirement as a Committee of Council.

The committee has made two recommendations that are conditions of their support to dissolve the Blyth & District Community Centre Board:

1. That a policy be adopted by Council to allow for user group input to the spending of the funds in the Blyth Leaf Account. That the Blyth Living Tree continue to be relevant for the Blyth Community via the new policy.
2. That the Recreation and Facilities department host two meetings each year (September and April). That all user groups be invited to send representatives to the meeting to discuss the facility and the services. The facility includes the Blyth and District Community Centre, the Campgrounds, the Skate Park and the Ball Parks.

At the Blyth and District Community Centre Board meeting held on June 15, 2016 the committee reviewed the draft report and the draft Blyth Leaf Account policy. The committee was in support of the draft report and policy.

Blyth Leaf Account Policy

The Blyth Leaf Account Policy is attached to this report. The policy provides the background and future steps that will be in place to ensure its ongoing existence and input from the Blyth community. If this new policy is adopted by Council and the Blyth Arena Board dissolved, North Huron staff will inform all the user groups in Blyth of the changes by way of a letter that will accompany the details of the September meeting.

Bi-Annual User Group Meetings

The North Huron Recreation and Facilities department will use their contact list from the facility rentals to send invitations to all the user groups. At the meetings, the staff of the department will bring forward any updates with respect to the facility or services. User groups will have an opportunity to bring forward any building facility concerns, ideas or service gaps. The outcomes of the meetings will be reported to Council in the department activity reports, or if action is required, in a Council Report.

Hosting these bi-annual meetings is an opportunity to improve community engagement, and would not preclude any user group from meeting individually with Township staff or to address Council as a delegation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Council per diem for attending Committee meetings would be saved by eliminating the Board. The new policy document will provide clear guidelines for the use of funds in the reserve Blyth Leaf Account.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

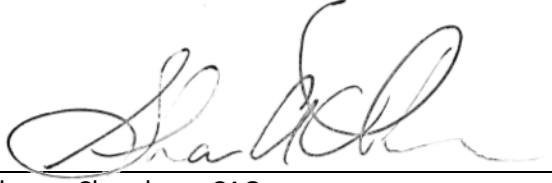
There will be some transition as the new procedures are implemented and experienced by the users. Staff will continue to keep Council informed.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Our residents are engaged and well informed.

Our administration is fiscally responsible and strives for operational excellence.

Pat Newson, Director of Recreation and
Facilities



Sharon Chambers, CAO