



THE MUNICIPALITY OF
LAMBTON SHORES

Grand Bend Community Centre Ad Hoc Committee

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

4:30 p.m.

Member Present: Chair Councillor Maguire, Mayor Cook, Deputy Mayor Sageman, Councillor Baillie, Member Lynda Hillman-Rapley, Member Ed Fluter, and Member Jim Quenneville

Staff Present: Steve McAuley - Chief Administrative Officer, Ashley Farr – Director of Community Services, and Jennifer Turk – Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

Chair Maguire called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

None were declared Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

3. Approval of Agenda

GBCC 24-0410-01

Moved By: Mayor Cook

Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Sageman

THAT the April 10th, 2024 Grand Bend Community Centre Ad Hoc Committee Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

4. Adoption of Minutes

4.1 Minutes - October 26, 2023

GBCC 24-0140-02

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Sageman

Seconded By: Jim Quenneville

THAT the October 26, 2023 Grand Bend Community Centre Ad Hoc Committee minutes be adopted as presented.

Carried

5. Staff Reports

5.1 Monteith Brown Planning Consultants - Research & Consultation Findings Presentation

Anand Desai, Associate and Jayme Hudyma, Planner from Monteith Brown Planning Consultants were in attendance to present their findings from the needs assessment of a recreation facility in Grand Bend.

Mr. Desai reviewed the area demographics, inventory, trends and best practices, community engagement and what the next steps are.

Mr. Desai thanked those that attended the workshops, and the Open House, noting that over 150 participants attended, and thanked municipal staff for their assistance during this phase of the needs assessment.

Mr. Desai advised the committee that there have been close to 900 feedback forms received.

Between the workshops and open house conducted, and the feedback forms received, there is strong support for the following:

- multi-use facility including a gymnasium, meeting rooms, kitchen, banquet hall, common lounge;
- accessible facility;
- financially stable; and
- programs for youths and seniors

Mr. Desai advised that the feedback forms indicated the following:

- 78% agree a facility in Grand Bend is a high priority
- 66% would likely use the facility
- 40% indoor recreation needs are not met in Grand Bend
- 35% visit swimming pools outside Grand Bend
- on average - \$59.38 more in tax dollars per year for the recreational facility

Mr. Desai advised the committee that from the two (2) community workshops held, there were 18 organizations present, plus interviews with opinion leaders that included Council, County of Lambton, Grand Bend Public School, Chamber of Commerce, and area municipalities.

Mr. Desai noted that there was a willingness to fundraise for the facility amongst the groups. A need to avoid duplication or competition of services with other established community providers and some questioned if a facility was required at all based on availability of facilities within Lambton Shores.

Next Steps

Mr. Desai advised the following:

- Draft Feasibility Study available Spring 2024
- Ad Hoc Meeting #3
- Public review and final Open House
- Final Feasibility Study Report Summer 2024
- Presentations to Ad Hoc Committee and Council later in Summer 2024

Chair Maguire thanked Mr. Desai for the presentation and took questions from the committee.

Mr. Fluter inquired if it was too late to submit comments. Mr. Desai advised that it was not too late, but comments received sooner would be better to include in the study.

Mr. Quenneville inquired about the emphasis on the facility being indoors only. Mr. Desai advised that the scope of the feasibility study was for an indoor facility. At any time, Council could expand to include outdoor amenities.

Mayor Cook inquired about consultation with community groups outside of the municipality. Mr. Desai advised that interest from focus groups at the two (2) workshops did include areas from Bluewater, North Middlesex, and South Huron. Mr. Desai also noted that those that attended were mostly from Lambton Shores.

Councillor Baillie inquired about the income levels reported in the feedback forms if this information would help/hurt grants and fundraising. Director of Community Services Ashley Farr advised the income levels reported would not hurt obtaining grants, that there are rural opportunities for grants for recreational.

Deputy Mayor Sageman provided additional information that the revenue statistics collected would not include seasonal residents that live in Grand Bend during the summer months.

Ms. Hillman-Rapley inquired if 22 community centres was high for the area. Mr. Desai advised the committee that the information collected is the information collected and noted the amalgamated municipalities still have their services/centres still operating since amalgamation.

Mayor Cook advised the committee, that this study is coming at the right time, with Grand Bend expanding and growing, as well as South Huron at Lambton Shores border.

GBCC 24-0410-03

Moved By: Mayor Cook

Seconded By: Lynda Hillman-Rapley

THAT the Research & Consultation Findings Presentation from Monteith Brown Planning Consultants be received.

Carried

6. Adjourn

The next meeting would be scheduled at the call of the Chair.

GBCC 24-0410-04

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Sageman

Seconded By: Jim Quenneville

THAT the April 10, 2024 meeting of the Grand Bend Community Centre Ad Hoc Committee be adjourned at 5:14 pm.

Carried