

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HORTON

Meeting on Recreation User Fee

October 12, 2012

There was a meeting held on Friday October 12, 2012 to discuss options to the current Recreation User Fee with Renfrew. Present was Mayor Don Eady and Councillors Bob Kingsbury, Jamey Larone and Margaret Whyte. Present from the Town of Renfrew was Councillor Clint McWhirter and Barclay Mayhew, Recreation Director. Staff present was Kathleen Rogers, Recreation Program Manager and Mackie McLaren, CAO/Clerk.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Eady called the meeting to order at 2:57 p.m.

2. RECREATION USER FEE

Mayor Eady informed the Council Members that he has had casual discussion on user fee and possibility of joint grant applications with Mr. Mayhew previously. He provided the group with an analysis of the number of Horton participants in sports activities in Renfrew. An example is 137 children play only 1 sport, 44 play 2 sports and 4 play 3 or more sports in Renfrew.

Mayor Eady said he has another issue with the Renfrew user fee policy – Horton residents who own businesses in Renfrew should not have to pay the user fee. Mr. Mayhew said he agreed and will check on this situation.

Mr. Mayhew said he researched the user fee agreement between the Town and Horton. The first agreement was in 1984 and the agreement has remained similar since that time. He said he understands the impact of user fees from his past experience with other municipalities. He plans on discussing options to Recreation User Fees with his Recreation Committee.

Mayor Eady noted we are a very close neighbour to Renfrew. Horton's door has been open for any user from Renfrew to use our facilities. Horton will maintain a list of Renfrew users.

Mayor Eady said one contentious point is user fee for adults. Horton invoices the user fee back to the adult users and believes that the user fee should be paid to the Town directly by the user at time of registration of the activity.

Mr. McWhirter noted that the Town is running into collection problems themselves and he agrees that the program taking registrations should also collect the user fee.

Mr. Mayhew offered a suggestion to create an "in town" and an "out of town" rate for recreation programs. He suggested 30% higher fees for out of town residents. Horton could reimburse all or part of the children's extra fees. He added that we need all the kids from outside of Renfrew to enroll to make programs work.

Councillor Whyte, Chair of Horton's Recreation Committee suggested we could also share costs for programs i.e. summer day camp.

Councillor Kingsbury said it is so refreshing to hear this information as we have previously tried to change the user fee arrangement without success.

Councillor Larone asked if Renfrew approaches service clubs as business partners. Mr. Mayhew said the work with Ontario Power Generation now and agreed we need to team up to run programs.

Mayor Eady said our rink rents out at \$70 per hour. There could be an opportunity for spill over usage. He encouraged Councillor Whyte and Kathleen Rogers, Horton's Recreation Program Manager to sit down with Mr. McWhirter and Mr. Mayhew to review opportunities.

The Council Members thanked Mr. McWhirter and Mr. Mayhew for their fresh approach. The guests left the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Following their departure, Councillor Kingsbury commented on the freshness and openness of their approach. He recalled visits with past Recreation Directors who were closed to new ways of cost sharing.

Mayor Eady said he would like to speak with the Township of McNab-Braeside to discuss minor sports opportunities.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Eady declared the meeting to be closed at 4:05 p.m.

MAYOR

CAO/Clerk