



Staff Report

Report Title: August 2023 Community Services Status Report

Prepared By: Mike Fair

Department: Community Services

Date: Aug. 9, 2023

Report Number: CS-2023-08-41

File Number: C11 CS 23

Attachments: Pickle Ball Photo at Point Clark CC, and the Toy Library MOU

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives Report Number CS-2023-08-41 prepared by Mike Fair, Director of Community Services;

AND FURTHER authorizes the Director of Community Services to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Lurgan Beach Association Toy Library as outlined in the report;

AND FURTHER authorizes Staff to investigate costs, and locations for a potential pickleball site.

Background:

Heritage Heights

Staff are preparing to engage the Heritage Heights residents to discuss a Heritage Park revitalization project this September.

Pickleball Update

The pickleball members has grown to over forty-five paid members in 2023. The pickleball program started using the Point Clark Community Centre parking lot (2018) and painting three court on the parking lot and using portable nets.

Lurgan Beach Association Toy Library at Langdon Park

The Lurgan Beach Association is requesting to install a Toy Library at Langdon Park. The Toy library is a storage box used to store toys in a tidy location for park users.

Iclei Livable Cities Forum September 25-27

Mike Fair is attending the Forum and is a speaker at climate mitigation session.

Discussion:

Heritage Heights

Staff are preparing to engage the Heritage Heights residents this September 13th, 2023, at 6pm, at Heritage Park to gather local resident's input regarding current state, future uses of park, play-spaces, walking paths, naturalization, and long-term sustainability of park. Ultimately the input gathered at the site meeting will be used by a landscape architect in 2024 to develop a conceptual plan for future revitalization of the park.

Pickleball Update

The pickleball registrations in Point Clark has increased dramatically in the past three years to almost fifty paid registrations. Staff have added additional painted courts and provided mobile nets. The local members have installed their own make-shift net barriers to capture the errant balls. A photo is attached. The members have also taped an additional court onto the adjacent asphalt parking area. Staff have also added painted pickleball lines on all six municipal asphalt tennis courts.

The pickleball members appreciate the existing courts with the adjacent pavilion, however there is suggestions from the membership that a permanent number of courts may need to be constructed in the future. Staff recommend further discussions with the membership investigating costs, location and programming options to prepare for a future grant.

Lurgan Beach Association Toy Library at Langdon Park

Staff have been researching Toy library options in municipal parks. Municipalities are divided in that some allow them with a local partnership and other municipalities do not allow them. Staff discussed an agreement with Lurgan Beach Association with general liability and indemnity insurance requirements. The Lurgan Beach Blairs Grove Association is not in a position to carry Commercial General Liability Insurance.

Staff supports the concept as a positive move to increase playability, but only if Intact Public Entities would still respond to defend Huron-Kinloss in the event of a claim. Staff also suggests that a Toy Library option for a park must have a community organization support the installation to monitor the activities. A Memorandum of Understanding between Lurgan Beach Association and the Township to that effect is attached. Staff recommends proceeding with the agreement for one year with the Lurgan Beach Association provided the Township's insurance company supports the risk mitigation partnership with a local community group, and this Council supports the increased risk of a Toy Library.

Staff recommends that the Toy Library be a one-year pilot project with the Lurgan Beach Association. This pilot would be completed, before any further requests are considered from other neighborhood communities. Staff also recommends that all toys that are left in any municipal park and not in an authorized toy library be removed by staff for safety reasons.

Iclei Livable Cities Forum (LCF) September 25-27

LCF 2023 will explore how to build resilient, equitable, and livable communities through the lens of "Intention to Implementation" for climate change mitigation. The event will convene policy makers, urban professionals, and on-the-ground practitioners from across Canada over the course of three days, September 25 to 27, 2023 at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga, ON. Mike will be speaking to the Lake Huron Shoreline erosion tree and shrub planting project that enlisted over seventy volunteers, and planting over 2000 trees and shrubs to mitigate shoreline erosion during high lake levels. This year's LCF is hosted by the City of Mississauga in partnership with ICLEI Canada and the Canadian Urban Institute.

Financial Impacts:

None at this time.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone.

By having amenities and services nearby

By being age friendly

By being open and transparent

We are an environmentally conscious community that are good stewards of our natural environment.

By protecting our natural assets

By using our resources wisely

By being aware and taking responsibility

Respectfully Submitted By:

Mike Fair, Director of Community Services

Report Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer