

**Minutes of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee  
Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 7:00pm**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tim Richards, Chair  
Lynda Baker  
Councillor Duck Paterson  
Ava Smith  
Bryn Dovey

Kelly Daniels  
Lesley Lorenz  
Geoff Dean  
Emily Weeks

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Chris Barfoot  
Pamela Zwicker

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**AGENDA**

*Moved and seconded:*

**2021-11: That Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee approve the agenda for the meeting as presented. Additional topic L. Lorenz Transfer Beach**  
*Motion carried.*

**MINUTES**

*Moved and seconded:*

**2021-12: That Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the April, 2021 meeting as presented. One adjustment was requested by L. Baker to April's minutes.**  
*Motion carried.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

Leisure Access Program clarification- clarified residential boundaries for eligibility as per the request from PRCAC to staff last meeting  
Members of the committee asked if Areas G, H, and Stz'uminus might be included in the program. A council to council discussion would be a more appropriate venue to discuss the possibility of Stz'uminus FN involvement with the LAC.  
Further discussion about provincial and federal funding for educational and recreational opportunities for youth.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Brown Drive Park discussion-** PRCAC members were given an overview of Brown Drive Kinsmen Park as well as the current amenities including a new bike park, trails, the story book walk and playground. The park has seen an increasing number of visitors over this past while due to the additional amenities and the Storybook Walk attracts a number of children and school classrooms. The possibility of a park implementation plan is a future opportunity for the neighborhood and PRCAC to be involved in further park development or not development. G. Dean noted that the front half of the park is highly used whereas the back half seems to not be used very much at all. Possibility of planting more trees in the open grass area.

Possible future event held to bring attention to the park, and engage the community in what they may want to see for future design/uses. For example: Spike ball, volleyball, horse shoe pits, bean bag toss, picnic, games. Could there be a secondary entrance to separate different types of trail user groups? Parking could be an issue as there are not many spaces currently allocated for the park.

**Transfer Beach bookings**-L. Lorenz asked if PRC staff were able to take end of year school bookings at Transfer Beach as in past years. As COVID-19 continues to pose serious health risks, PRC is not booking out the shelters at TB at this time. However, PRC staff are taking an interest list from school groups who call to inquire about TB. If any schools wish to share their plans with staff we can add them to a list so that when other schools call to inquire about particular days and times, staff can inform them if it's likely to be busy due to unofficial bookings.

## UPDATES

**PRC Department Update** - PRCAC was provided a department update by staff included in the agenda. Project updates included:

### HEALTH & WELLNESS

Fitness registrations for the month of April reflected the current PHO restrictions on indoor group fitness activities. All indoor programs (even low intensity) were ordered to 'pause' for a 'circuit breaker'. As a result, many programs were moved to Forrest Field, as outdoor programming is still permitted. Additional program planning considerations include a 3m space between participants and class sizes being limited to 10 people max.

For the month of April, 700 appointments were booked into the Fitness Centre and Fitness Programs were at 85% capacity.

### AQUATICS

April marked the implementation and restart of Red Cross swimming lessons! Lessons are being offered six days a week, with a variety of time slots, and include Pre-School and SwimKids 1-10.

Attendance in Aquatic Fitness, Everyone Welcome, Lengths, Parent & Tot, and Leisure Swims continue to be high.

A Red Cross Stay Safe course was also offered in April, with 13 youth participants completing the program.

## RECREATION

Program and class offerings under Recreation include Preschool, Children, Youth, and General Recreation.

### PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN/YOUTH

The Town of Ladysmith has been approved for a \$33,915 Canada Summer Jobs Grant to hire nine positions for seasonal employment throughout the Summer.

These positions include Junior and Senior Daycamps Leaders, Youth Parks Maintenance Workers, and Sustainability Ambassadors. Canada Summer Jobs is a program funded by the Government of Canada to create quality job placements for youth in safe, inclusive and healthy work environments.

Parks, Recreation and Culture will be offering Daycamp at two locations, Transfer Beach and FJCC for 7 weeks this summer, starting July 5th. Staff is currently finalizing Daycamp staff details and weekly program themes.

The Youth Zone Pre-Teen Program continues in April at 100% capacity.

### COMMUNITY PROJECTS

As part of the Poverty Reduction Project, Poverty Challenges ran from March 29 – April 9, 2021 with approximately 50 people committing to one of the three challenges. These challenged included:

- Food allowance challenge
- Public/Active transportation challenge
- 12 hour "nowhere to go" challenge

From April 9 - 11th, LSS students from Career & Personal Planning 10 took up the challenge to participate in the Food Allowance poverty challenge. Those that volunteered to participate were each given \$16.35 to budget and learn about food security for a 72 hour period.

Community members, LPRC staff and LSS students who participated in the challenges met virtually to debrief their experiences and to share their thoughts on creating local solutions to poverty in our community.

### FACILITY MAINTENANCE PROJECTS (Repairs or capital project updates):

The Washrooms at Transfer Beach, Brown Drive Park and the 6th Ave entrance to Holland Creek Trail have been opened up for the season. With the Town's parks and playgrounds already seeing increased use, the re-

opening of these important amenities will be well received by the public who are regularly using these spaces.

Edison-style lights donated by Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham Oyster Bay in support of Ladysmith's small business community were installed along 1st Avenue. The lights help create a sense of place and represents the strong connection the hotel has with Ladysmith's residents, local businesses and its many visitors.

**NEXT MEETING** Next meeting will be held at 7:00pm, June 16, 2021 via ZOOM.

**ADJOURNMENT** It was moved, seconded and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 8:15 PM

DRAFT