



The Corporation of the City of Thorold
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

PTR 3-2023

Monday, April 3, 2023

7 p.m.

Council Chamber / Video Conference

City of Thorold, City Hall

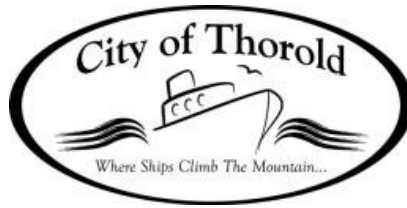
3540 Schmon Parkway, Thorold, ON

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| 1. <u>Call to Order</u> | |
| 2. <u>Land Acknowledgement</u> | |
| 3. <u>Declaration of Interest</u> | |
| 4. <u>Adoption of Agenda</u> | |
| 5. <u>Adoption of Minutes</u> | |
| 5.1 <u>PTRC 2-2023</u> | 1 - 4 |
| Monday, March 6, 2023 | |
| 6. <u>Presentation</u> | |
| 6.1 <u>Repurposing the Whyte Arena</u> | 5 - 15 |
| James Fraser | |
| 6.2 <u>Thorold Theatre- Allanburg Proposal</u> | |
| 6.3 <u>Niagara Trails Maintenance</u> | |
| 7. <u>Correspondence</u> | |
| 8. <u>Committee Business</u> | |
| 8.1 <u>Proposed Working Group</u> | 16 - 16 |

9. Roundtable Discussion

10. Next Meeting

11. Adjournment



**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF THOROLD
PROCEEDINGS OF PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**PTRC 2-2023
Monday, March 6, 2023
Video Conference**

Committee Members Present via Video Conference: D. Isherwood, J. Ichovich, J. Atkinson, K. Daniels (Committee Chair), M. Coppola, R. McCulloch, R. Merrill, P. DiPaola, T. Vandermaas (Committee Vice Chair)

Absent: Councillor Sentance, E. Salter, G. Ravenek, I. Woods

Staff Present via Video Conference: S. Jarvis, Program Supervisor, S. Hansen, Legislative Assistant

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Daniels called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement

S. Hansen, Legislative Assistant, read the land acknowledgement.

3. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: T. Vandermaas

Seconded by: J. Atkinson

That Agenda PTRC 2-2023, **BE ADOPTED**, as presented.

CARRIED

5. **Adoption of Minutes**

5.1 February 1, 2023 Minutes

Moved by: J. Ichovich

Seconded by: J. Atkinson

That Minutes PTRC 1-2023, being the minutes of Wednesday, February 1, 2023, **BE ADOPTED**, as presented.

CARRIED

6. **Correspondence**

There were no correspondence items.

7. **Committee Business**

7.1 Work Plan

Members discussed the objective of a work plan.

7.2 James White Arena

Committee members raised concern with the James White Arena being used as a public works facility. Concerns were raised about the structure of the facility and the condition the floors will be in once the machinery is removed. S. Jarvis, Program Supervisor, advised that the facility is being used as a public works facility until approximately September and that a report will be going to council regarding the City's amenities.

Committee members emphasized the difference between long and short term goals of the facility. M. Coppola offered a short term goal of making the facilities booking system easier to navigate. S. Jarvis, Program Supervisor advised she can have a report on what is needed to accomplish fixing the IT system for next meeting. Long term suggestions included converting the James White Arena into an indoor swimming area or an indoor garden center.

7.3 Canada Games Park Facility

Committee Chair Daniels stated that there were over \$50,000 of unused ice time from September to December at the Canada Games Facility. S. Jarvis, Program Supervisor, explained that the City of Thorold has allocated certain prime time hours. Allocated prime time hours that are not used are paid for by the City of Thorold. She stated that Saturdays do not have regular bookings. M. Coppola suggested holding day tournaments to use the unused ice time on Saturdays.

Committee Chair Daniels enquired about whether the City pays for unused ice/field time over the summer. S. Jarvis, Program Supervisor advised the City does not. R. Merrill enquired about the cost of ice time. S. Jarvis, Program Supervisor, advised that the prime time rate is \$226, the youth rate is \$180 and the subsidized minor sports groups' rate is \$147.

7.4 2024 Skate Programming Recommendation

S. Jarvis, Program Supervisor brought forward two requests from a member of the public. The requests were:

1. that the City provide day time senior skating lessons;
2. that the City run public programming at the Canada Games Facility.

Committee members discussed the cost of skating lessons and whether it would pay for itself.

R. Merrill enquired whether the skating lessons would take place during senior skate. S. Jarvis, Program Supervisor, advised that the senior skate lessons would take place prior to the regularly scheduled senior skate.

8. Roundtable Discussion

8.1 Beaverdams Map

R. Merrill requested a map of the land surrounding Beaverdams Park. T. Vandermaas stated this area is currently being mapped.

8.2 Booking Calendar

P. DiPaola requested staff develop an online calendar for facility bookings. S. Jarvis, Program Supervisor stated that there is a calendar available for the arena, pool and halls; she will provide a summary of the booking system at the next meeting.

8.3 Permit Parking

J. Atkinson raised the suggestion of developing a parking permit for parks to move vehicles off of the road

8.4 Beaverdams Pavilion

M. Coppola raised concern with the effectiveness of the pavilion at Beaverdams Park in providing coverage from the sun.

8.5 Hybrid Meetings

S. Hansen, Legislative Assistant, advised the committee that they have the option to proceed with hybrid meetings using the Council Chambers. The committee decided to proceed with hybrid meetings.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on April 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Kieran Daniels
Committee Chair

Sydney Hansen
Legislative Assistant

Matthew Trennum
City Clerk



WHYTE ARENA INDOOR PICKLEBALL PROPOSAL

Summary

To repurpose the old Whyte arena as a dedicated indoor pickleball facility to serve the people of the Niagara Region and provide a venue for revenue-producing pickleball camps and sanctioned tournaments which would draw players and spectators from near and far.

Opportunity

There is an opportunity for the City of Thorold to be a leader by having one of the first dedicated indoor pickleball facilities in Ontario.

Pickleball players would come from all over the Region of Niagara to play in this new repurposed facility. Local businesses in Thorold would benefit from activity the facility would bring.

Stakeholders

- Seniors
- Retirees
- Local Niagara Region players of all levels
- Local young adults with after school programs
- Out-of-region players who come to play in tournaments and camps
- Local restaurants and pubs
- Local hotels
- Local businesses

Seniors and Retirees

Seniors and retirees need a dedicated indoor pickleball facility so they can play the game in a safe, friendly environment away from wind, rain, and the harmful rays of the sun. The

indoor facility would also have a players' lounge for seniors to meet and socialize.

Niagara Area Local Players

Local players, through a pickleball club, would have scheduled times for different levels of play. Ladders and tournaments would also be organized through the club.

Facility Programs

First and foremost, the indoor facility would be for the residents of Niagara to enjoy,

- Instructional clinics for Niagara residents.
- After school programs for students of all ages.
- Hosting inter-club league competition bringing in players from nearby towns and cities.

In addition, sanctioned tournaments would bring in players from the United States and across Canada.

Pickleball Camps are a big thing in the U.S. Players come from afar to take part in these 3 day or week-long instructional camps.

Revenue Stream

- Membership fees. Players would be willing to pay more to play in a good indoor facility.
- Members would pay additional fees to enter planned programs such as ladders, tournaments, clinics and instructional programs.
- Three day and week-long pickleball camps as well as sanctioned tournaments would generate income not only

for the facility, but also for hotels, restaurants, and local shops.

- Ticket sales from spectators during tournaments.
- Potential of television revenue for the rights to televise and film the events.
- Coffee shop and vendor revenue.
- Advertising and sponsorship revenue for signs and promotional sales.

Current Status of Indoor Pickleball

While pickleball can be played outside over the summer, problems do arise.

Rain, wind, insects, the sun, and the heat present challenges for the outdoor player. Noise issues and complaints have resulted in fines and the shutting down of six outdoor courts in Virgil. Indoor pickleball is more desirable for most players.

Finding indoor pickleball facilities has been difficult. Currently, all indoor facilities are shared. This means that there are multiple lines and floor markings as well as different surfaces to play on. One local facility has a glossy wooden floor with windows on three sides making it difficult to play due to the glare. Another venue is an older arena which is either too hot or too cold and has a cement floor which is very hard on the legs and knees.

Sharing with other sports also means we are restricted as to when we can play.

Currently, area pickleball players make do with church halls, basketball courts and ball hockey arenas when we can find them.

None of these places are up to standards for sanctioned tournaments.

There is also a safety aspect with these facilities. Stepping on a ball from another court could cause a fall because there is no barrier between the courts. Other risks include slipping and falling because the glossy floor gets wet; running into walls, chairs and / or spectators seated too close. This can be hazardous for all players but even more so for older and less agile players.

Pickleball can be cancelled because one of the many other activities has been prioritized. Those other facilities are too few and too crowded as it is and there are not enough of them to allow for additional players.

Advantages of a Dedicated Indoor Facility

Guaranteed play. Not affected by sun, wind, snow, heat, cold, or rainy weather.

A permanent facility to meet, socialize and have fun.

Courts that are climate controlled, long lasting, and free from cracks and debris.

Courts that have one set of lines, good lighting, barriers between courts and good sightlines.

Employment Opportunities

A dedicated pickleball facility would require staff to run the facility and coffee shop.

Clinic and camp instructors would be needed. Fees charged would more than cover the cost of these professionals.

The facility would positively impact the surrounding businesses: hotels, restaurants, wineries, and attractions.

Pickleball is year-round which creates year-round business opportunities.

Fastest Growing Sport

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in North America¹.

Pickleball Canada recently announced a major milestone of 40,000 members. This is up 43% from the January membership of 23,000².

This quote from the NY Times (Sept 3, 2022) explains some of the sport's appeal: *"Besides being easier to learn than tennis, pickleball is also slower paced and there's less ground to cover; you could almost fit four pickleball courts onto one tennis court, and most picklers play doubles. Some research suggests that it may be safer than tennis for people with heart issues, too."*

While the game of pickleball is extremely popular with older people and retirees it is now attracting younger people and the demand for more courts is unprecedented.

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3MCD1nqTlxA&t=6s> (CNBC video)

² <https://pickleballcanada.org/pickleball-canada-celebrates-40000-members/>

Pickleball is growing throughout the Golden Horseshoe. Many outdoor courts have recently been constructed including Hamilton (12 courts), Stoney Creek (12), Welland (6 dedicated), Fenwick (6) & Virgil (6 – under a 2-year suspension for noise violation).

Looking to the future, Pickleball Canada is exploring the possibility of having the sport officially included as an event in the next Canada Games competition.

Support letters from Local Clubs

Niagara On The Lake Pickleball Club 300 members

Pelham Pickleball club 94 members

Welland Pickleball Club 114 members

These three clubs combined have over 500 active payers with membership growing each year.

There are even more players from surrounding towns and cities within the Niagara region that would be in support.

Niagara Falls

Grimsby

Fort Erie

St. Catharines

Lincoln

Port Colborne

West Lincoln

Wainfleet

September 27, 2022

James Fraser
President, Niagara Indoor Pickleball Association
3 Lampman drive
Fenwick Ontario
L0S 1C0

Dear James

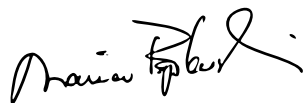
On behalf of the Pelham Pickleball Club it is our pleasure to write this letter in support of the Niagara Indoor Pickleball Association's "to build a dedicated, centrally located, indoor pickleball facility to service the people of the Niagara Region year-round".

The Pelham Pickleball Club is a group of 94 avid pickleball players who play on an outdoor court at Centennial Park. We would like nothing better than to be able to play year round avoiding extreme temperatures and other weather related issues. An indoor facility would also allow us to hold regional, provincial and national tournaments.

If you require any more information about Pelham Pickleball Club you may contact any of the following:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Ron Hall | rhall22@hotmail.com |
| Marg Richardson | richardson.marg@gmail.com |
| Gary | dxrgary@gmail.com |
| Maria Peplowski | mariapeplowski@gmail.com |

Sincerely



Maria Peplowski
Treasurer

October 1st, 2022

James Fraser, President
Niagara Indoor Pickleball Association
3 Lampman Drive
Fenwick, Ontario
L0S 1C0

Dear James,

The Welland Pickleball Club would like to acknowledge its support for the Niagara Indoor Pickleball Association's goal of building a dedicated, indoor pickleball facility centrally located within the Niagara Region.

Currently the WPC plays strictly at Maple Park and at the Empire Sportsplex in Welland. Both current venues are outdoors - we would love to have a properly built/laid out, dedicated pickleball facility that we can use year round to avoid rain, snow and wind while playing with like-minded people within a reasonable distance. Having the option to play regional, provincial and/or national tournaments would be a definite bonus not only for pickleball players near and far but for the entire Region as well.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Welland Pickleball Club I remain,

Yours truly,

Liz

Liz MacDonald
President, Welland Pickleball Club
Along with:

Ruth

Ruth Feagan
WPC Director/Secretary

Liz

Liz Simon
WPC Director/Treasurer

Gail

Gail Lee
WPC Director

November 6th, 2022

James Fraser
President, Niagara Indoor Pickleball Association
3 Lampman Drive
Fenwick, ON L0S 1C0

Dear James

On behalf of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Pickleball Club Inc. Board of Directors, I would like to give my wholehearted support for the Niagara Indoor Pickleball Association's endeavor to build a dedicated indoor pickleball facility.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Pickleball Club and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake were charged with a noise violation and are now prohibited from using the outdoor pickleball courts located at the Centennial Sports Park in Virgil. As a result, we have had to move all our pickleball activities indoors. To have access year-round to a dedicated indoor pickleball facility would be ideal, as one of the many benefits of playing indoors is the elimination of noise concerns.

We are currently a club of 300 members and growing daily. Between September and November of this year, we have added approximately 50 new members. We have been using the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre which has limited availability and the Old Virgil School which is a facility on its last legs. Our increased membership means we are outgrowing these current indoor options. Additionally, we are adding more members who work during the day and would like to see evening and weekend options. This is a challenge as there is lots of competition for these prime gym hours from other sports.

One of the Club's long-term goals is to introduce youth pickleball programming, and this is currently not an option due to the lack of facilities.

As a non-profit organization, we are dedicated to the growth of pickleball in the Niagara Region, while keeping it affordable for everyone. For more information regarding the Niagara-on-the-Lake Pickleball Club, please visit notlpickleball.ca or contact president@notlpickleball.ca.

Kindest regards,

Tracy Booth

Tracy Booth
President
Niagara-on-the-Lake Pickleball Club Inc.

Subcommittee to Improve Website Promotion of Thorold's Parks, Trails and Recreation

This sub-committee would focus on improving the City's Parks Trails and Recreation website

<https://www.thorold.ca/en/recreation-and-culture/parks-trails-and-sports-fields.aspx> to enhance awareness and better promote Thorold's parks, trails and recreation opportunities.

Some aspects of the current website are problematic. For example, the way the content on the page is laid out may not effectively communicate information of greatest interest to the website visitor. Some of the links provided are broken. There isn't much Thorold specific Trails content (e.g. Laura Secord Legacy Trail? Mel Swart Lake Gibson Park?) with much more emphasis placed on the Waterfront Trail (Niagara on the Lake to Port Colborne).

This sub-committee would be comprised of 3 or 4 PTRC members (including myself), dedicating extra time and effort for approximately six months. The goal of the sub-committee would be to report back to the PTRC with recommendations in September 2023.

This subcommittee's work supports two key Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan Recommendations:

PR8 – “Use the renewed City website to promote the availability of opportunities to participate in all types of recreation under a collective heading...”

PR9. “Develop a one-stop, search-based information portal to all community programs/activities.”

This sub-committee's work will involve:

- learning from City staff and analyzing our website analytics to provide information on current use and gaps for searching information on parks, trails and recreations services
- assessing which specific links should be provided to related organizations, community groups or trail description links (e.g. Ontario Hiking.com). This adheres to Master Plan Recommendation PR13
- reflecting standard website design principles including functionality, navigability, visual hierarchy, etc.

Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee 2022-2026 Work plan

| Subcategories/ Action | Alignment with Terms of Reference | Person/Group Responsible | Resources required, other services providers, Government, Funding, etc. | Time Frame | Desired Outcome | Performance Indicators: How will you measure your accomplishments? |
|--|---|-----------------------------|---|---------------|--------------------|--|
| Identify aspects of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan that are relevant to the Committee. | To review, revise and implement the recommendations contained within the City of Thorold Parks and Recreation Master Plan. | | | | | |
| Review and provide Council with recommendations regarding Beaverdams Park. | To advise Council and make recommendations on the programming, utilization and expansion of Parks, Trails and Recreational facilities within the City of Thorold. | | | | | |