



Agenda
Recreation & Leisure Advisory Committee

November 27, 2024

5:30 pm

Municipal Operations Centre

408 James Street South, St. Marys

YouTube Link - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzuUpFqxcEI8OG-dOYKteFQ>

Pages

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**
3. **AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the November 27, 2024 Recreation and Leisure Advisory Committee agenda be accepted as presented.

4. **DELEGATIONS**
5. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

3

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the September 25, 2024 Recreation and Leisure Advisory Committee meeting minutes be approved and signed by the Chair and the Committee Secretary

6. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**
7. **REPORTS**

- 7.1 **DCS 63-2024 PRC Splash Pad Closure**

6

RECOMMENDATION

THAT DCS 63-2024 PRC Splash Pad report be received for information.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

2025 Recreation and Leisure Committee Meeting Schedule:

- January 22, 2024 at 5:30 pm (Municipal Operations Centre)
- February 26, 2024 at 5:30 pm (Municipal Operations Centre)
- March 26, 2024 at 5:30 pm (Municipal Operations Centre)
- April 23, 2024 at 5:30 pm (Municipal Operations Centre)
- May 28, 2024 at 5:30 pm (Municipal Operations Centre)
- June 25, 2024 at 5:30 pm (Municipal Operations Centre)
- September 24, 2024 at 5:30 pm (Municipal Operations Centre)
- October 22, 2024 at 5:30 pm (Municipal Operations Centre)
- November 26, 2024 at 5:30 pm (Municipal Operations Centre)

10. ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDATION

THAT this meeting of the Recreation and Leisure Advisory Committee be adjourned at _____ pm.



Minutes

Recreation & Leisure Advisory Committee

September 25, 2024

5:30 pm

Municipal Operations Centre

408 James Street South, St. Marys

YouTube Link - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzuUpFqxcEI8OG-dOYKteFQ>

Members Present: Rick Lyons, Chair
Jeremy Brock
Scott Crawford
Richard Kennedy

Members Absent: Councillor Pridham
Pam Zabel

Staff Present: Stephanie Ische, Director of Community Services
Joannah Campbell, Recreation Manager
Andrea Slade, Manager of Aquatics
Morgan Dykstra, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rick Lyons called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None.

3. AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved By Richard Kennedy

Seconded By Scott Crawford

THAT the September 25, 2024 Recreation and Leisure Advisory Committee agenda be accepted as presented.

Carried

4. DELEGATIONS

None.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Moved By Jeremy Brock

Seconded By Scott Crawford

THAT the May 29, 2024 Recreation and Leisure Advisory Committee minutes be approved and signed by the Chair and Committee Secretary.

Carried

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

7. REPORTS

7.1 DCS 53-2024 Year End Summer Review

Stephanie Ische, Andrea Slade, and Johannah Campbell spoke to report DCS 53-2024.

The Committee brought forward questions related to canteen operations, specifically how the Town decides when the canteens are open. Staff advised that a follow up report outlining canteen operations can be brought back to the Committee at a future meeting.

Moved By Jeremy Brock

Seconded By Scott Crawford

THAT DCS 53-2024 Year End Summer Review be received for information.

Carried

7.2 DCS 57-2024 Sports Wall of Fame Project Update (September)

Joannah Campbell spoke to report DCS 57-2024.

Rick Lyons commented that it may be beneficial to have one emcee, instead of several speakers at the induction event.

Staff sought the Committee's feedback on where the refreshments should be served during the induction event, providing the options of in the lobby or in the EndZone at the Pyramid Recreation Centre.

The Committee was of the opinion that due to the busy nature of the facility, the formal presentation and refreshment period should be hosted in the EndZone.

Moved By Richard Kennedy

Seconded By Jeremy Brock

THAT DCS 57-2024 Sports Wall of Fame Project Update (September) be received.

Carried

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 23, 2024 at 5:30 pm Municipal Operations Centre, Boardroom)

November 27, 2024 at 5:30 pm (Municipal Operations Centre, Boardroom)

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By Richard Kennedy

Seconded By Scott Crawford

THAT this meeting of the Recreation and Leisure Advisory Committee be adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Carried

Rick Lyons, Chair

Stephanie Ische, Director of Community Services / Committee Secretary



FORMAL REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Doug LaPointe, Recreation Operations Manager

Date of Meeting: 27 November 2024

Subject: **DCS 63-2024 PRC Splash Pad Closure**

PURPOSE

To advise the committee on Council's direction to decommission the PRC splash pad and find an alternative use for the space in the future

RECOMMENDATION

THAT DCS 63-2024 PRC Splash Pad report be received for information.

BACKGROUND

The splash pad at the Pyramid Recreation Centre is a "flow through" water system (no water reclamation or recirculation) which was commissioned alongside the indoor Aquatics Centre in 2008, as an additional recreation amenity provided by the Town. It was the sole splash pad in town until the construction of the splash pad and playground as part of the Cadzow Park in 2018. At that time, Town staff received feedback from Council that the annual capital and operating budget for the PRC splashpad be minimized to only addressing health and safety concerns, ensuring the splash pad adhered to public health regulations, and seasonal operation. There was an understanding between Council and staff that at the point in time when the splashpad required significant renovations, that staff report to Council to allow Council to consider the service level in the community and the future of the PRC splashpad.

As of fall 2024, the splash pad system reached a point where the Town needed to either confirm that it be decommissioned, or extensive capital funds be invested to perform the necessary maintenance to extend the life of the asset. Residents living close to the PRC and elementary school children from Little Falls Public School have expressed their dissatisfaction with the splash pad's current state and wish it to be repaired to like-new condition.

REPORT

The splash pad at the PRC continued to be used sporadically, most frequently by primary aged students from Little Falls throughout the month of June, as well as nearby residents within walking distance during the summer months. Residents from town occasionally travel by car or bike to use the splash pad, especially if the Cadzow Splash pad is at or near capacity. The splash pad continues to operate with some features not working as intended, or at all. Currently about 60% of the originally installed features work as designed, 20% of the features work in a limited capacity ("water tower", "tipping buckets"), and 20% of the features no longer operate ("swivelling pirate head", "high cascading water spray").

Due to the design of having the features and piping casted and formed directly into the concrete pad, it is not possible to change or replace features without significant removal and replacement of concrete

and cast piping, which is costly and would need to be done for every affected feature. This is the case for features such as the tipping buckets and spraying water tower. It is for this reason that features which currently do not operate well (or at all) have not been replaced since the new splash pad was installed at Cadzow Park.

Staff met with the contractor who installed the splash pad in 2008 to gather information on options to refurbish the splash pad, the scope required to continue operations, and the estimated scope required to decommission and remove the features. Any refurbishment work would require significant concrete removal and replacement of piping to access and remove the features, even if just replacing them with the least costly method of installing low-profile ground level spray features. Work would also need to be completed to upgrade some mechanical components related to valves and water regulation. A refurbished splash pad would continue to operate as a flow through system without water reclamation or recirculation as a conversion would be at a significant cost.

The following graphic provides a summary of the alternatives for the PRC splash pad.

	Cost	Benefit	Drawback
<u>Option 1:</u> Decommission and leave space as-is	\$1000	Minimal cost to disable water systems, no additional significant costs to repurpose area	Splash pad features would remain, resulting in poor appearance
<u>Option 2:</u> Decommission, remove features, repurpose area	\$7500 for removal of features; cost does not include future scope of repurposing area	Eliminate splash pad operational costs	Cost of repurposing space, area has limited potential uses
<u>Option 3:</u> Refurbish splash pad by removing inoperable features and replacing with low-profile ground level spray features only	\$50,000	Renews the lifespan of the splash pad with reduced future operating costs through lower-profile features	Significant repairs and associated costs to complete the scope of work as well as future maintenance, repairs and operating costs to continue
<u>Option 4:</u> Refurbish splash pad with new high-profile features above and beyond basic ground-level spray features	\$75,000	Full restoration of the splash pad with a mix of low- and high-profile features	Significant repairs and associated costs to complete the scope of work as well as future maintenance, repairs and operating costs to continue at a higher cost versus low-profile ground level features

The decision before Council at the October 15th meeting was a service level decision to determine if the community should be served by multiple splash pads within a close proximity. While the Recreation Culture and Leisure Master Plan is still being developed, staff members talked with Monteith Brown consultants to gain their input on service levels and metrics that may assist Council in their deliberations. The information below was provided by Monteith Brown:

In comparable communities and as part of the Recreation, Culture and Leisure Master Plan Update research, the Consultants have indicated that St. Marys provides a higher level of service

of splash pads. Based on an estimated 2025 population of 7,840 residents, St. Marys is achieving a service level of 1:3,920 residents, which is higher compared to the comparative average (1:8,525 residents). St. Marys' service level is the third highest after North Middlesex (1:3,395 residents) and Warwick (1:3,914 residents), although these communities provide a high level of service on the basis of providing one in each urban area.

Municipality	Number of Urban Areas	Splash Pad Supply	2023 Population Estimate	Service Level
North Middlesex	2	2	6,790	1:3,395
Warwick	1	1	3,914	1:3,914
Perth South	2	1	4,066	1:4,066
Zorra	2	2	9,456	1:4,728
Southwest Middlesex	1	1	6,259	1:6,259
Lucan Biddulph	1	1	6,562	1:6,562
Middlesex Centre	2	3	21,195	1:7,065
Thames Centre	2	2	15,224	1:7,612
Saugeen Shores	2	2	17,462	1:8,731
West Perth	2	1	9,772	1:9,772
North Perth	1	1	17,418	1:17,418
Stratford	1	1	35,335	1:35,335
Average				1:8,525
St. Marys (2025)	1	2	7,840	1:3,920

Population source: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=1710015501>

From a distribution perspective, St. Mary's two splash pads generally serve the same geographic area as they both serve the south end and are approximately 1.2 kilometres from each other (17-minute walk or three-minute drive).

Council approved the following recommendations at its October 15th meeting:

THAT DCS 55-2024 PRC Splash Pad report be received; and,

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with Option #2 (decommission the PRC splash pad, repurpose the area) to be included in the 2025 capital budget.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications are as follows:

Option 1 – Decommission and leave space as is - \$1,000

Option 2 –Decommission, remove features, repurpose area - \$7,500 (removal only)—this option was approved

Option 3 – Refurbish splash pad removing older features with low profile features - \$50,000

Option 4 – A full refurbishment of the splash pad including similar replacement features - \$75,000

SUMMARY

The PRC splash pad is currently in need of replacement, removal or refurbishment because it is beginning to exhibit serious signs of wear and tear. Four options were explained to Council, describing the benefits and consequences of each, including costs.

The Town has established a robust approach to asset management to ensure the Town's finite capital maintenance dollars are spent using a data driven approach. The research presented by Monteith Brown indicates that the Town is overserviced with two splashpads within close relative proximity. This is compounded by the fact the two splash pads currently serve essentially the same geographic area, and the PRC splash pad sees only limited seasonal use as compared to the Cadzow Splash Pad. As such, staff recommended that Council provide direction to decommission the PRC splash pad.

Council approved the following recommendations at its October 15th meeting:

THAT DCS 55-2024 PRC Splash Pad report be received; and,

THAT Council direct staff to proceed with Option #2 (decommission the PRC splash pad, repurpose the area) to be included in the 2025 capital budget.

This recommendation was approved and a full copy of DCS 55-2024 and the corresponding minutes are available on the Town's website through the council calendar.

STRATEGIC PLAN

This initiative is supported by the following priorities, outcomes, and tactics in the Plan.

- Pillar #4 Culture and Recreation:
 - Outcome: The Town will focus on readjusting existing recreational services to a more cost effective and scale-appropriate model. This includes undertaking a Recreation Master Plan, better use of space at the Pyramid Recreation Centre, and developing a new community granting approach.

OTHERS CONSULTED

Open Space Solutions

Monteith Brown planning consultants

ATTACHMENTS