

Minutes - The Blue Mountains Special Council Meeting



MEETING DATE: February 23, 2009

LOCATION: Town Hall, Committee Room

PREPARED BY: Stephen Keast, Clerk

A. Call to Order

- Chair Gamble called the special meeting to order with all members in attendance save Mayor Anderson and Councillor McKean, both attending a conference and Deputy Mayor McKinlay, absent due to vacation. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Shawn Everitt.
- Council then paused for a moment of Personal Prayer or Reflection.
- Waiver of Notice

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: Cameron Kennedy

THAT Council does hereby agree to waive the required minimum notice of one clear day for the special Council meeting of February 23, 2009, Carried.

- Approval of Agenda:

Moved by: Cameron Kennedy Seconded by: Michael Martin

THAT the special meeting Agenda of February 23, 2009 be approved as circulated, including any items added to the Agenda, Carried.

- No member declared a pecuniary interest with any matter as listed on the Agenda.

Council then recessed for ten minutes to receive an update on the requirement for a timely consideration on the proposed Pan American Games venue application made by Cedar Run Thornbury Horse Park.

B. Deputations

Toronto 2015 Pan American Games Venue Application – Cedar Run Thornbury Horse Park

Next as Peter Lush of Cedar Run, Jeff Hill of Soar Consulting and Dan Hurley of CC Tatham Engineering and Jim Farmillo of The Blue Mountains and District Chamber of Commerce were in attendance it was Council's pleasure to hear them regarding the Game venue application.

Peter noted all Games venues associated with the Toronto bid had been awarded with the exception of the equestrian sites and it was hoped The Blue Mountains would be selected for the events.

Peter then noted Jay Hayes was the former president of Cedar Run and in 2008 the former Collingwood Horse Show was moved to Ottawa with Peter assuming control of Cedar Run.

Peter then distributed background venue information and Jeff proceeded with a presentation on the application.

Jeff then reviewed the past three weeks relating to the Games equestrian venue, noting an Equine Canada representative had already toured the Cedar Run site.

Jeff further noted distance from the Toronto-based Games bid is not a hurdle for the event with venues across southern Ontario.

Jeff then noted local events had been held on the Cedar Run site in 2008 and infrastructure is in place on the property for such events, adding Guelph and Palgrave are the other two venues under consideration, the Cedar Run bid being \$4.25 million of which the Federal and Provincial governments would pay 56% and Cedar Run 44%.

Jeff noted the other two venues would not be able to offer the comprehensive facilities that would be available at the 250 acre Cedar Run site.

Jeff then noted the entire Cedar Run site would be developed with private funding and will be fully accessible by the public.

Jeff then noted there would be tremendous economic spin-off benefits for the area if the Games bid is successful.

Jeff then noted the Cedar Run park can be used year-round by groups and for non-equine events.

Jeff then noted the Cedar Run application has featured tremendous support and site selection is nearly finalized and requested Council consider endorsement and support for the application, adding Games venues are awarded to municipalities with a hosting organization then providing the venue.

Peter then noted the site has been landscaped and fenced with ponds constructed to date, with any delay in addressing planning application matters a result of addressing matters involving the change in organization and ownership.

Peter then noted Cedar Run is in very good shape financially with the site to be tailored to final Pan Am Games specifications if chosen, adding The Blue Mountains area tied very well into the Games and equestrian activities with a sports and entertainment focus.

Jim then spoke on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, noting the Games events would be a tremendous attraction for the Town on the international scene.

Jim then noted he believed the events would match well with the Town's strategic planning goals.

The Clerk then read a letter of support of the application from Don Braden of the Blue Mountain Village Association.

Councillor McGee then requested clarification of the timelines, Jeff noting the Toronto Bid Committee would make a venue selection in the next week with the actual Pan Am Games site selection to be made in July, 2009.

John then questioned if there would be any involvement in the international selection process, Jeff noting work to date was focussed on the Toronto bid process.

John then noted it would be helpful to know if there would be any future costs or expenses in supporting the international bid process, Peter noting the bid committee has been invited to view the site at Cedar Run's expense.

Peter then noted the bid documentation contains all the financial aspects of the \$4.25 million bid estimate.

Chair Gamble then questioned accommodation of horses on site, Peter noting it was proposed to construct 200 permanent stalls which would be adequate for the 40 countries competing, adding CC Tatham was finalizing design for the event facilities.

Bob then questioned if the residential component was being considered at this time, Peter noting only infrastructure related to the equestrian event was being proposed at this time.

C. Discussion and Recommendations

Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: Cameron Kennedy

WHEREAS "Cedar Run" has made application to "Pan Am Games Secretariat" to provide a venue for the equestrian events of the "Games to be held in the year 2015;

AND WHEREAS the municipality of The Town of The Blue Mountains welcomes the opportunity to be the host venue for the equestrian portion of the "Games";

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that The Town of The Blue Mountains acting as the host venue fully supports and endorses the application of "Cedar Run" to be the equestrian site for the 2015 Pan Am "Games", unanimous, Carried.

Chair Gamble then thanked those in attendance with Peter, Jeff and Dan remaining for the closed session of the special meeting.

D. New and Unfinished Business

Closed Session

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: John McGee

THAT with regard to subsection 239 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, this Council do now move into closed session in order to address matters pertaining to personal matters about an identifiable individual, including Town or local board employees;

AND a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;

AND consideration of privately owned lands as a Pan Am Games venue, Carried.

Council moved into closed session at 8:01 pm.
Council rose from closed to public session at 8:24 pm.

E. Adjournment

As there was nothing further before the Chair, Council then dealt with the following Resolution:

Moved by: Michael Martin Seconded by: John McGee

THAT this special meeting of Council does now adjourn, Carried.

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R.J. Gamble, Chair

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Stephen Keast, Clerk