

STAFF REPORT: Director of Recreation

REPORT TO: Council
MEETING DATE: August 30, 2010
REPORT NO.: DOR.10.36
SUBJECT: Town Programming & Plunge Aquatic Facility
PREPARED BY: Shawn Everitt
Director of Recreation

A. Recommendation

THAT Council receives report DOR.10.36 entitled "Town Programming at Plunge Aquatic Facility" for their information and;

THAT Council authorize Staff to finalize discussions with Blue Mountain Village Association in order to finalize the preparation of an Agreement between Blue Mountain Village Association and the Town generally based on the terms detailed in this Report and;

FURTHER THAT Council authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to sign this Agreement upon the recommendation of the Town's Solicitor, the Director of Recreation and the Chief Administrative Officer.

B. Background

Members of Staff and representatives from the Blue Mountain Village Association have been involved in discussions since 2009 to develop a partnership that would help make the Plunge a more viable operation and for the Town to offer affordable programs to its residents, at The Plunge.

Essentially the current Plan would have The Blue Mountains support the Village Association in appealing their property taxes associated with the Plunge to MPAC. In exchange for this support, Blue Mountain Village Association would make the Plunge Aquatic Facility available to the municipality to offer recreation-based programming to its residents.

Blue Mountains Village Association has offered the use of the Plunge, including staffing of three people, for 280 hours annually to deliver programming that does not directly compete with programming offered at the Plunge offered by The Blue Mountain Village Association. These 280 hours are being offered with no direct cost to the Town.

They are meant to offset any loss in revenue that the Town may realize due to the adjustment in taxes should their appeal to MPAC be successful. This will enable the Town to offer affordable programming to its residents.

The Staff proposal is to start in 2011 with programming for approximately 150 hours at the Plunge. It is anticipated that ultimately that programming would build to approximately 280 hours over the next few years.

Town Staff have drafted a program schedule for 2011 that would offer Water Jogging, Aqua Fit as well as two sessions of Scuba Lessons that would run for 12 weeks with time-in-pool classes and classroom sessions. The addition of day camps and school programs, to utilize the Plunge, will also increase the overall community benefit. It has been discussed that all Grade 1 through Grade 5 classes from the Beaver Valley Community School take part in the Swim to Survive program that provides local youth the basic fundamentals of swimming. The planned 2011 Program is detailed below:

Aqua Fit & Water Jogging Classes

6 sessions
8 week sessions
1 hr per week
48 hours

Scuba Classes

2 sessions
6 week in pool
2 hr per week
24 hours

School Program

Grades 1 through Grade 5
3 lessons each class
10 classes 6 hours per class
60 hours

18 additional hours to be made up on other programs to be determined

The final details of the programming that is offered at the Plunge would be approved by Council annually through its budget process. As part of the Budget documents, the recommended programming and a fee structure would ultimately be approved by Council.

Town Staff is quite excited about the opportunity to partner with Blue Mountains Village Association in delivering recreation programs. Other than the obvious benefits which have been described earlier in this Report, the use of the Plunge over the next several years will delay the need for the Town to consider the construction of its own pool.

We are, therefore, requesting Council's support for Staff to proceed to finalize this arrangement and to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to ultimately sign an agreement between the parties, with the final recommendation from the Town's Solicitor, the Director of Recreation and the Chief Administrative Officer.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan speaks of supporting the development of social and recreational programs to meet a broad range of needs in the Community. This arrangement, whereby the Town will be able to offer affordable recreational programming to its residents, certainly helps deliver this strategic action. It also demonstrates how partners can work together to help build a Sustainable Community as envisaged through The Blue Mountains Sustainable Path.

Leisure Activities Plan of March 2006

Guiding Principle #7 Infrastructure

Action Plan 7.8

- It is recommended that the Town explore partnership opportunities with regard to indoor aquatic facilities in order to improve access for local residents.

D. Environmental Impact

None

E. Budget Impact

It is anticipated that the program fees will cover all costs, including Town administration fees. Council will ultimately decide, on an annual basis, whether to recover any lost tax revenue arising from this arrangement. We believe that the program fees can be structured in a way that will maintain the programming at a very affordable level and yet have little or no impact on our annual Recreation Budget.

F. Attachment

None

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Everitt
Director of Recreation

For more information, please contact
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