



RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (R.A.C)

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Village of New Minas Recreation Advisory Committee (R.A.C) was held on April 8, 2008, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the New Minas Civic Centre

In Attendance:

- Chair, Dale Pineo
- Commission Chair, Dave Chaulk
- Vice-Chair, Maynard Stevens
- Citizen Member, Leslie Sequeira
- Director of Recreation, Vince Forrestall
- Acadia Recreation Professional Placement Student, Candace Sharp

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Dale Pineo.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA - April 8, 2008

Moved by Maynard S. and Seconded by Dave C. the Approval of the April 8, 2008 Regular Monthly Meeting Agenda

Motion Carried

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 4, 2008

Moved by Maynard S. and Seconded by Leslie Sequeira the Approval of the March 4, 2008 Regular Monthly Minutes

Motion Carried

4.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A.) Active Transportation – Champion Representative: Carey Pineo

Dale updated the Committee that Carey Pineo has accepted the Village's Champion Representative for Active Transportation which was approved at last months Commission meeting.

B.) Judy Milne, Coordinator, NS Economic Development – Seniors Age Friendly Grant Application

Director received word through telephone that the Village will receive \$5,000 from the province for Seniors Programming/Events.

C.) AKHK Funding-\$3,000, Sport Start (Gr. 2/3) & Sports Pursuits (Gr. 9-12)

Chair Dale P. and Commissioner Maynard S. represented the Village at the Active Kids Healthy Kids Luncheon and Media event held on March 25. They received a cheque totaling \$3,000 for two new programs in New Minas & area: A Sport Start

and Sports Pursuits to increase physical activity in the area. Maynard S. made mention that during the Luncheon, there was a lot of praise for the Director of Recreation and the Village for the activities, programs and events offered to all age groups in the area.

5.0 **PRESENTATION: Evangeline Recreation Society - Canteen at Lockhart & Ryan Memorial Park**

Director of Recreation introduced Trina Long from the Evangeline Recreation Society (Trina had an informative display set-up for members to see).

Trina gave a presentation to the Committee on the Evangeline Club (8752 Commercial St. New Minas, NS B4N 3C5 Phone: 678-1117 Fax 678-4668) and to see if the Village was interested in having them run a mobile kiosk canteen at Lockhart & Ryan Memorial Park this summer (2008) which would be a good opportunity for them for fundraising and a service for park participants/users..

The Evangeline Club, incorporated in 1990, is a social recreational facility, for residents of the Annapolis Valley who feel socially and emotionally isolated. This isolation may be the result of many factors, including physical separation from family and friends, inadequate income, the effects of mental illness and other stresses.

Health care professionals have acknowledged and supported the club recognizing that participation in club activities helped members increase their confidence, gain a sense of self-worth, overcome isolation and reach out to others. Because it provides community based support and a means of integrating into community life, the club's presence has also significantly decreased the rate of re-admission to hospital.

The Evangeline Club is open 5 days a week and has more than 50 members. While there is one part time staff (and regular volunteers), who assist with programming, advocacy, and public awareness, members are encouraged to take an active part in all facets of the club's operation. These range from the planning and implementation of specific daily tasks or activities, to representation on a Board of ten and its various committees.

Access is available, free of charge, to anyone who wishes to participate in club activities. As our Mission Statement indicates, "We welcome everyone. We care about...respect..{and}co-operate with one another, so that each of us can be a better, happier person...By creating opportunities for positive and comfortable experiences, we seek to raise our self esteem, and confidence, thereby enabling us to assume greater control of our lives in our homes and communities".

Towards this end, the Evangeline Club offers a number of activities services, which in addition to providing opportunities for social interactions enhance life skills and leadership development. These include:
-Fitness and Nutrition Programs (in recognition of the link between physical and emotional wellness) including bowling and walking, Games, Workshops (on budgeting, organizing, etc.), Social Events (camping trips, sleigh rides), Friday Meal Program, Hair Care Tuesday (once a month) and Weekly Movie Day.

Along with all of these programs we are pleased to say that our staff and members continue to partner with other agencies which include Mental Health Services, Community Services, Canadian Mental Health Association, Schizophrenia Society, and Berwick Citizen Advocacy all in an effort to promote the needs of mental health consumers throughout the Valley.

With the assistance of the Department of Health and SEED Funding the Club has been able to purchase a portable kiosk and through internal fundraising have purchased a 15-passenger van. These initiatives allow us to overcome some of the transportation barriers member's encounter and offer employment and skill development opportunities.

It is our vision to develop a Pioneer Ventures Initiative. Goal of this project: To support the development of new profit generating initiatives that provide employable, skill development opportunities to persons with mental health disabilities in Kings County.

Guiding Principles:

There are many disabled persons in Kings County that possess strengths that would enable them to be more employable if there were opportunities available to them. This initiative operates on the idea that the best opportunities are the ones a person creates for himself or herself. Pioneer Ventures endeavors to work hand in hand with individuals that are interested in being pioneers as it relates to developing opportunities that build on their individual strengths.

How will the project work?

Small venture capital loans (micro loans) will be made available to persons with disabilities in Kings County who can articulate an idea that will generate revenue for them. Applicants must be willing to self disclose a disability caused by a pre-existing mental health condition. Small loans between 0 and 100 dollars will be available to prospective applicants based on their ability to pay back the funds within an agreed time frame. A committee made up of past recipients along with members of the Evangeline Recreation Society Board will oversee the finances of this project.

How is this project going to be supported?

The Evangeline Recreation Society and its Board of Directors is happy to sponsor this new project. In doing so funds will be raised and committed to a fund to enable loans to occur. The Society will gladly offer up its assets that may assist prospective applicants; assets that include a 15-seat passenger van, Pioneer Chuckwagon equipment and use of our commercial rental location in New Minas. The Society will also assist with staff support whenever possible. An effort will also be made to search out separate funding through grants to organizations to cover the costs of resources needed to make this a successful project for years to come.

Although one of the club's goals is to provide a "safe" environment where members can be "at ease" together, we also encourage people to become more involved with the community at large. The club is regarded as a stepping-stone into that sphere.

While the emphasis is on low-cost, high impact activities and a "doing more with less" philosophy, as a "Not For Profit" Organization, we sometimes find ourselves caught between doing our best and doing our best under the circumstances.

After discussion, with emphasis on Liability, Insurance, days and dates of operation, etc.

Moved by Maynard S. and Seconded by Dave C. the Recommendation to the Village Commission the Approval of Evangeline Recreation Society to operate a Mobile Kiosk Canteen at Lockhart & Ryan Memorial Park this Summer 2008.

Motion Carried

Chair Dale P. thanked Trina for her time and effort and thanked her organization for their interest and what promises to be a successful partnership for the betterment of the community.

6.0 DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – Vince Forrestall (March 2008)

Promotion –Road signage, pictures & Website Updates, public service announcements, radio event ads, paper ads, March Break Day Camp, 40th Anniversary flyers, school flyers, event flyers, senior flyers: Sentimental Journey ABF, etc. Program & Sport Academy flyers: Grades 2 & 3, Summer Day Camp flyers, summer employment ads, etc. Check out Recreation on the New Minas Website (www.newminas.com).

- **Village Voice** – Director submitted Information, articles, stories, etc. to the Valley Shopper for distribution Friday, April 11th.
- **Winter/Spring/Summer Registrations** – All pertinent information for all registrants entered into excel program data base. Department continuously receives registrations for Winter/Spring and now the summer.
- **Winter/Spring Programs & Events 2008** – Department completed winter programs and events 2008. Now implementing Spring Programs after being planned, developed, organized and promoted. Summer Senior Staff will soon be hired to plan, develop, organize, promote and implement summer programs.
- **"Celebrating 40 Years"** –Vince is Vice-Chair. Also, member of **Apple Blossom 40th Anniversary Birthday Float Sub-Committee (Float design, materials, volunteers, etc.)**, attend Committee

- meetings. Critical Path and Budget initiatives set for the year. Recruited resident member. Maynard and Vince F. met with Valley Shopper and Advertiser on an Anniversary Issue/Booklet. Hosting Official Opening and Royal party for ABF. No Princess New Minas to report on for 2008-09.
- **Village of New Minas Curling Team** –Team participated at the Wolfville Commercial League on Sundays finishing in the top 10 of the league and in 3rd place during the recent closing spiel. Thank you to Gordon Silver for leading the team all year.
 - **Acadia Student – Performing OJT with the Department** – Acadia Student, Candice Sharp, is performing her professional placement with the Department March 10 to April 18, 2008. She'll be offered many valuable hands on experiences including "Celebrating 40 Years (Sponsorship Model)", Easter Egg Hunt, March Break, Programs, Volunteer Recognition Reception, Sport Academies, etc.
 - **"Luck of the Irish" with Daniel O'Donnell Trip & Tour, May 30, 2008** – SOLD OUT (45 participants). Planned, developed, organized and promoted. 18 participants on a waiting list.
 - **Tattoo Trip 2008** – Department has partnered with the County to offer the annual trip to the Tattoo scheduled for July 3, 2008. 31 registered to date. Planned, developed, organized and promoted.
 - **NSCC Kingstec: Tourism Management Students** - Theresa Lambert, and Theresa Crowley at NSCC Kingstec in Kentville as part of their curriculum (Community Development), go out to a community and create something that could help out the community. They decided to do New Minas as their community for this project. They are putting together an electronic newsletter or a brochure for all of our programs & events for Spring & Summer.
 - **Volunteer Week/New Minas Volunteer Recognition Reception** – Nomination and Invitation Packages/Letters sent out to the various groups & organizations in New Minas. Volunteer Awards Day in Halifax (April 24) and New Minas Volunteer Recognition Reception (April 28).
 - **Kings County Physical Activity Strategy** – Director participated in the Physical Activity Strategy. A Final Document is ready and will be made available to members, staff, etc. We are waiting approval for the County and town budgets.
 - **Active Kids Healthy Kids** –Department applied for and received funding totaling \$3,000 total for Sports Pursuits (Grades 2 & 3) and A Sport Start Programs (Grades 9 – 12). Dale P. & Maynard represented the Village for the photo shoot and media story March 25th in Kentville.
 - **Bunny Hop Easter Egg Hunt Extravaganza** – Held March 22 at NMVFD with over 200 participants. Activities included cupcake decorating, cotton candy, egg decorating, kool kats bounce and slide equipment, Al Bernard Easter Magic, face painting, Easter egg hunt, etc. The event has grown from last year.
 - **Canada Summer Job Applications 2008** – Director submitted annual application based on the needs of the Village: Parks/Public Works Maintenance (4), Community Events Coordinator (1), Youth and Special Projects Coordinator (1), Recreation Assistant (1), Tennis Academy Coordinator (1), Day Camp Leaders (3), Special Needs Leaders (2), Playground Program Coordinator (1) and Playground Program Leader (1). Department has not received any feedback as of yet.
 - **ABS-O-LUTE Fitness Club** – Dale P, Candace & I met with the owner to welcome her to the community, photo shoot and to interview her for a story in the next Village Voice.
 - **Kings County Flag Football Academy** – I've worked/partnered with Steve Melanson to bring a Kings County Flag Football Academy to the area to start May 19. Development and growth of football in the area are the goals.
 - **March Break Day Camp** – held March 10-14 @ NMES. 40 participants. Received positive evaluations.
 - **"Apple Blossom" Sentimental Journey** – planned for May 27 @ NMVFD. Goal is 180 participants.
 - **NS Age-friendly Communities Program Grant (Up to \$5,000)** – Director applied for \$5,000 funding by submitting application for Seniors on the Move 2008 Program.
 - **South Shore / Valley Conference** – Director attended in Shelburne March 27 & 28
 - **Summer Employment Applications** – Director informed the Committee of over 50 resumes received so far for summer employment. Deadline is April 18th.
 - **Canada Day Celebrations Federal Grant Application** – Department has not heard of any approved amount as of yet.

Moved by Leslie S. and Seconded by Maynard S, the Approval of the Directors March 4, 2008 Monthly Report

Motion Carried

Dale P. thanked the Director for his efforts. Dale P. has received a lot of great comments from the Community on what is being offered.

Candace Sharp pointed out that when attending Acadia University, she has also heard positive comments - that the Village is a busy, dynamic and vibrant place when it comes to recreation.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Terry Fox “Marathon of Memories” Family Fun Day, June 7 at Lockhart & Ryan Memorial Park – Maynard S. and Vince F. reported that the Village’s 40th Anniversary Committee and ScotiaMcLeod (Kentville) have partnered to have a Terry Fox “Marathon of Memories” Family Fun Day, June 7 at Lockhart & Ryan Memorial Park from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm with no or little cost to the Village. The Fox family and the original van will be part of the free will offering event. Further information will be made available when plans/details become finalized.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Dave C. Motioned to Adjourn the Meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vince Forrestall
Director of Recreation

Dale Pineo
Chair, Recreation Advisory Committee

Terry Silver
Treasurer Clerk

