



Working together with our community

Recreation Facilities Advisory Board
The Corporation of Norfolk County

September 14, 2020
3:30 p.m.
Microsoft Teams

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**
3. **Chair Remarks**
4. **Approval of Agenda/Changes to the Agenda**
 - A) RFAB Minutes - Mar 9, 2020
5. **Presentations/Deputations**
 - A) Andy Grozelle
Re: Terms of Reference 3
 - B) Ryan Gaertner
Re: New Site Option
6. **Communications**
 - A) Robin Martin-Godelie
Re: Swim Team Concerns 5
7. **Discussion Items**
 - A) Working Group Reports
 - i) Requirements – JJ
 - ii) Communications – Sue
 - iii) Finance - Gord
 - B) Existing Simcoe Facilities Status Report
 - C) Funding Application

- i) Next Steps
- ii) Land Use

D) Expansion Update

E) Membership Renewal Update

8. **Discussion Items**

9. **Adjournment**

10. **Next Meeting:** Oct. 5, 2020

Contact Information

Jacob Robinson, Committee Coordinator

Jacob.Robinson@norfolkcounty.ca



Meeting schedules available online at http://www.norfolkcounty.ca/council_meetings/



Schedule A

Terms of Reference

Recreation Facilities Advisory Board (RFAB)

Approval Date: June 26, 2018

Revision Date/s:

Mandate:

The Recreation Facilities Advisory Board (RFAB) will provide leadership and advice to County Council with respect to the development of a multi-use recreation facility.

Scope of Committee:

The Advisory Board's Terms of Reference will be reviewed and updated (if required) a minimum of once every two years by Council. This review and update process will ensure the work of the Board best coincides with distinct project phases. The initial mandate of the Advisory Board is to support municipal fundraising efforts, propose community engagement measures and to receive input from the public on behalf of County Council.

Background:

Mayor Luke advanced the following establishing motion for the Advisory Board which was approved by Norfolk County Council on May 22, 2018:

Norfolk County Council establish a Recreational Facility Advisory Board ("RFAB"), to be primarily comprised of unelected members of the Norfolk County community. The RFAB would consist of 7 members, being 5 members of the Norfolk County Community, the Mayor of Norfolk County and one member of Norfolk County Council.

AND THAT the 5 public positions be weighted for those with business expertise or previous community leadership related to significant capital projects or fundraising;

AND THAT County staff are to draft terms of reference for the RFAB which will address tenure of Board members, purpose and mandate;

AND THAT the Board's initial focus shall be receiving input from the public, fundraising and acting as a liaison to County Council;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board's mandate and Terms of Reference after adopted by Council be subject to regular review and amendments to

coincide with the various stages of progression of the Recreation Facility project.

Composition/Term:

The voting membership of the Committee is seven (7) members. The Mayor is a permanent member of the Committee and is not ex-officio.

- Mayor
- One (1) Councillor Member
- Five (5) Members of the Public with Business, Fundraising or Leadership expertise.
- The Initial term length of the Council appointed Committee members shall be one year (due to the 2018 Municipal Election). Subsequent appointment terms will coincide with the term of Council.
- A quorum shall be the majority of the members constituting the Committee

Schedule/Location of Meetings:

- All meeting arrangements and room bookings will be arranged by Council Services;
- Meetings will occur on a monthly basis except in observance of the break periods utilized by Council;
- The Chair may call for more meetings if required due.
- The Chair may cancel meetings in consultation with the Committee Clerk if there are limited non-time sensitive matters on the agenda.

Resources

- Agendas and Minute taking services will be provided by Council Services;
- A Staff Resource from Community Services shall attend all meetings;
- The Advisory Board may by resolution request representation from a specific County Division at a future meeting, in such instances the Division shall make every effort to have a staff member in attendance at the next Board meeting.

Rules of Procedure/Order/Conduct:

The Advisory Board shall observe the Rules and Procedures and Rules of Conduct that govern Committees of Council. The Advisory Board may adopt less formal practices than established in the Procedural By-Law when deemed appropriate.

Minutes:

The Minutes of the Recreation Facilities Advisory Board shall be circulated to Norfolk County Council for information after they have been reviewed and approved by the Advisory Board.

Dear Councillor Martin,

Thank-you for taking our call today. Further to our conversation, I am sending this message on behalf of the Norfolk Hammerheads board to provide you with some additional information about the club's situation and concerns. As you likely know, our swim club is the largest user group for the ACAC pool, and we have been for many years. We provide a big benefit to the County because we frequently rent blocks of time that would otherwise go unused. The club has gone through many ups and downs financially over the years but despite sometimes having to delay payment for our rentals we have always settled our accounts within a reasonable length of time. This year has be the exception because of the huge stress that COVID-19 restrictions have put on groups like ours.

NHAC is a non-profit club. We are a run by a small group of dedicated volunteer parents. Our main source of income is from fees collected from our members, from MASSIVE fundraising efforts by our parents and, over the last 2 years, by running an income generating swim meet in London. We make up any difference with generous donations from our community. When the shut-down occurred, we not only had to refund fees, we also had to cancel our major fundraiser. The club runs on a knife's edge every year in large part because we are not able to grow our program's base due to a lack of available pool time.

At the beginning of August, we received an email from the County stating that we had outstanding bills for the 2019-20 season. We hoped that the county would be flexible in allowing us to repay these fees so we'd have time to register our members and develop our plan for the season. We haven't been able to develop our re-opening plan and start registering swimmers because Norfolk's Recreation staff have not been available to help us book pool time. To be clear, this means that we currently have no income with which to pay these bills and little money in the bank to keep our team alive!

To our shock and dismay, we received an email on August 11, 2020 stating "a minimum of \$15,000.00 (but more would be preferred) is required before Thursday, August 13th at 4:30pm. All amounts owing after this deadline will be subject to interest in accordance with Norfolk County's Accounts Receivable Policy, at 1.25% per month. A payment schedule for any balances after the initial payment could be arranged, but interest will be factored in and no other pool time will be approved until the balance is paid."

Our hands are tied! The only way to open registration so our team to avoid going bankrupt is to book pool time. To pay our outstanding bill, we need to open our registration. The only solution we found was for one of our parents (ie a Norfolk County taxpayer) to pay these fees out of pocket! Not only is this shocking, it is frankly unacceptable. With the decades long struggle that we've had with Recreation staff to find usable pool times and this current predicament, we are starting to feel that Norfolk would rather our team fold.

We have done everything that we can to help keep our team afloat and to keep our coaches on staff. This includes applying for available government grants and supports. Swimming is not

like other sports. Coaching of any reasonable quality takes years to develop and special training, not to mention experience in the pool. Our coach works the equivalent of a part-time job with work hours that start at 5 AM and requires at least a weekend each month on deck at meets. There are no volunteer swim coaches and we CANNOT LOSE OUR COACHES because they are not easily replaceable given our geographical location.

Swim Ontario has set down guidelines, which we've been told are the minimum standard to be followed by the County. These guidelines allow only 9 swimmers in the ACAC pool initially with an increase to 12 swimmers if all goes well. Our board has been told that pool fees are to double this year so that pool bookings are a break-even for the County. Plus, we are not allowed to use our Red Cross Lifeguard certified coach as a lifeguard so that we can save money. This is a standard of practice in other jurisdictions, including Brantford where we rent pool time and use our coach as a lifeguard. To this day, we have never been provided with a satisfactory rationale for this, aside from citing union restrictions and unspecified legal advice. We are told that there is a limited number of pool staff available and that this will significantly impact pool availability. Apparently, the pool will only be open for 8 hours per day this fall. Again, we ask, is this not the perfect time to look at the possibility of using our certified coaches as lifeguards? It will reduce the burden on our small aquatics staff, allow for more pool bookings (and \$\$ for Norfolk) plus allow us a bit of financial relief! This is a possible win-win solution.

What we need right now from Norfolk County is some breathing room to help us get back on our feet. That means extending our credit to develop an appropriate payment schedule while allowing us to book pool time so we can start up our season. With the restrictions that are being place on clubs, we are looking at a staggered start with our full team getting in to the water by mid to late November – at best! What happens if there's another COVID spike and lock-down? We recognize that Norfolk is in a difficult financial situation but it the County is in a far better position to weather this storm than our club. This is especially true given the recent government announcements. The County might even consider forgiving some of our debts in the interest of keeping it's biggest pool user group afloat.

Our kids are the future of Norfolk County. If anything, this pandemic has reinforced the importance of programs like ours in supporting and promoting the physical and emotional well-being of our youth. Swimmers are a VERY dedicated group of kids and typically go on to professions and become community leaders. We need programs like NHAC to both develop children AND to attract them back home when they become the next generation of leaders and workers.

Again, we appreciate your time and for listening to our concerns. We hope that you will share these issues with Norfolk Council and Staff.

Sincerely,
Robin Martin-Godelie
NHAC Secretary of the board and community family physician