

**Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc**  
**Recreation Facility Infrastructure Renewal Committee**  
**Minutes**

**Wednesday, September 8, 2021**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Electronic Meeting - Zoom**

Present: Mayor Joanne Vanderheyden  
Deputy Mayor Brad Richards  
Councillor Neil Flegel  
Councillor John Brennan  
Councillor Sandi Hipple  
Councillor Frank Kennes  
Councillor Steve Pelkman  
Councillor Marie Baker  
Councillor Larry Cowan

Also Present: Fred Tranquilli, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk  
Jennifer Pereira, Deputy Clerk/ Lottery Licensing Officer  
(Recorder)  
Bill Dakin, Director of Financial Services  
Rob Lilbourne, Director of Community Services

Others Present: Amber Miliken Desrosiers, Middlesex Agility Club  
Stuart Mackay, Middlesex Agility Club  
Pat Morden, Middlesex Agility Club  
Dennis Dixon, Seniors Men's Recreational Hockey  
Doug Matatall, Seniors Men's Recreational Hockey  
Joel Van Bynen, Tri-Township Arena Board  
Warren Huff, Tri-Township Arena Board  
Tim Earley, Strathroy Spirit Basketball  
Meredith Chatelain, Resident of South Grove Meadows  
Sarah Hogeveen, Mt. Brydges Needs An Arena Group  
Chris Brekelmans, Mount Brydges Minor Hockey  
Mark Duffy, Mount Brydges Minor Hockey

**1. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

None.

## **2. Presentations/Delegations/Petitions**

### **2.1 Amber Miliken Desrosiers - Middlesex Agility Club**

Amber Miliken- Desrosiers, Stuart Mackay and Pat Morden from the Middlesex Agility Club made a brief presentation on what the club is about and how it benefits the community. They feel that there are no facilities in the municipality in order to accommodate this group. They present a draft facility plan that aligns with recommendation #3 in the Strathroy-Caradoc Renewal Plan to provide a multi-use facility.

### **2.2 Dennis Dixon and Doug Matatall - Senior Men's Recreational Hockey**

Dennis Dixon and Doug Matatall made a presentation on behalf of the Strathroy Men's Recreational Hockey Group. They represent five of the adult and old time recreational groups that utilize the Tri-Township Arena. They expressed that the Nustadia report does not reflect the current or future needs for the number of ice pads in our community. They support an arena if not in Mount Brydges then the Gemini Sports Complex should expand to three ice pads. They recommended that the Tri-Township arena be commissioned not until there is another ice pad built, so the user groups are not left without a facility.

### **2.3 Joel Van Bynen and Warren Huff - Tri-Township Arena Board**

Joel Van Bynen and Warren Huff make a presentation on behalf of the Tri-Township Arena Board. Their presentation briefly described the history of the Tri-Township Arena and how it was established. They explain that they are not surprised that the arena has reached the end of its usable life. Joel Van Bynen explains that the board is prepared to continue running the arena for the next 3-5 years assuming there are not catastrophic issues until the Municipality can come to a decision and determine what should be done going forward. He explained that he sees the value of operating a multi- use facility in our community that includes at least one modern ice pad for the continuing use by the teams and clubs.

Councillor Brennan suggests that a recommendation come from the TTA Board on their views of a renewal strategy. Joel Van Bynen will bring that back to the board.

### **2.4 Brad Hipple - Mount Brydges Minor Hockey**

Chris Brekelmans and Mark Duffy made a presentation on behalf of the Mount Brydges Minor Hockey/ Mount Brydges Cougars Hockey Group which include 520 participants. They present the importance of having an ice pad in Mount Brydges. They would like to pledge \$250,000 over five years in order to assist in funds for the new arena.

## **2.5 Tim Earley - Strathroy Spirit Basketball**

Tim Earley presents on behalf of the Strathroy Spirit Basketball group which is a non-profit organization and fully volunteer run. They would like to show their support for a multi use facility that would accommodate proper basketball courts.

Councillor Pelkman asks if the dome structure would be proper basketball facility. Tim Earley indicates that it would be.

## **2.6 Meredith Chatelain - Residents of South Grove Meadows**

Meredith Chatelain and a group of other residents made a presentation on the need for an open park for the South Grove Meadows area. They explain all the options on what they would like to see at this park once the land is assumed. The land is currently overgrown and a dumping ground. They express that this is an urgent matter and would like to see this done sooner than later.

## **2.7 Sarah Hogeveen - Mount Brydges Needs and Arena Group**

Cheryl McFadden and Sarah Hogeveen made a presentation on behalf of the Mount Brydges #Needs an Arena Group. They have concerns with the user groups being left without an arena. They developed a group within the community starting a sign campaign and a letter campaign to help make it known that Mount Brydges needs an arena.

# **3. Approval of Minutes**

## **3.1 Committee Meeting Minutes - September 01, 2021**

**Moved by** Councillor Brennan

**Seconded by** Councillor Kennes

**THAT:** the committee meeting minutes of September 01, 2021 be approved as written.

**Carried**

# **4. Unfinished Business**

None.

**5. Enquiries or Comments by Members**

Councillor Flegel asks what the next steps will be and asks about grants that are closing very shortly. Has concerns with the dates and recommendation in the reports, knowing a decision has not been made, but has concerns with user groups being in limbo with registrations for upcoming seasons.

Councillor Kennes suggests looking at what projects can be done and what can't be done over the next years financially.

Councillor Brennan would like to see that a 3-5 year renewal plan or strategy of the TTA Board of Directors.

Councillor Pelkman agrees that a discussion is needed to determine affordability but is still concerned that this leaves hundreds of families in the unknown.

**6. Schedule of Meetings**

To be discussed.

**7. Adjournment**

**Moved by** Councillor Kennes

**Seconded by** Councillor Pelkman

**THAT:** the meeting adjourn at 7:58 p.m.

**Carried**

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Mayor

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Clerk