



## Community Services Standing Committee Meeting

### MINUTES

The Community Services Standing Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 6:30 pm within the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Cr. Benwell, Cr. Heaton, Cr. Karasiuk, D/M Keizer, Mayor Fergusson, Cr. Tuckey, Cr. Cox, and Cr. Couvrette  
Regrets: Cr. Bathe and Mayor Fergusson  
Staff Present: Tracy Thomas, Senior Administrative Officer  
Raveena Brown, Executive Secretary  
Emily Colucci, Director of Community Services  
Andrew Grenier, Director of Municipal Services

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

D/M Keizer called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and handed the chair to Cr. Heaton. Cr. Heaton read the acknowledgment of First Nations.

#### B. REVIEW

##### a. Agenda

**Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk**  
**Seconded by: D/M Keizer**

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

**PASSED**

##### b. Minutes

**Moved by: Cr. Benwell**  
**Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette**

That the minutes from the Community Services Standing Committee Meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, be adopted as presented.

**PASSED**

##### c. Vision and Mission

##### d. Declaration of Financial Interest

#### C. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

##### a. Community Services Director's Report

Director Colucci reported that magician Quincy Film has been booked for a July 4 performance, with support from Metis Council and Salt River First Nation. Pool staff training is scheduled for early July, with two staff pursuing NL certification. Two full-time summer recreation staff and one term position have been secured. Despite staffing challenges, preparations are underway for the pool reopening once water service is restored.

#### D. ADMINISTRATION

##### a. Briefing Note – Fireweed Festival Donation Request – For Committee discussion and recommendation to council, if any.

**Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk**  
**Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette**



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That Council approve the donation of \$2500 from the Music Festival budget line to the Fireweed Festival. \$1000 of it being put towards the rental of the stage, and \$1500 as a monetary donation.

**PASSED**

Director Colucci noted that the request could be handled similarly to last year. While the organizers have asked for more this time, the Town previously provided \$2,500 in total, including \$1,000 allocated specifically for the stage. The stage cost was not counted toward the cash contribution, meaning the actual donation was \$1,500.

Director Colucci also pointed out that this event appears to be larger in scale than the other, potentially spanning multiple days with family-friendly activities, vendors, and a broader audience. In contrast, the other event is community-focused and adult-only. Given the difference in scope and reach, Colucci suggested considering proportional rather than equal funding between the two events.

D/M Keizer requested clarification on whether the arena is included in the proposal and if it is available, as there has been some confusion regarding its use. Director Colucci explained that if the arena was not donated, the event organizers could still rent it.

- b. Briefing Note – Howie Fest Donation Request – For Committee discussion and recommendation to council, if any.

**Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk**  
**Seconded by: Cr. Couvrette**

That Council approve a \$1500 in-kind donation to Howie Fest to be used towards the rental of the arena.

**PASSED**

While recognizing the intent of the event, Cr. Cox noted a concern with supporting a licensed event that promotes a family-oriented image yet excludes a significant portion of the community—particularly youth and teenagers. He emphasized the importance of considering how such events align with community values and inclusivity.

Cr. Couvrette expressed support for the cultural, musical, and talent-based aspects of the event and noted the value they could offer to youth. He suggested exploring ways to expand the event to allow youth participation, even if a license is required. He proposed the possibility of designating a separate area so that youth can still take part in the general tribute and musical components of the festival.

Cr. Benwell shared that she attended last year's event, she noted that youth were allowed to participate up to a certain time, after which they were asked to leave before alcohol service began. The event ran smoothly, with staff on hand to monitor the space. She added that the music was great, the crowd was large, and food was available. Prior to the cut-off time, there were games and activities provided for youth and children.

Cr. Couvrette praised the tribute being paid to individuals and emphasized the importance of maintaining a positive approach. He added that youth in the community should be encouraged to participate in events that bring people together.

Director Colucci clarified that hosting a licensed event is permitted under current policy, but alcohol service must be limited to the mezzanine area. Serving alcohol on the rink surface, would be a deviation from the established policy. She emphasized that



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administration does not support that change and prefers to keep all alcohol service strictly within the mezzanine area.

Cr. Benwell noted that she has attended several gatherings held on the arena rink surface where alcohol was served. In those instances, alcohol was restricted to the rink surface and not permitted beyond that area. Security personnel were present to enforce this restriction. Director Colucci noted that the facility alcohol use policy was updated in 2021.

Cr. Couvrette requested for a festival outline, asking for clarification regarding the plans for alcohol service. He noted that with this information, Council would have sufficient time to discuss the matter at the next meeting and potentially bring forward a motion.

One suggestion was to explore the possibility of combining the Howie Festival with the Fireweed Festival to create a larger joint event. However, concerns were expressed about maintaining the festival's intended purpose as a tribute to those affected by the plane crash, with some emphasizing the importance of preserving its memorial nature.

### c. Briefing Note – Canada Day Parade and Celebration Road Closures

**Moved by: Cr. Couvrette**

**Seconded by: Cr. Karasiuk**

That Council approve the following road closures for the 2025 Canada Day Parade and Celebrations:

- Portage Avenue (from McDougal Road to the Conibear Park parking lot) from **8:00 am to 5:00 pm** on July 1st
- McDougal Road (from the Post Office crosswalk to the Anglican Church parking lot) from **11:00 am to 5:00 pm** on July 1st
- Temporary road closures along the proposed parade route as indicated in the request, from **11:30 am to 1:00 pm**

**PASSED**

### E. OTHER BUSINESS

### F. EXCUSING OF COUNCILLORS

**Moved by: Cr. Couvrette**

**Seconded by: Cr. Tuckey**

That Cr. Bathe and Mayor Fergusson be excused from the Community Services Standing Committee Meeting on June 10th.

**PASSED**

### G. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Community Services Standing Committee Meeting will be on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### H. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by: Cr. Karasiuk**

**Seconded by: D/M Keizer**

That the meeting be adjourned at 7:16 pm.

**PASSED**