

Pincher Creek Community Services Department Report -2014

ADMINISTRATION:

- **Staffing** – Training of pool staff continued this quarter to ensure adequate levels for 2014. Two new individuals joined the pool staff as Junior Guards this quarter. A casual arena employee was hired to assist with special events and coverage for vacation/sick leave. Advertisement was placed for the 2014 Games Coordinator and Kristen George commenced work on March 31, 2014 in this position. Advertisement also went out for the Aquatic Coordinator position (which has been vacant for some time) and the student Summer Games/Special Events Coordinator position which will commence April 28, 2014 (funded by Federal employment grant).
- **Recreation Advisory Committee** – A Committee meeting was held January 28, 2014. A report was reviewed and a discussion held on the splash park proposal. A decision was made to further pursue this initiative after the 2014 Southern Alberta Summer Games. Councillor Barber was introduced as the new Town Council representative at the meeting and an Election of Officers was held along with a review of the Terms of Reference for the Recreation Advisory Committee. Chairman is John Verhagen and Vice Chair is Rodney Reed. Two subsequent meetings were cancelled due to weather.
- **FCSS Department & Board Update** – The FCSS Coordinator assisted the Huddlestun Senior Citizen Centre Society in securing a New Horizons Grant to cover the cost of Centre renovations. Also, the Coordinator is assisting with the Development Application process to ensure code compliance. Renovations include flooring replacement, complete re-painting of the interior and upgrade of the washrooms to allow barrier free access. The FCSS board is working toward a revamp of the FCSS Funding Application Form and so that it can be filled in and saved online (Word format). The Board has also agreed to changes in the Funding Contracts to clarify certain accounting and reporting obligations of the funded groups. The Board continues to meet and hear with reports from the coordinators, managers and board members of funded projects. This provides an excellent opportunity to ask questions and receive updates. The Province is providing training on “Outcome Measures” for FCSS Coordinators. Later this year, the same training will be offered to funded project managers. This will result in a more detailed reporting mechanism for all agencies funded by FCSS.
- **Interagency Committee** – Monthly noon hour meetings are facilitated by the FCSS Coordinator. These are well attended and are an excellent forum for sharing information and resources between the various agencies in the community.



Pincher Creek Community Services Department Report -2014

- **Community Food bank** - The FCSS Coordinator has been working with the Napi Friendship Centre administration regarding the continued operations of the food bank. A meeting to discuss the status and future of the Food bank was held February 27, 2014 and there is a commitment of the groups attending to meet again periodically. The Food Bank made a presentation to request funding from the Municipal District and were awarded \$5,000. A partnership has been established with the McMan FASD Lifespan Project and every Wednesday a sandwich and drink will be provided at the Food bank for clients.
- **Multi-Purpose Facility Planning Study** – The final report from the 2012/2013 study was presented by Krystal Engineering at the March 5, 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting. The report was received as presented and will be used as background for long term decision making on facilities.
- **Community/Association meetings** – Meetings attended by administration included: Communities in Bloom; 2014 Southern Alberta Summer Games Executive and Sport Committees; Family Resource Society (Parent Link); Becoming a Community Builder (BACB); Interagency; Pincher Planter/Town meetings; Choosewell Forum (Lethbridge); Big Toy Aquatic Group (Cochrane); Southern Alberta Recreation Association (Lethbridge).
- **Health & Safety** – Staff attended scheduled safety meetings and are preparing for upcoming external audit. The end of February one arena staff member attended a safety auditor training course and he will complete course requirements with a mock audit of library/MPF staff.
- **2019 Canada Winter Games** – A contingent from Canada Winter Games came to Pincher Creek to meet with Mayor Anderberg and Directors Roth and Burt Stuckey regarding potential sites for athlete accommodations. Pincher Creek has been included in communications for meetings, presentation to City Council etc. however we have been unable to participate further due to scheduling conflicts. City of Lethbridge was accepted to move into the phase 2 of their bid and they were working to improve their scores in various areas including the provision of the athletes village.

PROGRAMS:



- **Mass Sport/Group Registration Night** – In spite of the snow & cold, a very successful event was held on March 20, 2014 in the Arena Lobby with approximately thirteen groups setting up tables for spring registration of their programs. The groups that have participated in mass registration nights have been very positive about this initiative hosted by the Recreation Department. Another one is planned for the fall.

Pincher Creek Community Services Department Report -2014

- **Communities in Bloom** – Pincher Creek has entered the National Competition as a “non-evaluated” community this year due in part to the hosting of the Southern Alberta Summer Games in July. Council gave approval for a mural to be placed on the wall of the MPF and a donation account has been set up at the ATB. The Committee met January 21, 2014 to plan their events for the year. “Pitch-In” Month as well as a “20-Minute Makeover” will be offered again in April with information to be forwarded to service clubs, schools and community groups for their participation in the initiative. All supplies such as gloves, bags etc. are available at the Recreation Office. A Communities in Bloom and Mural Project display is to be set up at the Volunteer Appreciation Event and upcoming Seniors Fair.



- **2014 Southern Alberta Summer Games** – Work is coming along well with most key positions being filled. Executive members include Brian Wright, Games Chair; John Verhagen and Wayne Oliver, Sports & Facilities Chair; Faith Zachar and Savi Houldin, Fundraising; Kathy Verhagen, Volunteers; Japhia Epp, Medical; Susan Vogelaar & Eleanor



Nichol, Ceremonies & Culture; Kim Jorgensen, Medals; Carrah Walter, At Large. Still looking for Archery, Tennis and Results Chairs! Administration attended the SARA meeting in January to review Games rules and regulations and SARA members attended a session in Pincher Creek on March 5, 2014 to meet with all the 2014 Chairs and to monitor our progress. Sport Chairs have submitted facility & equipment requests as well as their budget requests. Fundraising is underway with the following levels: Platinum (\$8,000); Gold (\$5,000); Silver (\$3,000); Bronze (\$1500) and Friends of the Games (\$500). The logo has been finalized and being used on advertising and promotions. Gusty and Breezy are expected soon, depending on the weather!

- Update reports were presented to Joint Councils on February 20, 2014 and April 3, 2014. Volunteer recruitment is underway with posters and advertisements. Forms are available at the Recreation Office and online. The Recreation Office will serve as the Games Office for now however, it will need to be relocated prior to the Games (Town Office?) as the Rec Office space is needed for swimming on Friday and Saturday and more storage/supply space is needed overall during the Games.



Pincher Creek Community Services Department Report -2014

- **2014 Summer Games Facilities** – A presentation was made to Town Council on March 24, 2014 to request an additional \$48,500 in funding towards the Lions Ball Park dugouts (\$16,000), beach volleyball courts (\$15,000), track lining (\$6500) and shale for the ball diamonds (\$11,000). Additional funding for the track lining was approved at the meeting while a decision on the remaining request was tabled to the April 14, 2014 Council meeting. A \$10,000 grant from Lethbridge Community Foundation was since approved for the dugout project and the Lions Club also committed \$1500 towards the project. An application was made to the Legion for assistance with track repairs/track equipment and TransAlta has offered equipment and labor with the level of assistance to be determined. The MD was also asked to consider assistance of trucking of the shale and beach volleyball sand to reduce direct costs.
- **Winter Programming** – Ongoing Department programs include Afternoon STEP Aerobics, Community Keep Fit, Noon Hour Shinny Hockey and Parent and Tot Skate, School Lessons, After School Swim Lessons, Junior Lifeguard Club, Masters Swim and Aqua Boot Camp. Kayaking commenced in the pool in January under the Club's leadership and Baby Sitting Courses, NLS Course, Assistant Water Safety Course and a Bronze Cross/Medallion Course will be offered through the pool.



POOL:

- **Swimming Pool** – Overall we are pleased with operations and programming to date. Pool attendance this quarter is 8,964, up 670 from 2013. School lessons have been strong again this quarter with students from the following schools attending day time lessons: Canyon Grade 1A &B, Grade 2A & B, Grade 3; St. Mikes 2/4 and 4/5; Glenwood Elementary; Hillspring Elementary and Jr. High; Napi Grade 1, 2/3; Livingstone Elementary School. During the Matthew Halton Experiential Week (March 24-28), students took part in a SCUBA certification course. Private lessons and After School Red Cross lessons continue. Kayaking used the pool on Wednesdays this winter, with classes at 5pm and 7pm. These instructional classes are run by the Kayak Club and in the spring, they plan to hit the open water! A new 2014 Spring Pool Schedule is being developed for May 1, 2014 which will include the Dolphin Swim Club after 4:00pm.



Pincher Creek Community Services Department Report -2014

- **Quarterly Pool Attendance:**

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|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| December 30-January 5 | 546 |
| January 6-12 | 672 |
| January 13-19 | 672 |
| January 20-26 | 615 |
| January 27-February 2 | 676 |
| February 3-9 | 933 |
| February 10-16 | 943 |
| February 17-23 | 913 |
| February 24-March 2 | 678 |
| March 3-9 | 735 |
| March 10-16 | 819 |
| March 17-23 | 762 |
| | |
| Total Quarter Attendance 2014 | 8,964 |
| Total Quarter Attendance 2013 | 8,294 |



ARENA:

- **Arena Programing** – The Old-timers Recreation Hockey held their annual tournament in January and it was once again very successful. An Atom tournament was hosted in February, the SheNook tournament was held in March, as well as the annual Figure Skating Carnival. There were some cancelled tournaments and no Pincher Creek team made it through playoffs, but on the positive side there were a number of private rentals



that booked in which helped with the revenue for the season. Public and Family Skate sponsors this year were Pincher Creek Coop, Royal Canadian Legion, Rotary Club and Four Winds Real Estate. Attendance was 1,342 public/family skaters for this quarter and 2,677 for the season. The arena was closed on March 23, 2014 for the winter season.

- **Arena Maintenance** – Towards the end of the season there were some unforeseen expenses including the purchase of a new ice edger (\$3,650), the replacement of boilers for hot water in the facility (\$9,474 plus removal of \$756) and the brine pump replacement (\$1630). The boilers had to be replaced quickly due to big week-end tournament. The new Zamboni arrived on April 2, 2014 much to the delight of the arena attendants who are eager to operate it next season. Shutdown maintenance is ongoing with ball hockey to be held in the arena for the Southern Alberta Summer Games.

Pincher Creek Community Services Department Report -2014

PARKS/OPEN SPACES/FACILITIES:

- **Pincher Planters** – Staff attended meetings with Town/Pincher Planters to discuss alternatives to address the watering of public beds along Main Street. Pincher Planters presented their concerns at the March 5, 2014 Committee of the Whole and a recommendation will be presented to Council to address improvements for the 2014 season.
- **Lions Ball Park** – The dugouts were removed last fall and estimates received for replacement. A grant has been received and plans are to proceed with replacement this spring. Shale will be added to the diamond and the fences repaired.
- **Campground** – The campground host position was advertised and four applicants expressed interest. The former campground hosts were offered another season. We have had requests for longer term stays already this year however the 14 day stay will be followed as per Council direction. Requests for reservations are also being received.
- **Community Recreation Centre** – A request was received from Parent Link to use the lobby of the CRC building as a X-C ski meeting location (to put on skis and warm up). This winter with all the snow X-C skiers were able to head out and tour around the golf course for some good exercise! The group would like to use the facility again next year and possibly have a bulletin board to post meeting/skiing information. Good idea for use of a space that is open/available!
- **Library** – An advertisement was placed for a Town representative to be appointed to the Library Board and two applications were received. The Library has been working on their involvement with the Town safety program by attending meetings and preparing for the upcoming safety audit.
- **Lebel Mansion** – After a January 14, 2014 Allied Arts Council Special Meeting to consider the objects of the society, the Town became aware of their intention to remove



references to the operation, restoration and preservation of the Lebel Mansion site from their bylaws. An Allied Arts Council Committee was appointed to investigate and report on how the building could be integrated into the future of the Allied Arts Council. They requested a meeting with Town administration on February 4, 2014 where they reviewed the history of their involvement with the building, their lease requirements and how any changes could affect their operation as well as the Town responsibilities. A status report was provided to Council on February 5, 2014. A walk about of the Lebel Mansion was set up for February 13, 2014 and

Pincher Creek Community Services Department Report -2014

representatives from both parties were there to review the condition of the building and discuss daily maintenance requirements currently being carried out by the Town and by the Allied Arts Council Board members (currently no paid staff on site). The Town contracted inspection services to undertake a visual building inspection and a March 18, 2014 report was provided. This report can be used as a guide for current and future maintenance priorities. The Allied Arts Council Committee provided a report to the Allied Arts Council General meeting in March with conclusions and recommendations such as: Lebel Mansion is an excellent home for the Allied Arts Council, that the Society work towards compliance with the lease requirements and that the new Board of Directors work with the Town. A new executive was elected and they have provided reporting to the Town as per their lease agreement. No further meetings have been scheduled on this matter to date.



- **Lebel Mansion Designation** – A Statement of Significance was drafted for the Lebel Mansion with the intent of proceeding with its designation as a Municipal Historic Resource. A Notice of Intent to pass Bylaw #1614-14 for designation was presented to and accepted at the February 10, 2014 Council meeting. A sixty day notice period is required so advertisement was placed after the Council meeting. The Bylaw will be brought back to Council in May for first reading. Once designated under this program, the Town would be eligible to receive up to \$50,000 per year for conservation work and as well, up to \$25,000 towards architectural or engineering services, studies etc.

UPCOMING:

- Hiring of Aquatic Coordinator
- Department Policy Review
- Parks & Sports field Scheduling
- Arena Shutdown/Repairs
- Volunteer Appreciation Event, April 11
- Summer Games/Summer Activity Coordinator to commence, April 21
- Games Regional Directors Meeting and Facility Tour, May 1
- Summer Games Committee Meeting, April 16 & May 15
- Communities in Bloom Committee Meeting, May 20
- Games Registration Deadline, June 9
- Games Volunteer Night, June 24
- Summer Games, July 2-5
- Facility preparations for Summer Games
- SPRING!!!