

	THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG
	ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT AND WORK PLAN
TO:	Mayor and Council Members
FROM: TITLE	Beth Bellaire Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
DATE OF MEETING:	September 26, 2022
SUBJECT:	Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Annual Report
REPORT DATE:	September 8, 2022

1.0 MEMBERSHIP

Beth Bellaire (Chair)
Dora Body
James McGrath
Miriam Mutton (Co-Chair)
Richard Pope
Patricia Whitney
Emily Chorley (Councillor, Coordinator of Parks and Recreation Services)

2.0 MEETINGS OF THE
COMMITTEE

December 7, 2021	April 5, 2022
January 11, 2022	May 3, 2022
February 1, 2022	June 7, 2022
March 1, 2022	July 5, 2022
	August 2, 2022 (cancelled)
	September 6, 2022

3.0 COMMITTEE PURPOSE

The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is to provide strategic and policy advice and recommendations to Council on matters related to parks, open spaces, waterfront, recreation facilities, and recreation programs

that enhance the quality of life of residents and visitors, reflect the needs of the community, and support and encourage active and healthy lifestyles.

5.0 HIGHLIGHTS/ ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This past year has been a busy and productive one for PRAC. The accompanying Work Plan (2022) details all the planned actions of the Committee; this section will just note the highlights of what we accomplished and includes suggestions for follow up by the next PRAC.

1. **Creation of the Waterfront Nature Park:** Continuing the work of the previous year, PRAC recommended that the areas known as The West Headland and the West Beach be combined into the Waterfront Nature Park. Further, PRAC passed a motion by Member Pope that detailed steps to be taken as this new park is developed and restored. (See Appendix A: PRAC Recommendations for the Waterfront Nature Park.) Council fully endorsed these recommendations at their June 6, 2022 meeting. We recommend that the next PRAC review the recommendations and follow up as required.
2. **Tree Canopy Monitoring and Improvement:** PRAC was again successful in having its recommendation of an additional \$50 000 added to the 2022 budget for tree planting. We hope future PRAC committees will keep this as a priority.
3. **Youth Input:** At our April meeting, we had a delegation of youth from St. Mary's Catholic Secondary School as well as a written submission from youth at Cobourg Collegiate Institute, responding to a request from us to highlight their interests and issues with any areas within the mandate of Parks and Rec. Their input was very thoughtful as well as practical, and we would recommend future PRAC committees reach out regularly to ensure the voice of youth is heard.
4. **Trails Master Plan Update:** As part of the Parks Master Plan (2013), there was a goal to develop "a connected network of pedestrian trails and cycling routes that link parks together and integrate other Town destinations." This year's workplan for PRAC identified getting an update on improvements to the network. At our May meeting, Director Geerts provided an overview of some pertinent documents. Then in June, it was reported that there had been no tracking of improvements to the network, so it was impossible to determine what, if any, progress had been made. This could be followed up on by future PRAC committees; in particular, ways to measure such goals should be included in the next Parks Master Plan, slated to be developed in the next year or so.
5. **Brookside:** Although there was no definite progress on this item, it remains a priority for consideration by the next PRAC.

11.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This has been a productive, albeit short, year. We were successful in seeing the creation of the Waterfront Nature Park, complete with a list of recommendations for its development and restoration. We again were able to increase the budget in support of increasing the Town's tree canopy, an important achievement in light of the ongoing loss of our ash trees. Finally, we were pleased with the thoughtful response from our youth outreach.

12.0 COMMUNICATION RESULTS

Beth Bellaire, Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Jodi Ware-Simpson Secretary, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

13.0 ATTACHMENTS

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee – 2022 Work Plan