

Public to be consulted regarding Town's long-range recreation plan

By Melanie Hennessey
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Local residents will soon be able to comment on a plan that lays out the town's recreation needs from now to 2016.

The draft document, called the Community Services Master Plan, was presented to town council Monday evening.

It contains action plans for new indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, such as for two new ice rinks, a double gymnasium and two hardball diamonds at the Milton Sports Centre, a barrier-free playground in a centralized location for children with disabilities and dedicated youth and senior spaces at new or expanded leisure facilities.

Ward 4 Councillor Wendy Schau noted she's pleased to see an accessible playground in the cards.

"I think that's a very good thing for a community to have for children who have disabilities," she said.

Partnership could be beneficial: councillor

Ward 3 Councillor Cindy Lunau suggested a partnership with the Milton Public Library branch slated for Fourth Line, noting there could be some space for childcare services.

"There is a very serious shortage of childcare spaces on the east side of town," she said.

But Todd Brown of Monteith Brown Planning Consultants, which worked on the master plan, told her the property only has sufficient space for the library itself.

Meanwhile, Ward 2 Councillor Greg Nelson asked for clarification on a point in the master plan that recommends leaving the diamonds at Brian Best and Bronte Meadows parks unlit, unless otherwise requested by the community.

Brown explained that replacing the lighting could have a negative impact on those living in the area, such as noise into the evening and light reverberating into the residential area.

Town Director of Community Services Jennifer Reynolds

also noted that if the lights were replaced, taller light standards would be required.

Council passed a motion to circulate the draft master plan to community groups, organizations and stakeholders, and post it on the Town's website at www.milton.ca to invite public feedback.

The motion also stated that the final plan is to be brought forward for approval by the end of January 2008.

In other community services news at council, a resolution was supported that authorizes staff to commence discussions with the Halton District School Board about the possibility of developing a shared multi-purpose sports field at the new high school planned for east Milton.

Council also endorsed a Levels of Services Guidelines handbook, which defines how the Town's parks should be maintained by staff.

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