

Recreation Committee Term End Summary

The Recreation Committee has played a pivotal role since the new council term began in late 2018. The committee plays an important role in recreation programs, events, and operations concerns raised from the community level. That connection with community helps serve the residents better through improved programs and services. The committee has brought forth some great projects and program ideas that will help the department grow in the coming years. This growth and the current position the committee has helped put the department in, will be a great starting point for the next committee to come in and build on.

Programs and Services

The committee had a strong voice and influence in recreation programs and services. Here are some highlights and successes that the committee has played a role in when it comes to those services:

- Revived the Black Bear Jamboree
- Brought forth recommendations for new program ideas.
- Assisted with planning and organizing of Canada Day events
- Got familiar with grants and funding opportunities available for the department.
- Brought forth recommendations to council for support of donations and projects.
- Supported sport and recreation through the difficulties of a pandemic.

Projects

The committee also played a major role in recreation projects. These projects have become key components to help the department grow in years to come. Here are some successes that the committee was apart of when it came to projects:

- Created and implemented the recreation master plan project
- Suggested building assessment for the pool which in turn covered all other recreation facilities.
- Supported and suggested improvements at Jackfish Park
- Played a major role in recommending other gas tax projects for council.
- Brought forth recommendations to improve Ptarmigan Field

What's Next?

Although there were some big accomplishments completed during this term, there is still much work to do. Here are some starting points and updates on where key items stand:

- Penguin Palace Pool: Upgrades start fall 2021 and finish by early spring 2022. This work will consist of repairs and upgrades recommended in the building condition assessment.
- Recreation Master Plan: Plan has now been finalized and is available publicly. Some recommendations have been met from this plan. The next committee should use this plan as a playbook for future work and goals to build and improve recreation in Norman Wells.
- Ptarmigan Field: The field has seen improved dugout work, the next task will be leveling the infield, after which the outfield should become the focus.

- Jackfish Park: The park continues to see increased level of service in the community. The next committee should look at ways of improving the playground structure. New sand has already been purchased and awaits to be put in.
- Playgrounds: Playgrounds have started to see upgrades beginning with the RCMP park. The school one is still in the process of working towards it being a GNWT responsibility. Snoopy Park needs to be reviewed as it is not in compliance with the new zoning bylaw, there will have to be discussion on if this park moves elsewhere or stays. Mont Avens Park will need some minor maintenance.
- Review Bylaw: The current committee was in the process of reviewing and updating the current bylaw before the pandemic hit. This should be something the new committee reviews and brings forth to the new council.
- Gas Tax: Gas tax has been a key source of funding to improve recreation yearly. The new committee should use the master plan and building condition assessments to develop project recommendations for council when the discussions for funding allocation happen.

The committee has done plenty of work to improve recreation in Norman Wells as highlighted above. There is great jumping off points here for the new committee to build on. The current tools and resources have created a good building foundation for the new committee to grow on. Keeping the momentum going to strengthen recreation for the community.