



Recreation Visioning Workshop

Minutes

*Legion Room, Leduc Recreation Centre, Leduc, AB
Wednesday, September 14, 2022*

Order and roll call

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 by Dean Ohnysty.

RC Strategies Presentation – Attached to minutes v

Rob Parks – Led a presentation explaining the purpose and value behind the creation of a Recreation Master plan. The plan will identify and be guided by Leduc County's vision, values, and principles. The document will identify potential capital project opportunities and create policies and directives to guide and explain how these decisions should be made for the next 10 to 15 years. He noted that RC strategies has worked with many municipalities in the area as well as with Leduc County on many occasions prior to undertaking this project. RC strategies will the importance of conserving green spaces, climate mitigation, and transparency for public priorities from a resident's perspective. These findings combined with statistics on participation levels and growth will help Leduc County determine how to best lead its community groups and identify which investments will have the highest return for residents. Rob Parks highlighted the crucial role that volunteers and community groups have in ensuring successful recreation throughout Leduc County.

Break out group feedback

Question 1 – How well are Leduc County residents served with recreation and parks opportunities?

The general consensus among the community groups was that the County provides a wide variety of programs, events and parks in an effort to satisfy the needs of numerous demographics which make up its total population. Conversely, demographics are always progressing which necessitates revised delivery methods and opportunities in general. The community groups felt that the County could improve its outreach by working with them directly to strategically coordinate programs and events across the region. It was noted that the management dynamics differ between various regions and community groups alike. As a result of low population density, residents in the West of the County must drive 25 minutes in order to take advantage of recreation opportunities. This commute is especially deterring during the winter months. Furthermore, the County needs to find ways to engage and reach residents in subdivisions that do not have a community hall.

Question 2 – What are the strengths / best elements of the current recreation and parks opportunities?

The balance between natural and developed green spaces continues to be a core recreational element within Leduc County. The partnerships with municipalities within Leduc County boundaries play a crucial role in effective service delivery. These partnerships provide residents' access to all facilities throughout the region which each offer their own unique recreational opportunities. Another key strength is that the County regularly attends events hosted by rural community groups and assists with their facilitation by sharing ideas, providing staff, supplies, resources, communication and advertising. Through Leduc County's summer programs and camps, rural kids are given the same opportunities as the city kids receive. Another strength is the willingness of the County to work directly with communities, halls and people who want to

bring new recreation ideas to their communities. Furthermore, the County assists with rural communities by locating funding sources, assisting with the completion of grant applications and writing letters of recommendation. The County also hosted workshops where halls could ask questions, learn from one another and be formally educated on how to use social media and how to recruit and manage volunteers. Finally, the County demonstrated strong versatility when it offered a combination of both virtual and outdoor programs and events during the pandemic. The County advertised its trails, parks, lakes and playgrounds for the residents to enjoy while in person events were not taking place.

Question 3 – What are the weaknesses or missed opportunities?

The general consensus among the community groups was that the County misses opportunities and has weaknesses in the following areas:

- Scheduling adult activities for those who work from 9 am to 5 pm
- Adult who cannot make an Aqua fitness class at 9 am or 12 noon at a local facility is forced to drive to Drayton Valley where it is offered after working hours at 6 pm.
- Lack of programs and events for teenagers. Focusing more on attending to this age group would keep them out of trouble.
- Sports outside of hockey are needed in communities.
- Some subdivisions do not have a community hall or a place to gather.
- Lack of engagement with these subdivisions leads them to be unaware of programs and events in the region. Most of these residents lack the sense of community because they do not even know that they belong to the County.
- The County should strategically secure opportunities for recreation in new subdivisions during their planning process.
- A playground or community hall would be beneficial inclusions in new subdivisions with younger demographics.
- Maintained green spaces and County events where people can gather would benefit existing subdivisions with older demographics.
- A minimum standard for recreation needs to be consistent across the County.
- Residents in the Vistas must drive to other cities to use recreation facilities. They need more recreation and engagement opportunities.
- Make sure people know about the volunteer opportunities especially for the members. The new generation of volunteers want a job description.
- Tap into common interests not just into common geography.
- Welcome new volunteers. Sometimes having someone come in and take a new direction can be beneficial.
- Senior groups put together their own yoga group for about 10 years now in a private home and they rent hall in the winter. It would be nice to have more events for seniors or even walking paths.
- The County lacks the ability to communicate with one end to the other effectively in part due to its size.
- The County website should feature ALL of the activities within the region so residents can be informed and decide where to go each day.
- New Sarepta lacks summer recreational opportunities. Joseph Lake is close but is not swimmable. A swimming pool or a splash park in this area would help connect the community.

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- Residents deserve priority access to recreational opportunities based on the current cost share agreement. At this time, anyone from anywhere can access and utilize facilities that we cost share with. Programs fill up incredibly fast with people from neighbouring regions outside of the County.

How do we make country residential residents feel connected to their community?

- Meet the neighbor events
- Block parties
- Community gathering locations
- Need for community events pages that promote programs and events
- Social media promotion
- Need improved communications – Like Target and bugle for the East region of the County
- Increased promotion of what is available to Leduc County residents
- Advertise free access to Jubilee day use area during the week to residents
- Dean should start making Tik Tok's

Adjournment

Motion – Dean Ohnysty that the PRAC meeting be adjourned at 8:45 pm


Chairman


Director