



AGENDA

Committee of the Whole

March 13, 2023 - 5:00 PM

Town Administration Building - Council Chambers

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023 AT 5:00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 4938 – 50 AVENUE, RIMBEY, ALBERTA.

Page

1. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING & RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

1.1 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

2. AGENDA APPROVAL AND ADDITIONS

3. MINUTES

3.1 Minutes

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[Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes February 13, 2023](#)

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. DELEGATIONS

5.1 Rimbey Food Bank

8 - 9

[RFD 5.1 Rimbey Food Bank](#)

5.2 MX Track Expansion Proposal

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[RFD 5.2 MX Track Expansion Proposal](#)

6. BYLAWS

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 7.1 Neighbourhood Place Society
[RFD 7.1 Neighbourhood Place](#)

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8. OPEN FORUM

(Bylaw 939/18 - Council Procedural Bylaw Part XXI 1. The open forum shall be for a maximum total of twenty (20) minutes in length to allow members of the public present at the meeting to address Council regarding issues arising from the meeting in progress. No formal decision shall be made on any matter discussed with Council during the open forum session.

9. CLOSED SESSION

10. ADJOURNMENT

Committee of the Whole
REQUEST FOR DECISION



Meeting: March 13, 2023
Submitted By: Lori Hillis, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer
Subject: Minutes
Item For: Public Information -or- Closed Session

RECOMMENDATION:

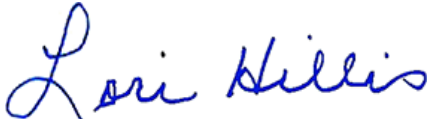
Motion by Council to accept the Minutes of February 13, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

[2023 02 13 Committee of the Whole Minutes](#)

PREPARED BY: Lori Hillis, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

March 9, 2023
Date

ENDORSED BY: 
Lori Hillis, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

March 9, 2023
Date



MINUTES

Committee of the Whole Meeting

Monday, February 13, 2023 - 5:00 PM

Town Administration Building - Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING & RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Mayor Pankiw called the meeting to order at 5:00pm with the following in attendance:

- Mayor Rick Pankiw
- Councillor Wayne Clark
- Councillor Jamie Coston
- Councillor Lana Curle
- Councillor Gayle Rondeel
- Lori Hillis, CPA, CA - Chief Administrative Officer
- Bonnie Rybak - Executive Assistant
- Liz Armitage - Development Officer
- Rick Schmidt - Director of Public Works

Delegates:

- Claude Mindorff with PACE Canada LP via Conference Call
- Cpl. Matthew Funk with the Rimbey RCMP

Public: (1) members of the public

1.1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

2. AGENDA APPROVAL AND ADDITIONS

Motion 001/2023 COW

Moved by Councillor Coston to accept the agenda for the February 13, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting, as amended.

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Mayor Pankiw | In Favor |
| Councillor Clark | In Favor |
| Councillor Coston | In Favor |
| Councillor Curle | In Favor |
| Councillor Rondeel | In Favor |

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. DELEGATIONS

5.1. Delegation: Rimbey RCMP

Motion 002/2023 COW

Moved by Councillor Curle to accept the presentation from Cpl. Matthew Funk with the Rimbey RCMP, as information.

Mayor Pankiw	In Favor
Councillor Clark	In Favor
Councillor Coston	In Favor
Councillor Curle	In Favor
Councillor Rondeel	In Favor

CARRIED

5.2. Delegation: Claude Mindorff with PACE Canada LP

Motion 003/2023 COW

Moved by Councillor Clark to accept Claude Mindorff 's presentation regarding a solar farm in Rimbey, as information.

Mayor Pankiw	In Favor
Councillor Clark	In Favor
Councillor Coston	In Favor
Councillor Curle	In Favor
Councillor Rondeel	In Favor

CARRIED

6. BYLAWS

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1. Waste Management

Motion 004/2023 COW

Moved by Councillor Clark for Administration to bring a detailed sample Request for Proposal forward to the next Council meeting on February 27, 2023, at 1:00pm.

Mayor Pankiw	In Favor
Councillor Clark	In Favor
Councillor Coston	In Favor
Councillor Curle	In Favor
Councillor Rondeel	In Favor

CARRIED

7.2. Alberta Health Services Citizens Bus

Motion 005/2023 COW

Moved by Councillor Coston to accept the presentation from Councillor Curle regarding Alberta Health Services bus, as information.

Mayor Pankiw	In Favor
Councillor Clark	In Favor
Councillor Coston	In Favor
Councillor Curle	In Favor
Councillor Rondeel	In Favor

CARRIED

8. OPEN FORUM

9. CLOSED SESSION

9.1. Closed Session - RFD 11.1 FOIP Section 17(1) Personal Privacy

Motion 006/2023 COW

Moved by Councillor Clark to enter in closed session at 6:13pm.

Mayor Pankiw	In Favor
Councillor Clark	In Favor
Councillor Coston	In Favor
Councillor Curle	In Favor
Councillor Rondeel	In Favor

CARRIED

Motion 007/2023 COW

Moved by Councillor Curle to end the closed session at 6:44pm.

Mayor Pankiw	In Favor
Councillor Clark	In Favor
Councillor Coston	In Favor
Councillor Curle	In Favor
Councillor Rondeel	In Favor

CARRIED

10. ADJOURNMENT

10.1. Adjournment

Motion 008/2023 COW

Moved by Councillor Coston to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm.

Mayor Pankiw	In Favor
Councillor Clark	In Favor
Councillor Coston	In Favor
Councillor Curle	In Favor
Councillor Rondeel	In Favor

CARRIED

Rick Pankiw, Mayor

Lori Hillis, Chief Administrative Officer

Committee of the Whole
REQUEST FOR DECISION



Meeting: March 13, 2023
Submitted By: Lori Hillis, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer
Subject: Rimbey Food Bank
Item For: Public Information -or- Closed Session

BACKGROUND:


Rod Schaff with the Rimbey Food Bank is requesting a delegation before Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

[BYAS Building Drawing](#)

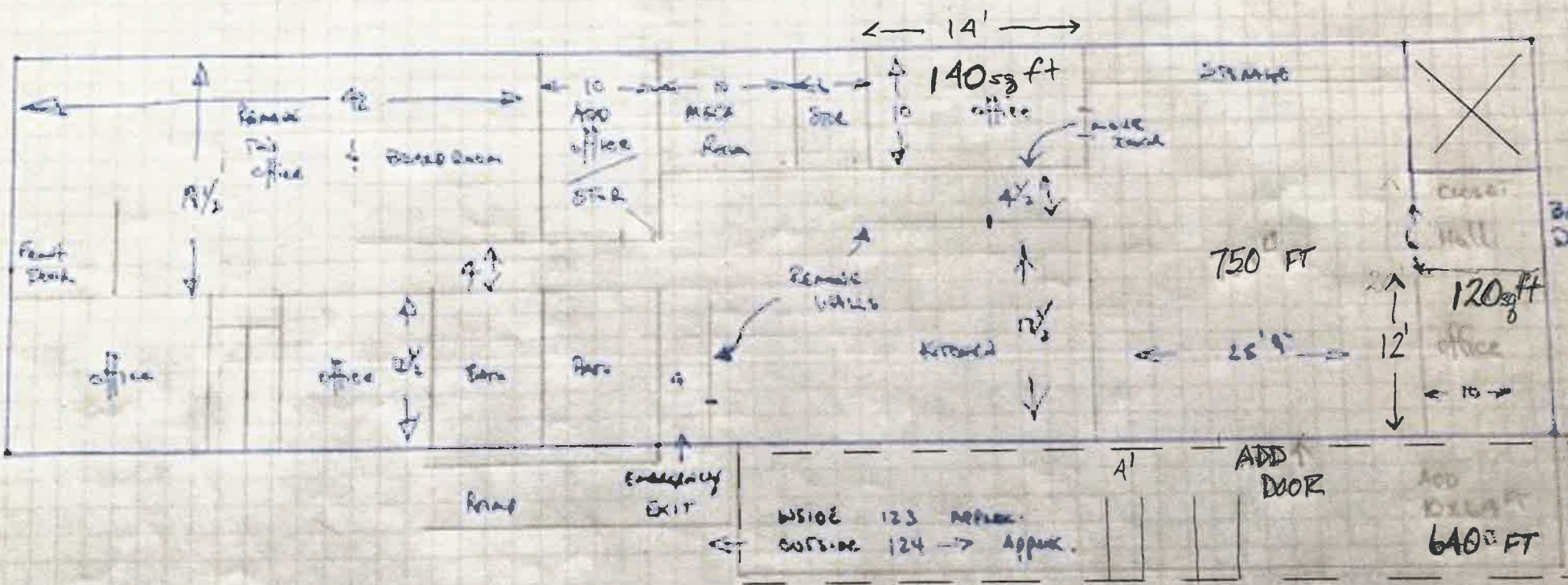
PREPARED BY: Lori Hillis, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

March 9, 2023
Date

ENDORSED BY: 
Lori Hillis, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

March 9, 2023
Date

North
Ave

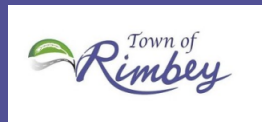


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Scale 3/32" = 1 FT

possible addition 640 sq ft

Committee of the Whole
REQUEST FOR DECISION



Meeting: March 13, 2023
Submitted By: Lori Hillis, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer
Subject: MX Track Expansion Proposal
Item For: Public Information -or- Closed Session

BACKGROUND:

The Town of Rimbey owns the land on which the Kinsmen Club of Rimbey has developed the Central Alberta Raceways Motor Park.

On February 21, 2023, Administration received an email from Travis Jaffray, president of the Rimbey Kinsmen Club requesting that the current Letter of Understanding with the Town be amended to include Lot 3 (7.29 acres) as additional property, as indicated on the MX Track Expansion attachment.

The Rimbey Kinsmen Club proposal was brought before Council on February 27, 2023, where Council made the following motion:

Motion 018/2023

Moved by Councillor Curle to request that Central Alberta Raceways bring the MX Track Expansion Proposal to Council as a delegation to a Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Mayor Pankiw	In Favor
Councillor Clark	In Favor
Councillor Coston	In Favor
Councillor Curle	In Favor
Councillor Rondeel	In Favor

CARRIED

DISCUSSION:

The Rimbey Kinsmen Club would like to amend the current agreement to include Plan 082 1573, Block 1, Lot 3 for the expansion of the motocross track, Mud Bog staging area, overflow parking and overnight camping.

The Town of Rimbey Public Works Director has indicated that there is an old residential water well on the property that would likely need to be abandoned if the land were to be used. Alternatively, the expansion plans could be made to incorporate the use of the well. The state of the well is unknown and the potential costs to abandon the well are unknown.

Council Agenda Item 5.2

The current lease agreement between the Rimbey Kinsmen Club and the Town of Rimbey is in place if the area is being actively used as a motor sports park. Annual lease cost is \$1 plus payment of the property taxes. The property is owned by the Town of Rimbey and leased to the Rimbey Kinsmen. Taxes generated from this additional land would be approximately \$1,800 per year.

ATTACHMENTS:

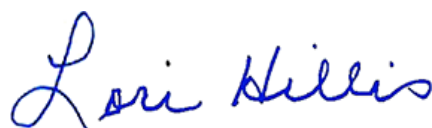
[Kinsmen Club - MX Track Expansion Proposal](#)

[Rimbey Kinsmen Club Town of Rimbey Letter of Understanding April 27 04](#)

PREPARED BY: Lori Hillis, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

March 9, 2023
Date

ENDORSED BY:



Lori Hillis, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

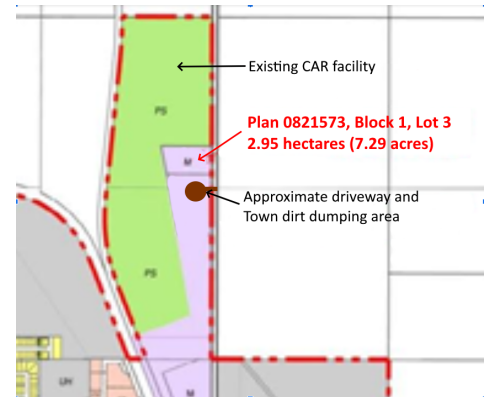
March 9, 2023
Date



MX Track Expansion

Request:

The Kinsmen Club of Rimbey (Kinsmen) is requesting that our current Letter of Understanding with the Town of Rimbey (Town) outlining the leasing of land to the Kinsmen for the purpose of developing and operating a motorsports park be amended to include additional property. Specifically the inclusion of Lot 3 (7.29 acres).

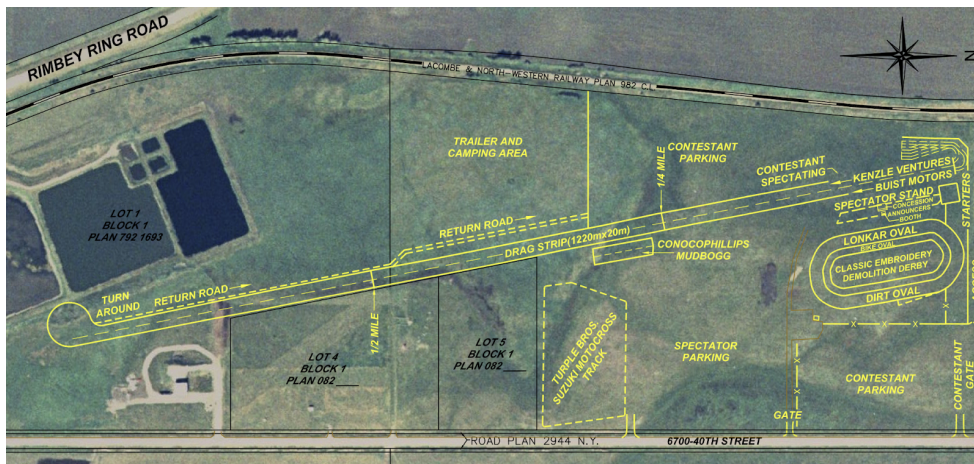


Purpose:

The request for additional land is driven by the Kinsmen’s desire to accommodate an ever growing interest of both competitors and spectators to make Rimbey their preferred race destination. This additional land would accomplish several key functions, including but not limited to:

- Add an intermediate / stadium style motocross track.
- Enhance Mud Bog competitor staging area to facilitate smoother transitions between classes.
- Overflow parking for major events such as demolition derby
- Overnight event camping, traditionally spectators have camped with competitors however with limited pit area space alternatives are needed.
- Utilize Motocross course year round by offering winter memberships to snowmobilers, and hosting snocross events where riders can be challenged by the twist, turns, moguls and jumps of a snow covered track.
- Offer day rentals to Recreational Vehicle dealers to promote their summer or winter products, allowing for a full experience of Motorbike, ATV, UTV or Snowmobiles.

The potential revenue generated by above items will further the Kinsmen’s self-reliance as a service organization that can reinvest into other deserving community organizations and events. Furthermore under Kinsmen’s current agreement the Town would receive additional tax revenue from the increased leased land.





Town of Rimbeey

Box 350 Rimbeey, Alberta T0C 2J0
Phone: (403) 843-2113 Fax: (403) 843-6599
E-mail: rtown@telusplanet.net www.rimbey.com

Letter of Understanding

Between

Town of Rimbeey (Town)

&

Rimbey Kinsmen (Kinsmen)

THIS AGREEMENT is in regards to an Offer to Lease Town Property by the Rimbeey Kinsmen whom intend to develop a Motor Park. This development would be leasing 79.35 acres of town property as outlined in green on the plan (See attached map).

WHEREAS both Parties are in agreement that the Motor Park Lease Principals is required and both parties agree to the following conditions and terms:

1. **THE KINSMEN** will use the property to develop a motor sports facility;
2. **THE TOWN** will lease to the Kinsmen for as long as the area is being actively used as a motor sports park.
3. **THE KINSMEN** will lease the property at the cost of one dollar (\$1.00) per year payable in January for that calendar year;
4. **THE KINSMEN** will pay the property taxes on an annual basis;
5. **THE KINSMEN** will be responsible for all maintenance and upkeep of the green outlined area.
6. **THE KINSMEN** will adhere to all provincial and federal codes during construction and operation;
7. **THE KINSMEN** shall have proper insurance in place for the operation of the motor park facility and provide a copy to the town;
8. **THE KINSMEN** shall notify the Town of Rimbeey of any major changes to the motor park;


Initialed by Town of Rimbeey


initialed by Rimbeey Kinsmen

- 9. **THE KINSMEN** shall provide the Town of Rimbey a schedule of yearly events;
- 10. **THE KINSMEN** gives the Town of Rimbey right to access additional 60 meters of property to the north in the trailer and camping area for future development;
- 11. **THE TOWN** will publicly support and promote the Kinsmen Motor Park on their web site and wherever else appropriate.

The above article constitutes the whole agreement and is approved and entered into agreement by the following signatures below.

Signed this 27 day of APRIL, 2004.



Town of Rimbey (Signature)

DALE L BARR MAYOR

(Print Name & Title)



Rimbey Kinsmen (Signature)

President Allen Helam

(Print Name & Title)



Town of Rimbey (Signature)

William Kostel CAO.

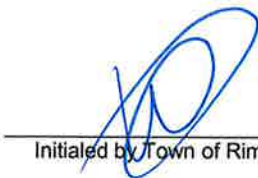
(Print Name & Title)



Rimbey Kinsmen (Signature)

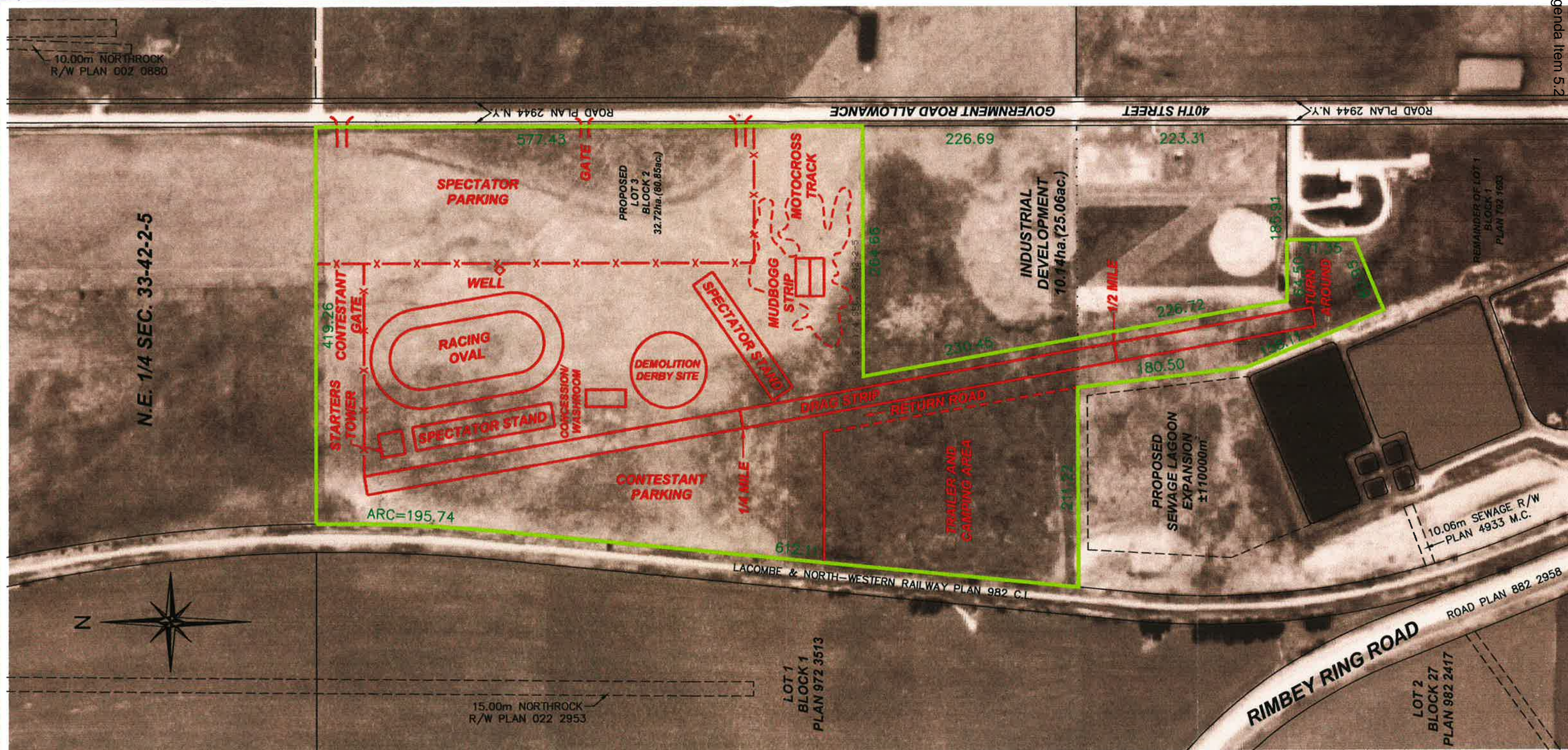
Treasurer - Steven Schrader

(Print Name & Title)



Initialed by Town of Rimbey

initialed by Rimbey Kinsmen



RIMBEY KINSMEN MOTOR SPORT PARK

[Signature]
MAYOR DALE L BARR

[Signature]
Alan Adams President

DRAWN BY: PH	OLSON SURVEYS LTD.
DATE: March 29, 2004.	SUITE 11, 5033-52ND STREET
SCALE: 1:4000	LACOMBE, AB. T4L 2A6
FILE NO.: 1051-001-01	PHONE: (403)782-5358 FAX: (403)782-3508
DRAWING NO.: 105100101T-6	INTERNET: http://www.spatialbase.com/surveys

Committee of the Whole REQUEST FOR DECISION



Meeting: March 13, 2023
Submitted By: Lori Hillis, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer
Subject: Neighbourhood Place Society
Item For: Public Information -or- Closed Session

BACKGROUND:

Neighbourhood Place Society’s request to assume management of the Blindman Youth Action Society building was brought before Council on February 27, 2023, where Council made the following motion:

Motion 023/2023

Moved by Councillor Coston to table the request from Rimbey Neighbourhood Place Society regarding management of the BYAS building until Neighbourhood Place Society submits the information requested, indicating their proposed future programming.

Mayor Pankiw	In Favor
Councillor Clark	In Favor
Councillor Coston	In Favor
Councillor Curle	In Favor
Councillor Rondell	In Favor

CARRIED

DISCUSSION:

Administration received the requested information from Neighborhood Place on Tuesday March 7, 2023.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Neighbourhood Place Society Letter Redacted](#)

PREPARED BY: Lori Hillis, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer	<u>March 9, 2023</u> Date
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ENDORSED BY:  Lori Hillis, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer	<u>March 9, 2023</u> Date
---	-------------------------------------



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PO Box 980
Rimbey, AB T0C 2J0
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rimbeynp@telusplanet.net

Rimbey Neighbourhood Place Society

March 2, 2023

Dear Mayor Pankiw and Rimbey Town Council

Re: Blindman Youth Action Society Building

In order to follow up from the town council meeting on February 27th there are a few things we would like to clarify as well as provide more information for you.

The Blindman Youth Action Building was fundraised for and community built with the purpose of housing Rimbey Neighbourhood Place 23 years ago.

Neighbourhood Place has not taken political action in regards to the loss of services (ie. The Parent Link Centre) in 2020 because our primary focus was filling the needs of the community and a lack of capacity (we no longer had funding as well).

We understand the focus of Council needs to be on fiscal matters but our primary focus is on the community. We have a vision for the building to be a multi-use community gathering place and point of connection.

Neighbourhood Place has not regularly approached the town for support of any kind and has not depended on continued financial support from the town.

Please keep in mind the letters sent (attached) and the parents who attended the town council meeting on January 9th.

We continue to be the “main tenant” in the building.

In regards to the Provincial government deciding what is and what is not necessary, the question remains; do elected officials in Edmonton know what is best for a community or do communities and community members know what is best for themselves?

As part of an ongoing negotiation and the start of further conversation;

We do not want total control of the building; (ownership of the building may not be the best solution) only to manage the facility and make sure it is used to its full potential. A lease agreement with the ability to sub-lease (or rent out space) would be a good solution.

Rimbey Neighbourhood Place Society would like to continue with the management of the building located at 4907 – 49 street Rimbey. We have looked after scheduling at the building for 23 years and would like to expand on that by making sure the space is used to its fullest potential in lieu of paying monthly rent.

Neighbourhood Place is asking the town to take on the payment of utilities (Electricity & natural gas) and taxes and that the building and Neighbourhood Place be included under the towns insurance policy.

Our request is that we would not only be responsible for the scheduling at the building but also the collection of rental income for the facility, as this would help immensely in expanding our availability to the community for programming and assistance. As well, the cost of utilities being covered by the town would be an enormous in kind contribution that could be used to leverage other grants and would be looked at very favorably by funders. With these dollars along with our current and future grant dollars, we will strive to provide our community with the best support possible. We look forward to an ever-expanding partnership with the town, and thank you for your support and interest in the wellbeing of our community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lance Hannesson', written over a horizontal line.

Lance Hannesson, Board Chairperson,
Rimbey Neighbourhood Place

Rimbey Neighbourhood Place

What Rimbey Neighbourhood Place offers currently

- Drop-in Play group for children (and parents) one morning a week (2 hours)
- Facilitated parent support group with child care one morning a week (2 hours)
- Supporting the Catholic Social Services Family Counsellor (1 day a week)
- Referrals (assisting individuals to navigate how to access services)
- Helping individuals find/understand/fill out government forms (ie. AISH)
- Assisting with appeals (ie disability pension) including advocating for individuals
- Rimbey & Area Community Newsletter- in partnership with the town recreation department. currently, distribution is 180 copies – pre-COVID was 350.
- Host Rimbey interagency meetings bi-monthly; meal included
- Play it forward: bins at the parks with toys to encourage active play
- The little library at the park in the summer and the arena in the winter
- Provide books for Christmas food bank hampers
- Participate in other groups as they arise and support other organizations
- Continued involvement (scaled back) with the Community Wellness Association
- Research and information gathering/sharing
- Needs assessments (last one done with town assistance of distribution - fall 2019)
- Refer and redirect people for employment services
- Support vulnerable individuals through check in calls
- Provides a lending library of games and puzzles as a means for people to connect.
- Provide services (one on one and a huge play group) in Ponoka

Historical Information

****Original**VISION**

A respected voice advocating for a healthy community

VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Empowerment

By listening and understanding community needs, we provide appropriate information and guidance to support solutions.

Collaboration

With enhanced knowledge of community resources and strong teamwork we are able to guide individuals, groups and agencies to desired outcomes.

Accessibility

We provide objective support for individuals and agencies to effectively facilitate resolutions.

MISSION

We Offer Support to Families and Individuals by Collaborating with Community Agencies to Find Solutions that Promote a Healthy Community.

Historically (from 2000 to 2019) Contracted with Child and Family Services(CFS)

- Annual Provincial grant through Children Services
- Referred to as a "CBI" or Community Capacity Building Initiative – which essentially means community development.
- Identified needs, brought individuals or organizations together to address the need.
- Grant provided one half time employee – 20 hours a week.
- Monthly newsletter; Development & Distribution
- Hosted bi monthly interagency meetings; Meal planning and prep, Note taking and distribution, Maintenance of interagency email contact list
- Liaise with media for all groups
- Prepared and participated in Community events representing active groups & NP

Past groups supported by Neighbourhood Place:

ECD (Early Child Development) Coalition

Came about because of a pilot project called ecmep – where research was done to gauge kindergarten readiness – the coalitions were assembled province wide to address those findings. A second EDI(early development instrument) was collected in 2016. This was a annual tri-ministries grant(Education, Health, Human Services).

How Neighbourhood Place supported the ECD:

- Fiscal agent
- Book keeping
- Reporting to FCSSAA(funders)
- Minute taking and distribution
- Created agendas and sent meeting reminders
- Contact point for Coalition

What the ECD did:

- Partners with parent link, the library, the school....
- Speaker series: sleeping, attachment, outstanding families, brain development, resiliency Etc. for parents, often partnering with the elementary school.
- Play it forward: bins at the parks with toys to encourage active play
- Book club; in partnership with the library, parenting resource books
- Facilitating early years partner meetings
- Resource guide
- Provided books for food bank hampers

(Rimbey & Area) Community Wellness Association (RCWA)

How Neighbourhood Place supported the RCWA:

- Book keeping
- Applying for grants
- Minute taking and distribution
- Contact point for RCWA
- Assisting with the maintenance of funding etc. of CSS family counsellor
- Follow up on directions of RCWA
- Participate in the Regional Vision for Non violence group (RVFNV)
- Follow up reporting on grants received (RID)
- Maintain society status

Rimbey & Area Community Wellness Association has 4 focus areas:

- **Family Violence Prevention** – part of the RVFNV (regional vision for non-violence).
- NP hosts the centre for positive relationships at the BYAS building.
- **Resiliency and Caring Community** (bullying prevention)
 - have hosted movie screenings
- **Mental Health Promotion**
 - have hosted Mental health first aid
 - created and shared “Mental Health Circle of Service” as well as resources from CMHA
- **Substance Abuse Prevention/Harm Reduction**
 - RID (Report Impaired Driving) program – grant from Alberta traffic safety fund.

Other organizations

- Big Brother, Big Sisters, Boys & Girls
- **Assist BYAS group - with bookings for the BYAS building and doing and printing annual lease agreements**
- Car Seat Safety Group - Call centre for connecting technicians with those needing services & Reporting if required

PARENT LINK CENTRE SUMMARY

The Rimbey Parent Link Centre was open 3 to 4 days a week, morning and afternoon programming, including one Saturday morning and Friday evening a month.

The staff consisted of a manager, two program staff and two support staff (child care).

The Centre was closed for 2 weeks for Christmas and had 2 programs a week in July and August.

"It takes a village to raise a child" has been the guiding principle for Neighbourhood Place since its inception in 2000, with an emphasis on supporting families and individuals in healthy communities.

Relationships are a cornerstone to building healthy communities and families, a focus of the Neighbourhood Place work for the last 20 years.

As a capacity building initiative, supporting community members through partnership and collaboration with other organizations has increasingly strengthened the work undertaken and ensured sustainable results.

Neighbourhood Place was incorporated under the Societies Act in 2000, and is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors with members who live in Rimbey, the County of Ponoka, and has included student representation.

The Board has received funding on a contractual basis from Children's Services of Alberta in the past, but that funding stream was discontinued in 2019.

The Board operates under the Society Act, formal bylaws, Terms of Reference, and a strategic plan that is reviewed by the Board on an annual basis.

Neighbourhood Place is a community based, grass-roots not-for-profit organization which strives to be flexible in its response to recognized community needs.

It was originally created as a “one stop shop” where individuals and families could come, tell their story, and be connected with and referred to the most appropriate services.

This umbrella type model offers an overarching function that is recognized as important by a range of organizations and structures.

As an example of this community recognition, the Rimbey RCMP & The Rimbey Victim Services Unit have referred individuals to Neighbourhood Place, acknowledging that they do not have the manpower or resources to navigate the existing complex system of services for non-criminal issues.

Neighbourhood Place has continued to serve as a capacity building initiative, playing a key role in identifying needs and gaps in the community, and subsequently offering an efficient continuum of support in collaboration with relevant service providers.

The partnerships that exist between Neighbourhood Place and many segments of the community result in a support mechanism that is readily used by individuals identified as part of the most vulnerable population.

Many of these individuals are struggling with meeting basic needs and developing healthy relationships with core people in their lives. They typically do not seek services, as they often feel like supports have failed them in the past.

In spite of this, Neighbourhood Place has been seen as a safe place to seek support, and access the resources that Neighbourhood Place can draw on, such as: strong relationships with Alberta Health Services, the medical clinic, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS), and local churches in the ministerial group; being a member of the Regional Vision for Non-Violence; sharing building space with the Centre for Positive Relationships; and having a deep knowledge of basic support systems such as income support, Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH), and Alberta Works.

This is pivotal in building successful relationships with the most vulnerable populations in the community.

Neighbourhood Place has also served as an umbrella organization for other groups in the community such as the Early Child Development (ECD) Coalition and for the past 8 years, Neighbourhood Place has facilitated the Rimbey and Area Community Wellness Association.

The association was created after the need to address family violence and bullying was identified at a community interagency meeting. Since that time, The Community Wellness Association has added mental health and addictions awareness to its areas of focus, as often these four components (family violence, bullying, mental health, addictions) have common causes and connections.

The creation and distribution of a monthly community newsletter has been the result of a partnership between Neighbourhood Place and the Town of Rimbey's recreation department, giving not-for-profits a recognized and easily accessed medium for distributing information to members of our community.

Neighbourhood Place has also hosted regular Rimbey interagency meetings through the years. These meetings are a valued forum for community groups such as the Rimbey Municipal Library, the Medical Clinic, the Primary Care Network, Alberta Health Services (many branches), the town of Rimbey, Big Brothers, Big Sisters & the Boys and Girls Club, FCSS(Family Community Support Services) the Rimbey Farmers Market Association, the Rimbey Nursery School, Wolf Creek Public Schools(multiple schools, especially the Outreach) Rimbey Christian School, the Ministerial Group(various church groups) As well as out of town groups that provide services to our community like Catholic Social Services, Mc Bride Career Group, the Bredin Centre, the Career Assistance Network, Care (Central Alberta Refugee Effort, CAWES(Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter) to network, share information, and collaboratively address identified community issues and needs.

In 2019 funding for many services was redistributed and as a result, services such as the Parent Link Centre were lost.

The Parent Link programs were regarded as flagships for similar organizations around the province of Alberta. In addition to the invaluable relationships that have been built over time, these organizations had also invested heavily in their staff with training and capacity building, making them resources that have contributed significantly to, and are valued by, families in the community.

Overall, Neighbourhood Place continuously aims to be in tune with the needs and best interests of the community.

Rimbey Neighbourhood Place Family Programming

Rimbey Neighbourhood Place provides high quality, comprehensive, accessible community-based programs that hold the best interests of children at the core of all our program related decisions. We strive to promote family wellness, promote positive parent-child relationships and improve parenting knowledge and skill. We recognize that supporting parents is the key to fostering optimal child development and that all families have resources and strengths that are respected and even incorporated into our programs. We see parents and caregivers as active partners in our program and service development and our programs are open to ALL parents and caregivers regardless of their social, cultural or economic background. We value diversity and promote inclusion. Rimbey Neighbourhood Place offers high-quality programs that reflect current evidence based research in parenting and child development that help parents build skills and abilities that empower them to solve problems, achieve goals and take control of their lives. This is a community based grass roots organization that serves Rimbey families. A Community that invests in its families is a community that thrives.

Our Current Programs

- Currently, we run two programs a week. *Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30* is our **unstructured drop in Program, Grow and Play**. This program focuses on parent/child connection, relationship building between parents, families and staff. It also provides a less intimidating introduction to the space and other programs and services we offer. A warm, inviting space helps families feel that they have a place in our community to come to connect, learn and play together.
- *Thursday mornings, from 9:30 – 11:30* is our **Parent Support Program: Parent Time Out**. This program offers parent education that focuses on early childhood development, wellness and mental health awareness. We also see this as an opportunity for parents to support parents and make strong connections that benefit not only the adults but the whole family as well. For the parents that currently attend, this program has been vital not only for themselves but for their children as well (see attached letters from parents).
- The **Parent Time Out** program offers child care. This ensures the parents get a “break” from their demands as a parent, if only for a brief time, and their children receive high quality supervision and play that is intentionally rooted in the early childhood developmental domains. This is an **adjacent program** that builds preschool and kindergarten readiness in young children and strong and healthy connections with staff. The program is well attended and child care is often full.

- We also offer minimal one on one parenting support, this is because of limited staff hours. With more hours available the demand would be much greater. We provide developmental screening through Ages and Stages Questionnaires. These questionnaires give parents and caregivers a snapshot of where their child is at developmentally. This is a *VITAL* tool for parents and caregivers of children under 5 as they are designed to catch early signs of developmental concerns. Rimbey Neighbourhood Place is the only local organization that offers this tool. The Community Health center no longer provides this service.
- So far, from June 2022 to January of 2023, we have seen 351 people enter our doors. This is within a total of 4 hours of programming a week and being closed in the summer and 1 week break during Christmas.

Our Future Program Goals:

Any increase in funds would be put right back into program and service enhancement. We would be able to offer more programming, thus, more support for Rimbey families. We would be able to reach working parents by having an accessible evening program once a month, such as Friday night drop in play. We could bring back our very well attended Post-Partum support group that offers childcare. This program was once offered by Parent Link in partnership with the PCN(Primary Care Network). It supported mothers of children under 2, who were struggling with post-partum depression. Staff would have more planning time, which just like teachers, is an essential part to offering high quality educational programming. Seeing an increase in childcare staff hours would greatly improve the accessibility of our parent education programs. Parent Support programs are highly impactful for families. A program that focuses on early childhood development, where families play and learn together would also be implemented. We would also be able to partner with more community organizations, like Community Health and the PCN because of increased staff hours. Our capacity to provide service to more families would also increase as having more programming and more support only improves the quality of our community.

Rimbey Neighbourhood Place offers unique services for families and caregivers of young children. We have highly qualified staff that care and respond to the needs of the families that attend. Families NEED a place to call their own; a bricks and mortar building that is a gathering space for families who are the heartbeat of our community. A place where they feel safe, welcomed and supported. Not every community has this level of quality community based service. This is something to be celebrated and promoted as an *incentive* to move to the Rimbey community. The Drop-in Centre, for example, provides enhanced well being for seniors and increases Rimbey's desirability as a place to live. We see the same need for families.

Rimbey Interagency Notes, January 10, 2023

In person at the BYAS building

Attendees; Alva Holliday (West Country Outreach), Kristine Stebanuk (VSU) Jamie Coston (Town Council), Joy Williamson (Rimbey Medical Clinic - PCN), Leanne Evans (Neighbourhood Place), Kathryn Robertson (FRN & Wetaskiwin Boys and Girls Club), Delicia Adams (Catholic Social services Family counsellor) and Tamara Greer (Boys & Girls Club & BBBS) came later

Regrets: Don Bramfield (Catholic Social Services) Brenda Olson (MCG Careers), Holly Grimsdale (Rimbey Nursery School)

Leanne –Neighbourhood Place has programs available for parents and kids 0-6 years old. Tuesdays - "Grow & Play" 9:30-11:30 drop in. Thursday mornings is parent support called "Parent time out" with childcare. The lending library of new games and puzzles is also available. Neighbourhood Place (Rimbey) has reduced hours but is still available when needed. The deadline for newsletter submissions is the 20th. The BYAS Building is now operated by the town.

Don Bramfield – there are no changes to the family counselling program, CSS will continue to have an in-person presence in Rimbey, and look for ways to increase awareness of the counselling services offered. They still have devices available (I PADS) for virtual counselling that we can loan out in need.

Brenda Olson – MCG careers info shared and included with email

Holly - We hope everyone had a great Christmas break, we ended the year on a high and were very happy to take over the mitts, toques and food donations we had collected in class for FCSS. We look forward to the new year, where we got 4 new students, almost making us at capacity. We are looking forward to planning next month's theme, we call "Little Rimbey" that teaches our students about community spirit and the people within it

Joy – there is another doctor starting in Rimbey in February; Dr. Jude Unuaf from Nigeria. It should be easier to get in to see the counsellors now that there are more doctors to do the referrals.

Jamie – town council now has 2 meetings a month; one is a "community of the whole" meeting which allows more time for people to be heard and a regular meeting once a month. Jamie is also on the kids in sports committee and is trying to get word out again after COVID. It is a private community group so there are no restrictions and Jamie is the contact. 403 704-3773, call or text. The elementary school rink is built and has ice – there are lights and a net and it is free!

Delicia – Things have been a bit slow and she has openings for individuals, couples or families. Call the intake number and ask to be seen in Rimbey. People can access by phone, virtually or in person.

Kristine – their board meets at the legion. VSU is going through major changes right now. Its supposed to be business as usual until March 2024 but they are unsure about funding after April 1. They are still going to sudden death and suicide cases. She will be applying for the Victims and survivors of crime grant with events between May 15-19; including Shred-it, and safety bolts for license plates. Cram a cruiser was in December on a VERY cold day and they did very well.

Alva – coming back after the last couple of years, there is a lot of motivation and positivity. The school has a “No phone zone” – conversation station. Enrollment is up and there are more families and students that want to come to the school but, they want to make sure they are serving the kids that need them the most. They are in the only building that the school division doesn’t own but they like the location. The centralized intake to AHS mental health is a huge barrier for students and families, often with a 40-minute wait. They were still keeping numbers for AHS for COVID and there were lots of sick kids. Tomorrow is RCMP youth talks; which is a presentation by the “White Hatter” on digital literacy and online safety for an hour and a half. All schools have to have a ACE plan – “assurance, collaboration and engagement” and right now they are working as a collective. Look up the West country outreach web site - ACE plan. Diplomas are starting on Thursday and they are starting to plan grad for May 27.

Kathryn – Mentioned the professional referral form for AHS mental health which is really useful in speeding up the process. The FRN offers services for 0–18-year old’s and their families, including early child and youth development. There will be 4 sessions starting in January on Triple P. There are sessions by Tammy Auten-Dye accessible virtually on anxiety, and other topics. There is a traditional parenting program and one on one services. They will support families with referrals as well. Multicultural health brokers are available so people can get services in their own language. Also available; Rapid access counselling – virtual single session but no limits on how often they access also for children and youth. Parents need to be present to support the session. Virtual sessions for young parents starting on January 25, 5-6:30.

Leanne shared AHS Nutrition Services info (attached)

Library – the little pantry is going well, lots of use. It was moved from the back of the building to the front of the library. Some unexpected needs have been dog food and diapers. Jean has gone and picked up diapers when needed. There was discussion about how it is not meant to replace the food bank but supplement it. Jean confirmed after the meeting that supplies are running low.

Tamara – January is mentoring month and she is trying to recruiting big brothers and big sisters. The move over to the Nazarene Church went well and they are finishing up getting licenced so parents can access subsidies. The last week of school before Christmas was cancelled so now they will be offering “Snow days” – if they know by 8 pm the night before they will offer programs. The teen night is going very well.

Thank you for a great meeting! The Next Interagency will be (THURSDAY) March 9th @ noon.
Thank you for joining us and sharing your information, please send you newsletter info by the 20th of the month.

Neighbourhood Place Future Goals

Move toward a neighbourhood House model <https://anhbc.org/> whose mission statement is:

We connect people and empower them to create the change they want to see in their communities.

Through:

- Continuing to do what we have always done; assist individuals with navigation and accessing of services, but supporting through the process.
- A one stop reference point for RCMP and other service providers.
- Grass roots and community driven programming – Neighbourhood Houses are all different – based on the needs of the community they are serving.
- Expand children and family programs (like Parent Link Centre programming)
- Adult programming serving as a means of connection; (very much like Adult Learning used to do but no longer fits within their mandate) guitar lessons, build a bird house etc.
- Poverty reduction and homelessness strategies and research
- Community Development
- Building collaboration and cohesiveness with community organizations (Interagency meetings)
- The community newsletter

With a NEW mission statement of:

Rimbey & Ponoka County is a welcoming, inclusive community where every member feels valued and is able to connect in a meaningful way to people and services: they are confident enough to bring ideas forward, help make them happen and feel part of the solution.

The Neighbourhood House Concept

Starting and sustaining a neighbourhood house is a unique, distinguishable process compared to starting other types of non-profit organizations. Neighbourhood houses are different as they exist solely for and of the community. They exist as part of an ongoing dialogue within neighbourhoods and between neighbours with the central focus being to strengthen community ties and provide needed services and resources in order to enrich the community. A neighbourhood house is about grassroots: collaborative discussions with the goal of community capacity building. Neighbourhood house programming is defined by, and exists solely for the benefit of the community. Through a distinctively "bottom-up" approach, starting a neighbourhood house allows for a meaningful, place-based strategy that takes the needs of the people in the neighbourhood into primary consideration. A NH exists to provide community members with the necessary tools to cultivate lasting relationships, and improve access to needed resources for everyone. Our vision is to create vibrant communities empowered to play an active role in society, supported by their neighbours and community organizations to help residents lead healthy, full lives.

What is a Neighbourhood House?

A NH is a warm, friendly place where people of all ages come together to meet individual and collective needs of their neighbourhood and to play an active role in their community. Utilizing local resources and talents, the NH is a neighbourhood-based, volunteer-driven and locally governed organization combining services, community building and social change activities. NHs are part of a shared common heritage and part of an international settlement movement - a movement with deep roots in working for social justice. While globally NHs may go by other names such as "Settlement Houses", "Neighbourhood Centres" or "Settlement Centres", they all exist for the same purpose - for the benefit of the community.

What a Neighbourhood House Provides for Your Neighbourhood?

- A living room for the community to meet and celebrate
- A welcoming space for people of all ages, ethnicities, cultures, classes, sexual orientations and abilities
- A place for neighbours to get involved in the community as volunteers
- A place to meet the needs of the community
- A space to build and strengthen your neighbourhood and share information and experiences with neighbours

Why Start a Neighbourhood House?

A NH is a central hub that can enrich neighbourhood life. Often referred to as the "heart of the community", a NH is a model for social inclusion and justice. This is seen in their activities, values, and vision for more equitable, interconnected and welcoming neighbourhoods. Social inclusion involves taking active steps at a local neighbourhood level to promote equal access to rights, opportunities and resources such as: food security, housing, employment, income security, education, healthcare, civic participation, personal safety, and legal justice. From the NH perspective, social inclusion and justice result in:

- Equitable access to goods and services
- The opportunity to participate in the social, economic and cultural life of the neighbourhood and society
- Greater participation in decision-making affecting individual's lives and the community as a whole
- Elimination of all forms of discrimination

Where Did Neighbourhood Houses Come From?

NHs can be traced back to the British Settlement House Movement of the late 19th century. The first Settlement House, Toynbee Hall, opened in East London in 1884 with a mission to connect the rich and the poor in the community. The settlement house pioneers, recognizing that poverty resulted from root societal causes and living conditions, set out to work with residents in the neighbourhood to achieve lasting change in the lives of individuals and in community conditions.

The name 'settlement houses' comes from the early days at the turn of the century, when workers 'settled' in low-income neighborhoods. Settling in the community allowed them, as residents, to directly connect and understand the needs of immigrants, factory workers, and the very poor. Working alongside local residents, workers pursued community building goals through integrating social change activism and services. Settlement houses contributed to social reforms, public education and public health services. The success of Toynbee Hall led to an international movement resulting in these houses being built around the world. Each NH has its own unique beginning. The NH movement in British Columbia dates back to the late 1800's to early 1900's with the development of Camp Alexandra (now Alexandra Neighbourhood House).

January 8, 2023

To the members of Rimbey Town Council,

RE: Neighbourhood Place funding and support

I am writing to you today to add my voice to those reaching out and requesting your support to keep the Neighborhood Place family programming running at the BYAS building in our community. I've been benefitting from this program since it was re-initiated in 2022. Prior to that, my family and I accessed the resources at Parent Link and we, like many others, were greatly impacted by its loss.

The supports, education, friendships and sense of community that the Parent Link program facilitated were invaluable to me in developing my parenting skills, maintaining my sanity, and socializing both myself and my children in an environment where we felt safe and cared for. I grew up in Rimbey, am involved in this community and have family supports here; however the Parent Link programs filled an important gap in my needs as a young parent. They helped me to connect with others I could relate to and discuss my struggles with. They offered guidance and suggestions for parenting strategies from evidenced based resources and trained support people. While I do recognize that there are some other family supports running in our community, they are limited for families with infants and young children. After Parent Link was closed I was unable to find anything that offered similar supports and benefits to my family and I. We struggled with its loss and I know that others with fewer social supports and those who didn't already have the benefit of years of this programming experienced an even greater impact.

As you can imagine, I was very happy when Neighbourhood Place family programming was initiated in the BYAS building and we were able to resume attending. We have found that the Neighbourhood Place programming offers many of the same unique and important benefits to young families that Parent Link had previously. Their play space, timing and programming is thoughtfully designed to meet the needs of the people attending and allows for free play with your children in a safe and non-judgmental environment. While the drop in play times are excellent both as a sanity saving outing and for socializing both parents and children, the programming I've found most valuable has been the parents "time out" support group. Both of these programs being offered allow families to get accustomed to and comfortable in the space (as well as with the staff) while spending time with your children in addition to much needed adult time with child care provided during support group days. During parent's time out, parents are able to get the peer and educated support they need with the opportunity to rest, listen, share, ask questions, vent, and receive supportive, non-judgmental responses. As a facilitated group we have educational themes we focus on and resources available at each meeting, but it is structured in a way that leaves space to address the issues and concerns of the families attending in that particular moment as well. It is one of the few things that I can go out and do with my children that leaves me feeling more refreshed and hopeful when I leave as opposed to exhausted. My children are always excited to attend and so much easier to parent on departing. Attending has improved my parenting, helped me to find myself again and learn new ways of self-care that benefit my entire family.

It takes time to build a rapport and sense of safety and community within any support group. Cancelled programs, relocations, and just general insecurity over the support and environment are hard on both parents and their young children. We lost many parents from the program in the time between the closure of Parent Link and the opening of these similar services through Neighborhood Place. This was all further exacerbated by the isolating and polarizing impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our

population's sense of community and general mental health is suffering. As a health care professional married to a teacher, I both see and hear about this often hidden suffering and its impacts on a very regular basis. Mental health supports in our community and province as a whole are greatly lacking and it is essential that we, as a community, recognize these gaps and work to fill them for the health and wellbeing of our population.

Neighborhood Place offers a dedicated space and programming that supports the mental health of young families through recognizing and addressing their social, emotional, and educational needs **before** they reach a crisis point. It would be an absolute shame for our community to lose this resource.

I ask that you would please support this program to ensure the maintenance and potential growth of an established service that directly promotes and protects the wellbeing of both parents, and their children.

Thank you,

Carol Longard



Good evening, my name is Esther Vandenhoven and I am here today to speak regarding Rimbey Neighbourhood Place. I was not raised locally and moved here in 2016 to begin building a family and community. My first child was born in December of 2018 right in town and in summary I was not prepared for the changes that becoming a mother brings with it. I had few friends in town and no one I knew had children except my relatives. This left me feeling alone and very vulnerable post partum.

In a search for community, I joined 2 different mom and tot groups in Red Deer, but the distance between where I lived and the rest of the groups made finding connection hard. One day I came across an add for the old Parent Link drop-in program and decided to give it a try. On the first day I went, there was a public health nurse visiting the group and we found out that my son was not gaining weight as he should be and that something needed to be done about it. It was through this drop-in community class that I found out he was not getting the nutrients he needed and through that program I was able to get his health back on track. I continued to go and learn about development and how children learn through the Parent Link until it closed in 2020, which was the beginning of the storm.

When we lost the Parent Link, it was a loss of resources for parents of the community; it was a place where we could ask questions, get reassurance that what our child is doing is weird, and yes normal. And it was a place where I met some amazing people who have been instrumental in me feeling at home in this community.

When Neighbourhood Place opened its doors last year I was so relieved to have access to local programs again! Finding community in adulthood is not an easy task to say the least and programs such as these are integral to growing our town.

I find myself now the primary farmer and caretaker of my household, being able to come to the Tuesday and Thursday programming is essential to my well being as well as that of my children. It is very easy in this rural landscape we find ourselves in to distance and isolate on the farm. Knowing that this program is here for us, to help connect us to other farm families and those living in the town, is a life line.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration of this matter. Please consider the young families in your community in your decisions.

Dear Rimbey Town Council,

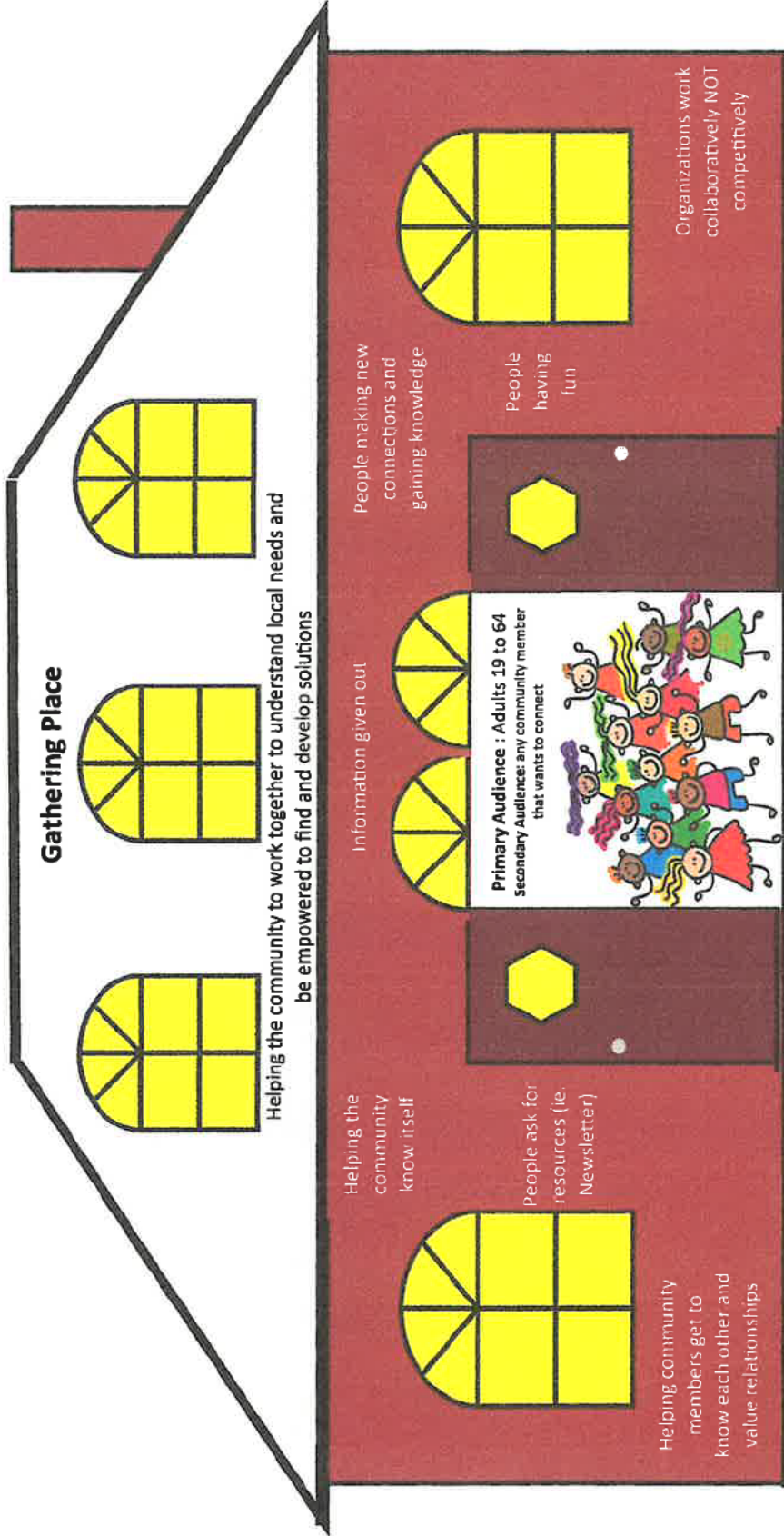
I am writing to express how important Rimbey Neighborhood Place Family Program is to my family and this town. This family program is a safe space to bring you children for healthy play and positive interactions. I am raising 3 children in this town and I would consider myself active in our beautiful community. My family and I value all programming, supports and events that are available in our town. Over our 10 years living in Rimbey, we have discovered there are virtually no other places for parents of young children to go. And unfortunately, we are losing opportunities for families with young children at an alarming rate. The first 6 years of a child's life are when the most brain development happens. It is important for children and parents to develop play skills, connections in our community and high-quality social interactions. When Parent Link closed it was detrimental to young families in our town. We have also lost the ability to public swim at the Canalta, with new management who really don't care that there is nothing for young children & parents in our town. With the closure of Rimbey's Parent Link, our town completely lost a parent support group, parenting workshops and education and a place for young families to hang out. It is so amazing to be able to attend the Rimbey Neighborhood Place family program. This program offers an opportunity for moms and children to get out of the house for a change of scenery, meet with other moms and socialize. Programs like this help families build connections and healthy support groups within our community. As a nurse in our town, I see the importance and value of healthy parents, who feel supported. The Rimbey Neighborhood Place family program is a place where moms can connect, these connections are important in the prevention of depression, particularly post partum depression. This program literally gives moms in our community a support system. Rimbey is lacking mental health supports, so it is so important for us to hold onto the support groups and connections we currently have in place. Rimbey is such a great community but desperately needs to work on access to programs for young families, parents & children. It is so important for our town and council to get behind promoting, supporting and expanding places like the Rimbey Neighborhood Place Family program. It would be amazing for our town to contribute funds towards space, rent, programming & expanding this program. I encourage council to look around our community for programming for families with children 0-6 years of age. It is very limited, which is really sad. If we want to attract new nurses, doctors, entrepreneurs to our town we have to make it appealing. We need to take every opportunity to fund programs to raise healthy families. We need places for parents to gather, learn and bond. Rimbey Neighborhood Place checks all of these boxes. Please support this program and keep them in our community.

Thank you so much for hearing what I have to say. I would gladly meet with any member of council to discuss this issue and opportunities, solutions and strategies for improvement!! My family and I love Rimbey, we are excited to see continuous improvements and appreciate maintenance of our current programs.

Sincerely
Kelly LeBlanc,
Mom, Registered Nurse & Proud Community Member



Ponoka County is a welcoming, inclusive community where every member feels valued and is able to connect in a meaningful way to people and services: they are confident enough to bring ideas forward, help make them happen and feel part of the solution.



Foundation Assumptions

Services should be readily accessible no matter what size the community is.	Isolation can affect health.	Most people use Face Book	Changing demographics may change needs	Communities within the County are different sizes and are unique
Rural people have lower expectations of service.	Organizations see the value of collective impact	The community may not be aware of the social needs of their citizens	Most people are willing/want to be more connected to people, services, and programs	Under 18 needs are mostly covered by the FRN and the Wolf Creek Youth Foundation.
There are barriers to people finding and accessing information and assistance.	There are barriers to people finding and accessing information and assistance.	Seniors needs are mostly covered by <i>FCSS</i>	Seniors needs are mostly covered by the FRN and the Wolf Creek Youth Foundation.	It's important to engage the community to try and find out what they think they need