

**SUMMER VILLAGE OF GHOST LAKE
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
MINUTES**

July 26th, 2022, 5:30. p.m.
Virtual, Via Zoom

COUNCIL	John Walsh Carey Fougere Karen Foudy	Mayor Deputy Mayor Councillor
STAFF	Mustafa Hashimi Sam Lokman	Chief Administrative Officer Finance Manager

ITEM DESCRIPTION

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Called to order by Mayor Walsh at 5:33 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

22-096

Moved by Councillor Fougere that the council approve the agenda items as presented.

CARRIED

3.0 DELEGATIONS

NIL

4.0 MINUTES

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Feedback from Open House

The open house session was well attended with engagement from the villagers.

Administration is working on a survey and summarizing the anonymous feedback from the event and publish the results afterwards.

5.2 Disc Golf Course Resolutions

The full resolutions are attached at the end of this document.

5.2.1 Resolution #1

Resolution 1 was reviewed. No feedbacks/comments from councillors or administration.

22-097

Moved by Councillor Foudy to approve Resolution #1 as presented by Council.

CARRIED

5.2.2 Resolution #2

22-098

Moved by Councillor Fougere to approve Resolution #2 as presented by Council.

CARRIED

5.2.3 Resolution #3

Holes 1-6 for the disc golf course were removed and there will be no new holes put into that area. Ghost Lake will continue to permit activities that were historically permitted in the area.

22-099

Moved by Mayor Walsh to approve Resolution #3 as presented by Council.

CARRIED

5.3 Disc Golf Course Installation on Revised Location

Given that the new resolutions have passed, there are currently no impediments preventing the installation of the disc golf course on a revised location. As per

requirement from Alberta Transportation, the course will be located at least 30m away from the highway. The installation won't involve any excavation/ digging in order to ensure minimum impact on the environment.

22-100

Moved by Councillor Foudy to approve the installation of the Disc Golf Course on a revised location.

CARRIED

****A map of the revised disc golf boundaries is attached at the end of this document****

5.4 Disc Golf Event for Regatta

Discussion surrounding whether the disc golf may be used for the Regatta. Currently there are no issues which may hinder usage. There will be maps provided which will indicate sensitive areas that need to be protected and outline the new boundaries of the disc golf course.

22-101

Moved by Councillor Foudy to host a Disc Golf event for the 2022 Regatta.

CARRIED

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

22-102

Moved by Councillor Fougere being that the agenda items have concluded, the meeting adjourn at 5:58 p.m.

CARRIED

Disc Golf Course Resolutions July 2022

Resolution #1:

In the opinion of council, disc golf is casual or light recreational activity.

The reference point in the MDP on page 14 refers to this including activities such as walking.

There is no specific mention of disc golf in any of our prior statutory documents.

The primary activity in disc golf (and its major potential impact) is related to walking

The physical act of throwing the disc is relatively inconsequential from an impact perspective.

This is not an activity or usage which is felt to be equivalent to those which occur on the golf course, playground, horseshoe pit area, sports court or boat launch area which are classified as “more intensive recreational activities.

As such the use of any of the areas identified as “undeveloped” on page 11 and “protected” on page 14 of the MDP is permissible. It is of note that there are no plans or apparent public desire to ban walking, cycling, cross country skiing, tobogganing and other current uses in any of the other “protected” areas identified in the MDP.

Therefore, there is no need to amend the statutory plans given that no bylaw/policy or resolution is being passed which would conflict them. (Hence there is also no need for a public hearing).

Council thereby resolves to classify Disc Golf as casual or light recreational activity which is permissible in the protected areas as outlined in the MDP

Resolution #2:

The MDP, MSP and LUB do not prohibit all development on any of the P-1 designated areas. The area the disc golf course is located in is designated as P-1. This includes those portions identified as “Protected” within the village with the exception of the west end Wetland which is designated as a Preservation area.

It is felt that disc golf course is a minimal or limited development that is consistent with the policy of use for a “Protected area” due the limited land disturbance and minimal structure (equivalent to 9 post holes). By changing the installation to temporary removable structures it is felt by council to have even less impact. It is noted that the MDP does not prohibit development in the “Protected area” but directs council to limit development and the disc golf course is felt by council to be consistent with that goal and policy.

Given the results of the recent public survey in 2021, it would appear that the majority of villagers responding also felt that the location of the disc golf course was permissible. It is also clear from that survey that concerns about potential environmental impacts on the escarpment and its grassland ecosystem needed to be considered (but did not prohibit the installation).

The disc golf course is consistent with currently designated use in its current location as it does not represent a significant change in use of the land (recreational) nor is it likely to result in a significant change in the intensity of use of the land.

The development Officer has independently reviewed the disc golf course and does not feel that a development permit is required. The disc course is not felt to be a development in his opinion. The change in format to temporary / removable disc golf baskets for relocated holes reinforces that decision that this is not a development.

Council resolves that the presence of a disc golf course does not constitute a development and as such no amendment of the statutory plans or development permits are required for its presence or relocation on any of the P-1 designated areas (with the exception of the Wetland Preservation area).

Resolution #3:

Although the above two resolutions would allow Council to maintain the disc golf course in its current location, council acknowledges their responsibility to consider potential impact on the environment. We acknowledge the concerns raised by the public and NELS committee over the escarpment area in which some of the disc golf course is located. Two independent environmental experts have confirmed that the native grassland in this area has significance and ideally should be conserved. It is council's opinion that the wording of the current statutory documents does not identify this specific area nor afford it any special protection. Ultimately Council would like to rectify this situation in the long term thru amendments to the MDP and the revision of the LUB. In the short term council proposes the following immediate action.

Council resolves to identify the boundaries of the area requiring this change in status and to remove the current disc golf course holes from that area immediately while awaiting determination of those boundaries. This will involve removal of holes 1-4 and prevent installation of any new holes temporary or permanent in that same area. Traditional / historic use of that area such as walking, cycling, cross country skiing, tobogganing, etc. will continue.

New Disc Golf Boundaries

