

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
January 14, 2025
4:30 P.M.
AGENDA

1. Agenda Additions/Deletions
2. Agenda Approval
3. 2024 Parks & Leisure Services Report 2-9
4. Stettler Board of Trade Organizational Structure Verbal
5. County of Stettler Letter – Request for a Joint Council Meeting 10-11
6. Additions
7. Adjournment

2024

PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES

REPORT



Parks & Leisure Year-in-Review

For the Town of Stettler Parks and Leisure Services Department, 2024 has been full of events and lots of new/existing programming. In addition, various capital projects were completed or are currently underway. Here is an outline of what was a busy 2024

Events

It was once again a very busy 2024 event wise for the Parks and Leisure Services team. More importantly, there has been a significant increase in attendance numbers for internal program offerings.

In February, our annual Family Day Winter Carnival event was held at the SRC. For the past two years, the department has partnered with FCSS, the Heartland Youth Centre, the Family Resource Network and the Stettler Public Library. This year's activities started with a pancake breakfast put on by FCSS. Immediately following breakfast there was a Magic Show in the Hub by Magicmon, carnival games put on by local youth that attend the HYC, and a family photobooth. A free hot dog lunch was provided in addition to a family swim and public skating with Klay the DJ entertaining everyone in the rink. All events were free of charge and held at the SRC. Family Day is a great opportunity for those that don't typically access the facility for user group programming like hockey, lacrosse, swimming, etc. to enjoy the SRC and what it has to offer families.



In April, the Erskine Curling Club inquired about the possibility of hosting the Boston Pizza Cup (Men's Provincial Curling Championship) at the Stettler Recreation Centre from February 5-9, 2025 when the original host pulled out. After some discussions with regular user groups in regards to ice availability impacts we were able to get an agreement signed off with the organizers and Curling Alberta and we look forward to hosting the event in February 2025. Staff and event organizers have been meeting throughout the planning stages to ensure another successful curling event is held at the SRC.

As is the norm in late Spring and Summer, our ball parks and soccer pitches have been hubs of activity which also helps to keep our campground full each weekend. Stettler Minor Ball was once again able to host their annual female softball tournament June 2-4 with the event hosting 65 teams in 2024. This is an increase from the traditional 54 teams that have been accommodated in the past. We estimate that this event brings in approximately 2,500 participants and spectators to our community. In addition, the annual "For Heaven's Sake" Slow pitch Tournament was held September 6-8, 2024. This tournament has been operating since 2014 when it started with just 10 teams to now 36 teams. The tournament has

raised ~\$135,000 with major contributions going to the Red Deer Regional Health Foundation and the Ronald McDonald House of Central Alberta. Since 2020 the event has made donations to the Town of Stettler totalling ~\$35,000 for a future playground development at the Stettler Sports Park.

The annual Stettler Triathlon took place at the SRC on Sunday, July 14th, 2024. Once again, the triathlon was a huge success. This event is led by a group of energetic and passionate volunteers and supported by SRC staff. This past year's race, saw 210 athletes participate (up 30 athletes from 2023) and approx. 300 family, volunteers and general spectators.

Summer cultural events kicked off on July 1st with Canada Day. The event saw 1,403 people go through the gates at the museum to attend Canada Day celebrations. This number does not include the people that attended West Stettler Park in the evening. The success of Canada Day is a result of partnerships between the Town of Stettler, Celebrate Canada, Stettler Town and Country Museum, the Stettler Public Library, the Family Resource Network and FCSS, which all come together to ensure a full day of family fun activities are held starting with a family fun day at the museum. Our traditional activities are held at West Stettler Park and include live music, lawn games, cupcakes (500 served in total) and a firework's show to wrap up the day. Summer was also highlighted by the weekly Music in the Park concert series which was held every Wednesday for a total of ten (10) shows, with acts providing a wide array of music to the public.



Summer Event season wrapped up with Stettler hosting Alberta Culture Days for the sixth year in a row with activities taking place from September 1-30. A wide range of activities were offered to the public ranging from art and cooking classes, museum displays, presentations and tours. This year culture days featured the culture of Switzerland with a main feature weekend that was held at the Stettler Elementary School on Friday, September 13th and then at the Museum on September 14th.



Major presentations and events were also held throughout the two days including alphorn demonstrations, Swiss Life Cultural presentation, traditional food sampling, Swiss dog and cow show and a Swiss Cow coloring contest which saw 426 entries from students in Grade's 1-6 throughout town and county.

This years Alberta Culture Days Celebrations saw approx. 2,000 people participate whether that was through one of the school programs that were offered or an evening/weekend activity that was held for the general public. A full outline of the events that were held can be found here www.stettlerculturaldays.com.



Our final event of the year was our annual "Skate with Santa" event that was held on December 23rd as part of the communities "Night Before the Night Before" celebrations. As is always the case the event was very popular for families with activities that included public skating with Klay the DJ, a craft corner with the Stettler Public Library a photo booth and of course a visit from Santa and the Grinch.

Facility Programs & Services

Aquatic Centre – This past year we have had the pleasure of teaching swimming lessons to all the schools, both in the town and in the county, as well as Alix Mac school during the 2024 year. This means over 900 students received lessons through the schools.

Our after school and summer lesson programs to date have had about 625 swimmers partake.

We are fortunate that through key sponsorships we can offer free swim times throughout the month. Zoe and Shane's No Frills public swim is the 1st and 3rd Friday evening in the month. Superfluity Family swim is the 2nd Sunday of each month followed by Simonin Law Family swim which takes place on the 3rd Sunday of the month and finally Kid Sport Sponsors the 4th Sunday public swim. These free swim opportunities give those who may be under privileged or just want to spend more time in the pool.

New to the Aquatic Center is Special Olympics. The first session was held on Oct 18th and is a combined program with our sensory swim time. The first hour is offered as a “have fun” structure the last half hour is instructed. Thanks to Jason Delwo for the Facebook post and we look forward to supporting a possible Special Olympics meet at the end of the session which will conclude in April 2025.



Our shut down was very successful as we were able to switch out the sand in the filter tanks and have our facility up and running in a very short period of time. Thank you to the Utility Department for their help with sand removal and to the aquatic staff for moving 24,500 lbs of sand. With the help of the staff moving the sand, this gave the final invoice a \$1600.00 credit because the contractors were able to get to another job earlier. A huge shout out to the heavy aquatic lifters!

The Aquatic Center also managed to fulfill a couple more capital projects in 2024. Window film was added to the south facing windows. In July, as a result of the power failure when a crow flew into a power pole, new VFD’s were installed on air handling unit 1 (the main unit for the pool basin). As a result of the power failure, the control unit for AHU1 had a major melt down and with the quick response of our contractors and having the VFD’s on hand that were originally scheduled to be installed during shut down, we were only down for the rest of that day and until 9 am the next morning once ATCO electric put bird cages around the switches and power could be restored to normal.

Fitness Centre – The Fitness Centre continues to be a busy place within the SRC the entire year. A combination of regular members and an increase in drop in’s due to some of the work taking place in Stettler has kept the space very busy each day.

Programming offered by the fitness centre included Active Living, Spin Cycling, Early Riser and Any Age Any Stage. This past year a total of 5 sessions were ran (4-6 weeks each at two times per week) with approx. 35-40 registrants per session. The Adult Living program is offered 2 times per session as it is our most popular program offering.

This past year we updated some of our internal fitness equipment which included the purchase of a new and safer squat rack. The new safety features offered will ensure patrons are safe when lifting significant weight while using the rack which is one of our most used pieces of equipment.



Arena's - The SRC was a busy place to end the 2024 hockey/figure skating season. The Stettler Imperials went on another long playoff run in 2024 as well playing in front of near capacity crowds each night. This was in addition to various minor hockey teams that stretched their seasons right to the end. The annual Stettler Figure Skating Carnival was also able to go mid March in 2024 with fantastic crowds as always. The 2024 season was highlighted with the Stettler Minor Hockey Association hosting the U18 Tier 1 Provincial Championships. As a result of hosting this Championship, the Stettler Minor Hockey Association was awarded the 2024 Provincial Championship Host Site of the Year Award from Hockey Alberta.

In April, staff were busy getting the ice removed and started prepping the building for dry floor activity which includes hosting the Stettler Tradeshow. This year's tradeshow saw record numbers and is a great event within the facility as for many attendees it is the only time they come into the building. Through out the spring, Stettler Minor Lacrosse kept the building busy. SMLA participant numbers continue to rise each year which has warranted additional staffing during Lacrosse season to assist with increased spectators and large event weekends.

At the conclusion of the SMLA season, our two arenas were shut down for a couple weeks to complete the overhead door replacement as part of the 2024 capital budget. Once completed we were able to host two different circuses within the building.

As summer came to an end and prior to the start of the 2024-25 hockey season, the East Central Hockey School took over the building for there annual week in August with a sold-out camp of both local and out of town participants.

Overall arena user numbers remain steady within the SRC. We lost one historical adult rec team with a weekly booking to start 2024 but we gained 3 additional groups, which is a great increase in one year. SMHA continues to be a model association for female hockey programming which keeps there numbers historically steady and SMHA utilizes our early morning ice times that are available. Figure skating and Fun Hockey are our other two significant user groups that continue to utilize their historical ice bookings.

Lastly, as indicated earlier, preparations are currently underway within the facility to get the blue arena and our various meeting spaces prepared to host the Alberta Men's Curling Provincial Championship (Boston Pizza Cup) which will be held from February 5-9, 2025. In addition, it was recently announced that the building will be hosting the U13A Female Hockey Provincials March 27-30, 2025.

Parks & Open Spaces

As with previous years, Parks and Leisure Services staff were busy ensuring our facilities, parks and open spaces were maintained to the highest standard and also included a few new projects throughout the year.

During spring and summer months Parks and Leisure staff were entrenched in regular duties (ongoing care and maintenance of parks and green spaces, spray park, campground, tree pruning and flower beds/pots) in addition to a number of other key projects related to our parks and open spaces.

In August, Senior Staff started work with our consulting firm to establish a new Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan for the community. The plan is currently in third draft form and the Parks and Open Spaces

Committee along with Senior Staff are working with our consultant to establish action plans(s). We look forward to our consultant wrapping up the project with a final submission in the first quarter of 2025.

In September, after two years of planning between the department and our local Kin Clubs of Stettler, construction started on our new inclusive playground located on the corner of 60th St and 50th A Ave (behind the Canalta Hotel). The park has an agricultural theme which celebrates the strong agricultural roots of our community. The Public Works team were responsible for base prep work of the playground area in addition to base prep work required for the pathway that meanders the park area. P & L staff were responsible for the finish landscaping. We look forward to the official grand opening in the Spring of 2025.



During the winter, in addition to overseeing operations in the SRC, staff were busy ensuring that the skating oval was flooded for the public after it had been built up with the help of the public works team. P & L staff have prepared the oval for flooding to begin the start of 2024-25 season. In addition, staff have recently completed the hanging of ~2 Km of lights in and around the oval path, essentially doubling the number of lights from previous years. All other outdoor skating surfaces are built and generally maintained by the public works team which do an exceptional job keeping the surfaces safe and playable.

Lastly, after a lengthy wait, construction on the outdoor arena started in September. Board construction was completed in early December by Admiral Welding which ultimately took the project over from the original contractor. Ice was ready to go prior to Christmas vacation and has seen considerable usage in a short period of time. Chain link shielding will be added to the end boards in February.

Parks & Leisure Administration

Staff continue to sit and work on various internal/external committees. Senior Staff met regularly throughout the year with Stettler's Circle of Services, the Heartland Beautification Committee, and Culture Days as previously noted. Internally, meetings were held as part of the Town of Stettler Strategic Planning, Parks and Open Spaces Committee, SRC Expansion/Field House Committee and the Town of Stettler Christmas Destination Committee.

In-person meetings were held on a regular basis with various key stakeholder groups and leaders to assist them with their programming opportunities, facility usage/access/fee's, etc. Groups included the Senior Centre Drop-In Club, Swim Club, Minor Hockey, Figure Skating, Minor Lacrosse, Fun Hockey, Stettler Imperials, Clearview, Minor Ball and Minor Soccer.

Capital Budget Summary - 2024

	Project	Budget	Actual
2024	SRC Arena Domestic Hot Water Holding Tank	\$33,000	TBD
	SRC Arena Ice Resurfacing Machine Holding Tank	\$35,000	TBD
	SRC Arena Overhead Doors	\$30,000	\$29,629
	SRC Aquatic Centre Sand in Sand Filter Replacement	\$35,000	\$29,000
	SRC Aquatic Centre Window Coverings	\$15,000	\$6,435
	SRC Aquatic Centre Water Cannon Replacements in leisure pool	\$32,000	\$37,802
	SRC Building Maintenance Software Upgrade	\$6,500	\$6,441
	Sports Park Backstop Fence Replacement (2 Diamonds)	\$10,000	\$8,560
	Sports Park Parking Lot – Curbs	\$15,000	\$13,020
	West Stettler Spray Park Upgrades – Reserve for 2027	\$50,000	\$50,000
	Top Dressing Spreader	\$10,800	TBD
	Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan	\$30,000	\$35,579
	Mower Replacement	\$96,000	\$89,916
	Lions Campground Furnace and Hot Water Tank Replacement	\$11,500	\$7,512
	Community Hall Hot Water Tank Replacement	\$10,000	\$8,498
	Outdoor Arena Refurbishment	\$104,210	\$104,210



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December 23, 2024

Leann Graham, CAO
Town of Stettler
Box 280
Stettler, AB TOC 2L0

Sent via email to: lgraham@stettler.net

Dear Leann,

Re: Request for a Joint Council Meeting

As per Council's request, I am writing to request a joint Council meeting between our two municipalities to discuss several key regional issues they feel require collaborative attention and resolution.

The proposed agenda for the meeting includes the following:

1. **Physician Recruitment** – Addressing concerns regarding cancelled meetings and the need for structured organization to support this critical regional priority.
2. **Regional Fire Agreement** – Reviewing progress made over the past year and addressing the absence of agreements with surrounding villages.
3. **Airport Operations** – Discussing its management and identifying our shared responsibility.
4. **Administration Fees** – Exploring the rationale behind fees charged by both entities and ensuring transparency and equity in their application.

We recognize the importance of open dialogue and collaboration in advancing these issues and a joint meeting will provide the necessary platform to discuss solutions, timelines and develop a shared vision for our region. Please feel free to forward any additional pressing agenda items Town Councillors may wish to discuss.

Let us know your availability for scheduling this meeting for January, and we will work to finalize the details. Please note our Council is out of town attending the annual Agricultural Services Board Conference, January 20 through January 22.

We value the opportunity to collaborate and look forward to a productive discussion. Please contact me if you have any questions or require further clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Yvette Cassidy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "Y" and a long, sweeping underline.

Yvette Cassidy
CAO

CC
Council for the County of Stettler No. 6