

Report to Council

Report Title:	Walkerton FC 2022 Season Review		
Prepared By:	Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services		
Department:	Parks and Recreation		
Date:	January 10, 2023		
Report Number:	REC2023-01	File Number:	C11REC
Attachments:	Walkerton FC 2022 Season Review		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number REC2023-01 – Walkerton FC 2022 Season Review, prepared by Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

We are pleased to provide a letter from the Walkerton Football Club (Walkerton FC) for Council's information on the 2022 and prospective 2023 season as well as future considerations for the soccer fields. The Parks and Recreation staff have been working diligently over the past few years with Council's support to make needed improvements to the drainage and irrigations system to improve the soccer fields and the turf conditions for all users. The historical challenges with the original construction of the fields are continuing to be addressed where possible pending the availability of time, and resources.

As the Parks and Recreation Department worked to implement 2022 operations of the Bruce Power Regional Soccer Fields for the full resumption of minor soccer activities by Walkerton FC, challenges did present themselves including very wet weather at the start of the season and staffing shortages which did affect the schedule of turf maintenance activities.

Regular communications with the Walkerton FC President throughout the season and at the end of the season allowed staff to attend to timely to necessary maintenance or equipment needs. You will find attached a written summation of pertinent information about the league's programs, local and regional trends challenges and maintenance concerns for Council's information as request from the Walkerton FC. The review provided by Walkerton FC is attached for Council's information and consideration.

Analysis:

The maintenance activities for preparing the fields at the start of the year is a joint effort between municipal staff and Walkerton FC executive and volunteers. For Council's information the Parks and Recreation Department inspects the fields, orders the necessary line paint supplies for the season, rents equipment to roll the fields and performs aeration, fertilizing and cutting with department equipment and assists with placement of goal frames.

Walkerton FC then measures and applies the line markings for the various field setups at the start and throughout the season.

2022 Soccer Season Activities:

- Dec 2021 through March 2022 – supplies ordering, goal frame/net repairs and purchasing in preparation of 2022 season opening in May
- February through April 2022 – Summer staff and permanent staff vacancy lead to less resources to attend to fields early.
- April through June 2022 – establishment of soccer field use schedules
- May – wet ground conditions early limiting the ability to roll the fields, aerate and keep up with grass cutting. May is also the busiest month across all facilities with opening and closing and training summer students. Staff worked with resources available to improve field conditions for the start of the season.
- June 2022 - OFSAA Tournament – staff assist with field maintenance requests at both Bruce Power Regional Soccer Fields and the field at WDCS to Walkerton FC's satisfaction.
- June through July 2022 – Irrigation system issues and trouble shooting- affected fields.
- Season end meeting and review of 2022 operations with Walkerton FC.

As outlined in the letter a few specific items have been outlined by the Walkerton FC related to maintenance concerns or future needs for the Bruce Power Soccer Complex. I have commented on those below:

- Crest of the fields (especially north fields) – these issues stem from the original construction of the fields and are most evident at the sides and ends of the fields. Correction would require re-engineering/reconstruction of the fields including drainage and irrigation lines or adding of material to build up and adjust the grade of slope in the problem areas.
- Irrigation Issues of NW Field – Staff contracted Platinum Irrigation to help fix the leak and check/adjust all heads to proper height tolerances. This should be rectified for the 2023 soccer season.
- Maintenance/Turf Management Plan – was drafted by staff in April 2022 and is being implemented which includes multiple fertilizing, irrigation, over-seeding and aeration and the turf will improve over time.
- Large Dirt heap – there is pile left over excavated material from the drainage tile trenching of fields 3 and 4 from 2020 located along the far west side (edge of central practice field). This is to be removed when new parking lot and entrance is established on west side of fields.
- Congestion of parking availability – The municipality looks to provide additional parking with the new parking lot development on the west side of the fields as part of the business park expansion.

- Ball netting for field ends/side lines – This can be explored and costed for future budget years.
- Lighting of Fields – may be a consideration for future budgets as the area is further developed.

While the Bruce Power Regional Soccer Complex was initiated to become a regional hub, it will take years and ongoing staff resources to support the needed infrastructure. There are significant dollars associated with some of the items listed and outlined in the letter. Through ongoing partnerships with the Walkerton FC staff will continue to work to address Walkerton FC requests and maintenance concerns and look for grant opportunities where possible. However, the reality is there are limitations to what infrastructure we may be able to provide due to budget and human resource constraints.

Additionally, in regards to fees and rates, the municipality has increased the established rental rates in 2022 and for 2023 inline with area market rates. The 2022 budget projected revenues of \$9,000 and expenses of \$140,600 for the soccer field operations.

Staff feel that there is a solid and supportive operational relationship with Walkerton FC and look forward to continued improvements to the fields, communications and coordination of maintenance activities.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

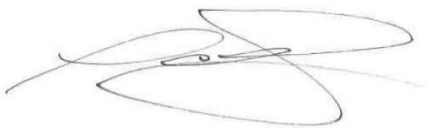
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| • Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance | N/A |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?
N/A

There are no immediate budget implications resulting from recommendations of this report except for future considerations. The current ICIP grant is helping to cover a significant portion of the cost for planned washroom/changeroom building design and construction at the soccer fields in 2023.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark Coleman".

Mark Coleman, Director of Community Services

Reviewed By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sonya Watson".

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer