

November 26, 2018
Cobourg, ON –

Cobourg Ombudsman Rules in Favour of the Cobourg Taxpayers Association

The Town of Cobourg's Ombudsman has ruled in favour of the Cobourg Taxpayers Association (CTA) in a report scheduled to go to today's Special Council Meeting.

A complaint filed in early May by the CTA alleged that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee acting as a Steering Committee failed to follow three of the Town's policies and Procedures. The Ombudsman's investigation addressed these concerns and found in favour of the CTA that the:

- Agendas, minutes and times, dates or locations of Parks and Recreation Advisory Steering Committee meetings are to be available to any member of the public when requested.
- Meetings of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Steering Committee are public meetings open to any member of the public

Although the Ombudsman found that there was no breach of the Town of Cobourg's Public Comment and Complaint Policy (LEG-ADM19), he recommended that the Town reaffirm its commitment to its Public Comment and Complaint Policy.

On May 4, 2018, four CTA executives attempted to attend a Parks and Recreation Advisory Steering Committee meeting and were ejected by Director Dean Hustwick without cause or authority.

The Municipal Clerk was immediately contacted. Both he and Mayor Gil Brocanier insisted the meeting was not open to the public.

Dennis Nabieszko, Secretary of the CTA, praised the Ombudsman for his thorough investigation and findings.

"This is a positive finding in favour of public engagement. We applaud the Office of the Ombudsman for promoting fairness, accountability and transparency in the public sector."

Nabieszko said the CTA looks forward to a positive working relationship with the newly elected Cobourg Council and their commitment to value the input of citizens in the decision-making process.

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For more information, please contact
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