



**Township of Zorra**  
**Embro Dog Park Committee**  
**Terms of Reference**

**Preamble:**

We strive to make Zorra better by doing our part. In Zorra, we take great pride in maintaining our exceptional rural lifestyle, made possible by our highly engaged community and government. Our location allows residents and businesses to enjoy a small village atmosphere with abundant green space, easy and fast access to big city amenities and large consumer markets. Zorra is progressive, environmentally strong and prosperous. Our highly productive rural land provides a solid foundation for successful and varied agriculture and food production. In Zorra Township, we care.

**Mission Statement:**

We are a vibrant community committed to enhancing the quality of life for Township of Zorra residents through the provision of leisure, parks, recreation, trails, arts, culture and program services.

**1. Mandate**

The purpose of the Embro Dog Park Committee is lead fundraising efforts and make recommendations to Council regarding the scope of project for the potential dog park being constructed in Embro whilst adhering to the visions put forward in the **Township of Zorra's Strategic Plan** and the **Recreation, Arts and Culture Master Plan**. The **Township will assume responsibility for the construction phase**, ensuring that the project is delivered in alignment with community priorities and strategic objectives.

**2. Objectives**

- The Committee may propose and advocate for details regarding Embro Dog Park by way of recommendations to Council.
- The Committee shall collaborate with Zorra Township Council, the Recreation Department Staff, community groups, and volunteers to realize and sustain the community's vision of "a vibrant, prosperous, engaged and environmentally conscious community" as put forward in the **Township of Zorra's Strategic Plan** and the **Recreation, Arts**

## **and Culture Master Plan.**

### **3. Duties and Functions**

The Embro Dog Park Committee shall be responsible to:

- Develop and execute a fundraising plan that supports and encourages community engagement and support for the dog park and actively promote and support fundraising events and activities by attending and/or volunteering.
- Prepare a draft scope of work in terms of preferred dog park features, layout, conceptual drawings and plans with the assistance of Recreation staff.
- Provide to Council a final site selection report including the committee's recommended location, layout and features. This report will include the criteria used to compare sites, rational for site selection and financial and operational considerations associated with each site considered.
- Stay informed on project progress by reviewing staff reports, and guide project direction by making decisions through formal motions.
- Provide input, when called upon, to the Recreation Department regarding construction
- Attend donor recognition/ribbon cutting ceremony.
- The committee will dissolve once project funds are raised and the project is constructed.

### **4. Committee Structure**

#### **4.1. Committee Composition**

The Committee shall be comprised of

- a) Up to six (6) voting members who must be Zorra residents;
- b) One (1) Councillor who shall have full voting privileges; and
- c) The Mayor shall sit "ex officio" on the Committee and may attend all

meetings and shall have full voting privileges but shall not be counted for the purpose of quorum, as per **Procedural By-law 04-18 (s.8.4)**.

All members are to be appointed by way of Council resolution.

A representative from the Recreation Department will serve as a staff resource to the Committee. Other staff and delegates may be invited to provide input at times. Staff and delegates are not to be counted towards quorum and do not have voting privileges.

#### 4.2. Committee Term

The Committee will exist until the project funds are raised and the project is constructed.

##### 4.2.1. Vacancies

Vacancies arise when a committee member resigns. Notice for the filling of vacancies will be published on the Township's website and Township newsletters (when possible). Additional recruitment measures may be employed by Township Staff, when deemed necessary, to fill vacancies on committees.

#### 4.3. Committee Chair

Of the voting members, a Chair shall be elected by majority vote at the first meeting. Members of Council are not eligible to serve as a Chair. If a Chair is not present, members are to select an acting Chair to serve in the same capacity for the duration of that meeting.

The Chair is responsible for ensuring the effective operation of the Committee and its roles in accordance with the Township of Zorra's meeting procedures, as per **Procedural By-law #04-05 (s.6.0)**. Specifically, the Chair shall be responsible for:

- Calling meetings to order;
- Conducting meetings in accordance with the municipality's **Procedural By-law #04-05**;
- Establishing an atmosphere to encourage the exchange of ideas;
- Acting as spokesperson for the Committee; and,
- Representing the Embro Dog Park Committee when necessary.

#### 4.4. Secretary

The Secretary shall be a member of the Township of Zorra's staff unless otherwise advised. The Secretary shall be responsible for:

- Recording, processing and distributing minutes and agendas;
- Maintaining the files on the Committee and be knowledgeable in proper record-keeping procedures
- Ensuring draft minutes are prepared prior to next meeting for inclusion on upcoming Committee agenda; and
- Ensuring that adopted minutes are forwarded to the Township staff in a timely manner, for inclusion on upcoming Council agenda.

#### 4.5. Committee Members

Committee members are expected to:

- Attend regular Committee meetings;
- Review staff reports, and participate in decision making;
- Advise the Chair or Staff if unable to attend a meeting;
- Actively participate in Committee meetings;
- Work in a cooperative manner with other Committee members; and
- Actively participate in carrying out the duties, functions and objectives of the committee.

### 5. Committee Operations

#### 5.1. Meeting Structure and Format

Regular monthly meetings may be held as required.

Where deemed suitable, the Manager of Recreation may propose a virtual meeting option. Agendas for each meeting will be distributed to members in advance along with the minutes of the previous meeting. Agendas shall be posted on the Township website.

In consultation with the Committee and Council, representatives from the Recreation Department will generate content for each Agenda to ensure

progress of the Committee's work.

Committee meetings are open to the public and are subject to the provisions of Section 239 of the ***Municipal Act, 2001***. Members of the public who are in attendance shall not interfere with the conduct of the Committee. However, should these parties wish to participate in the meeting they may do so at an assigned time as designated in the Committee's Agenda (under "Public Question Period").

#### 5.2. Quorum

The definition of quorum shall be consistent with that given in the **Procedural By-law #04-05 (s. 5.1)** and is the majority of the members of the Committee not prevented from voting by having a pecuniary interest under any Act (e.g. for a committee with 8 members, quorum is 5 members).

If no quorum is present one half hour after the time appointed for a meeting of the Committee, the Secretary shall record the names of the members present and the meeting shall stand adjourned until the day of the next regular or special meeting. If determined practical, a meeting may proceed without a quorum, however, substantive recommendations are not to be fully ratified until supported by the majority of members.

#### 5.3. Decision Making and Voting

A resolution is deemed to be carried if the majority of members present vote in the affirmative. Recorded votes shall not be permitted. The Committee shall not reconsider a previous motion, unless directed to do so by Council.

### 6.0 Order of Business

#### 6.1. Committee Agenda

Unless circumstances and subject matter dictate otherwise, the order of procedure for meetings of the Committee shall generally be as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
4. Minutes
5. Delegations
6. Business Arising from the Minutes
7. Reports
8. Information Items
9. Public Question Period
10. Next Meeting

## 11. Adjournment

Committee Members will forward Agenda items to the Secretary by 4:30 p.m., four business days prior to the meeting. An electronic Agenda for each meeting will be distributed to members the two business days prior to the meeting, including the minutes of the previous meeting. The agenda and minutes will be posted on the Township of Zorra's official website.

The original agenda and minutes will be managed by the Township.

### 6.2. Call to Order

As soon after the hour fixed for the meeting as there is a quorum present, the Chair shall call the members to order and the Secretary shall record the names of members in attendance.

### 6.3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest or the General Nature Thereof

See "Conflict of Interest/Declaration of Pecuniary Interest" under s.10.3.

### 6.4. Minutes from Previous Meeting

The Committee will approve the minutes from the previous meeting. In the event that corrections are considered for the minutes of the previous meeting(s), it shall be considered appropriate to adopt the minutes as amended. Approved and signed minutes will be received by Council. Substantive recommendations will be forwarded by the Secretary to the Recreation Department staff for review and Council action if deemed necessary. Recommendations must relate to the Committee's mandate. Any recommendations/resolutions from the Committee that Council has made a decision on will be forwarded by email to the Committee from the Secretary. If further action is required, the item will be added to the upcoming Committee agenda.

Minutes of meetings will be managed by municipal records management practices accordingly as per the Township's **Records Management By-law**.

### 6.5. Delegations

Any Individual or group wishing to present information to the Committee shall advise the Secretary by 4:30 p.m., four business days prior to the regular meeting of the Committee stating the purpose of the delegation. The request shall state the nature of the business including specific detailed information to allow the Committee time to research the matter prior to the meeting at which the person wishes to be heard. If the Secretary is not satisfied that sufficient information has been provided to allow the Committee to make an

informed decision, the individual or group shall be informed that further information is required. The delegation with the Committee will be postponed until such time as the necessary information is provided.

An individual heard by the Committee shall be limited in speaking to not more than fifteen (15) minutes, except a delegation consisting of more than three (3) persons shall be limited to not more than twenty (20) minutes. Under extenuating circumstances, speaking times may be extended by approval of the Committee.

#### 6.6. Business Arising from the Minutes

Business arising from the minutes includes any reports, issues, and/or other pieces of information from previous meetings whereby no conclusion was drawn on the matter. Business may be carried over from previous meetings when more information is needed on the matter. The date of their first appearance on the agenda shall be noted and repeated for 2 months, and unless the item is disposed of by Council or Committee, the item shall be removed from the agenda.

#### 6.7 Reports and Presentations

Reports and Presentations includes information provided by staff and or consultants and/or vendors regarding the proposed projects. Information to be presented followed by a motion introduced by a Committee Member. The motion may include requests for information or a recommendation for Council's consideration or to receive the item as information.

#### 6.8. New Business

New business includes items that have not been previously presented, considered, and/or acted upon by the Committee that require direction or a decision. New business may include matters that are introduced by a Committee Member to the Secretary four business days prior to the meeting (as per section 6.1) or at a meeting; however, consideration of the matter shall be given at the next regular meeting unless otherwise determined by consent of the majority of the Committee members.

#### 6.9. Information Items

Items which do not require action of the Committee may be placed on the agenda as an information item.

#### 6.10. Public Question Period

An individual wishing to appear under Public Comment Period, to present comments to the Committee on an item on a public agenda, may submit a written request, including the item on the agenda they request to speak to and any written material, to the Township Clerk no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day prior to the Committee meeting. The member or official to whom a question is directed may answer orally at the same meeting or at the next regular Committee meeting. The public are urged to contact staff prior to the meeting so that an item may be properly researched and presented to the Committee.

## **7. Subcommittees**

The Embro Dog Park Committee may establish subcommittees, as needed, to consider particular issues and carry out specific projects within the mandate of the Committee. Should the Committee decide that a subcommittee is needed for an issue, the formation of said subcommittee does not require the approval of Council. The subcommittee will follow this Terms of Reference unless otherwise determined by the Committee or Council.

The subcommittee shall be comprised of Embro Dog Park Committee members. The number of members shall not form quorum of the Committee that established said subcommittee. The Subcommittee shall provide regular information reports to the committee and may request further direction from the Committee.

Quorum is not required nor permitted at subcommittee meetings and minutes are not necessary. However, the subcommittee must document all attendees present at the meeting as well as any information the subcommittee members deem important for Committee knowledge, such as summarizing the subcommittees discussions and action in progress to the Committee.

## **8. Reporting**

### **8.1. Lead Department**

The Recreation Department will be the lead for the Committee. Staff from other departments and/or members of other agencies may attend meetings as required to provide expertise or report on various matters. Should the project come to proceed, Recreation and Facilities staff would oversee all aspects of construction.

### **8.2. Delegated Authority**

The Committee is to serve as an advisory body to Council and does not have any delegated authority. Recommendations requiring implementation,

expenditures, reports or staff actions must first be considered by staff and/or Council prior to legitimate action. Council may require that the Committee review and report on matters pertaining to the Committee's mandate.

### 8.3. Duty of Council

Council shall consider recommendations from the Embro Dog Park Committee and give appropriate consideration to said recommendations. Should Council disapprove of a recommendation from the Embro Dog Park Committee then Council shall return written reasons for their decision back to the Committee.

## 9 Responsibilities

### 9.1. Code of Conduct

All employees and volunteers will be guided by the Township of Zorra's policies and procedures, including Code of Conduct and Harassment and Violence in the Workplace Policy.

Such policies support a positive and respectful workplace that is free from personal harassment and workplace conflict.

### 9.2. Accessibility

The Township of Zorra is committed to promoting a barrier-free Township for employees, citizens and all who live, work, visit, and invest in the Township of Zorra, as put forward in Zorra's Accessibility Plan. As such, Committee members are to keep this vision of an accessible Zorra in mind when conducting Committee business.

### 9.3. Social Media

Township committee social media sites will be used by the committee for fundraising purposes (i.e., promoting fundraising events, updating the community on funds raised so far, etc.).

All content posted on the Township's social media sites and website shall adhere to the Township's visions and guiding principles, which includes safeguarding the Township's image and reputation through open and transparent actions.

### 9.4. Conflict of Interest/Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Committee members are deemed not to have pecuniary conflict of interest in that they have no decision-making ability. However, members should be

cognizant of perceived conflict in terms of issues which may serve to benefit them personally. Members shall not use their status on Committees for personal or political gain.

#### 9.5. Procedure

The Township of Zorra's Procedural By-Law shall be followed for all matters not specifically addressed within this document. In any case or instance of procedure not provided for, Roberts Rules of Order (Procedure) shall be followed, as near as is practical. These Terms of Reference are established by Council and can only be altered by Council.

Dated: December 12, 2025