

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION
HELD IN THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX CONFERENCE ROOM
ON WEDNESDAY, 2012-OCT-24, COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Commissioner D. Johnstone, Chair

Members: Commissioner T. Greves
Commissioner F. Pattje
Commissioner K. Alden
Commissioner M. Beaudoin-Lobb
Commissioner H. Houle
Commissioner A. McPherson
Commissioner D. Rinald
Commissioner G. Savage
Commissioner I. Thorpe
Commissioner M. Young

Regrets: Commissioner L. Avis

Staff:	R. Harding	K. MacDonald
	S. Samborski	R. Tweed, recording
	J. Ritchie	

1. CALL THE OPEN MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- Add to Item 8.(a) - Late Delegation Request – Mr. Fred Taylor.
- Amend wording on Items 8.(a) - Staff report – “Children’s Science Centre” should read as, “Science and Nature Centre”.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the amended Agenda be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

- (a) Minutes of the Regular Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission Meeting held Wednesday, 2012-SEP-19, at 7:00 p.m., in the Beban Park Social Centre Lounge.

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

- (a) Ms. Heather Wong and Ms. Sharon Andruski-Collins of the Friends of Nanaimo Jazz Society, expressing their thanks and presenting Commission with a plaque in recognition of the support provided by the PRCC to the Society.

Ms. Wong and Ms. Kate Challenge presented a plaque in appreciation for the support of the Commission and provided an overview of the efforts of the children involved in the events and performances put on by the Friends of Nanaimo Jazz Society. Mr. Cameron Long, student of Wellington Secondary, spoke on behalf of the students involved and thanked the Commission.

It was moved and seconded that the presentation be received. The motion carried unanimously.

- (b) Mr. Len Manuel and Mr. Ian Kalina, Boys and Girls Club Vancouver Island, presenting a general update on the Boys and Girls Club activities.

Mr. Kalina provided his written presentation in a handout to the Commission and gave a verbal overview of the activities of the Boys and Girls Club of Vancouver Island. He expressed that the Club would like to see a more formalized relationship with the City of Nanaimo.

It was moved and seconded that the presentation be received. The motion carried unanimously.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT: None.

7. REPORTS OF ADVISORY BODIES:

- (a) Parks Committee. Commissioner Thorpe reported on the Parks Committee meeting held 2012-OCT-11.

Request for Ban of Training Collars in Dog Off-Leash Parks.

Delegations: (None.)

Correspondence: (None.)

Parks Committee's Recommendation: *That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve the addition of the wording on the signage of the enclosed dog off-leash parks, (the Beban Dog Park and the Northfield Dog Park), to contain the wording "all correction style choke collars must be removed before entering this enclosed dog off-leash park".*

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

- (b) Recreation Committee. Commissioner Greves reported on the Recreation Committee meeting held 2012-OCT-10.

The Committee has been charged with review of the PRC Bylaw – process started last meeting. Received a delegation that made some good points re the camping – will not make any recommendations until the camping is settled – will continue to review and will return to commission at a later date.

- (c) Cultural Committee. Commissioner Pattje reported on the Cultural Committee meeting held 2012-OCT-03.

Nothing to report of immediate concern to Commission. Fine tuning temporary public art, still reviewing poet laureate, Culture Plan Visioning Forum was well attended – the feedback will help form the draft. More public feedback opportunities will be coming.

- (d) Grants Advisory Committee. Commissioner Beaudoin-Lobb reported that no meetings have been held since 2012-SEP-19.

There had been a meeting scheduled for 2012-OCT-17; however, as no applications had been received, the meeting was cancelled.

- (e) Port Theatre. Monthly report for September, 2012.
- (f) Nanaimo Art Gallery. Monthly report for September, 2012.
- (g) Nanaimo District Museum. Monthly report for September / October, 2012.

It was moved and seconded that the Advisory Body reports be received. The motion carried unanimously.

8. STAFF REPORTS:

- (a) Update on Public Review Process and Next Steps for the Proposed Science and Nature Centre at Bowen Park

Presentation:

1. Mr. Richard Harding, Director, and Ms. Liz DeMattia, Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society, provided Commission with a PowerPoint presentation review of the results of the data gathered from the summer and public input into the proposed science centre in Bowen Park.

Late Delegation:

1. Mr. Fred Taylor, 204 Emery Way, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5Z8, provided the Commission a number of documents: a letter dated 1918-JUN-10 from G.W. Bowen, Western Fuel Company to the Mayor of Nanaimo; an Indenture dated April, 1919 between Western Fuel Company and the Corporation of the City of Nanaimo; the first page of a letter dated 1919-JUN-13 to the Honourable William Sloan, Minister of Mines (no additional pages therefore from unknown); and, a letter dated 1946-FEB-02 from H.J. Crane to the City Clerk, Nanaimo. Additionally, he

spoke regarding the history of Bowen Park and covenant restrictions regarding its use.

He does not believe the public has been properly informed. Ongoing problem with city parks for many years – for example - Westwood Lake, and Bowen Park. Mr. Taylor felt that there are conditions on title that restrict the use of Bowen Park. When the park was given to the City it was not inside the city limits.

For the record, Commissioner Pattje expressed thanks to Mr. Taylor for providing this information and raising it for Commission.

Correspondence: (None.)

Report introduced and recommendation read.

Staff Recommendation: *That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council:*

1. approve the concept in principle of a Science and Nature Centre being located at Bowen Park by the non-profit Society as illustrated (see attached Schedule A) and with the understanding that City's contribution to the centre would only be the land via a park lease agreement;
2. direct Staff to draft a lease agreement for Council's review and consideration that would include requirement of the Society and also the required public review process of leasing parkland; and,
3. agree that final approval to proceed to construction of the Centre would not occur until the Society had secured all capital and operating funding and presented same to Council for final approval.

Staff provided information regarding the process that any potential lease agreement must go through and explained the necessity of some security for the group in order that they can proceed with fund raising.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation be adopted. The motion carried. **OPPOSED: Commissioner Houle.**

(b) Maffeo Sutton Park Improvement Plan Update.

Delegations: (None.)

Correspondence: (None.)

Staff's Recommendation: *That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission receive the report.*

Staff reviewed the planning and public process to date and the next steps for the improvement plan with Commission.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

(c) Senior Manager of Parks & Civic Facilities. Monthly report for September, 2012.

- Looking at Caledonia Park Improvement Plan
- Continuing to look at Harewood Centennial Park Plan implementation
- Mansfield Park Playground and upper park
- Gyro phase 1
- Norasea Park VIP – the playground equipment has been installed.

Commissioner Houle – Has the tender gone out to artists for a permanent piece of art? *No it hasn't. Expected to go out in the fall – anticipated for late November.*

Commissioner Houle - How do people find out about it? *BC bids, then on a number of artists' networks, a group of artists has asked that they be notified, and it will also be posted in the paper.*

Commissioner Pattje to Jeff Ritchie – the ground at the off leash dog park at Northfield is gravel and difficult for dogs to run on – will surfacing be looked at? *Yes, either to sand or mulch – no definite date yet.*

Commissioner Pattje - thanks to Kirsty MacDonald for the great success of the Forest Drive Gyro Park grand re-opening.

Commissioner McPherson – Is hoping that the Cable Bay off-leash park can be included in the Animal Services Park Report in future. *Staff advised that it is an off leash park and that the parks that are patrolled are on-leash.*

Commissioner Johnstone - are dogs being dropped off at the off leash parks and left while people go to work? *Not that staff have heard. The expectation is that people will behave in a responsible manner.*

It was moved and seconded that the report be received. The motion carried unanimously.

(d) Senior Manager of Recreation & Culture Services. Monthly report for September, 2012.

- Working with VIHA and VIU – healthy weights program.
- Junior B Buccaneers – averaging about 400 per game. per

Commissioner Pattje – will there be blue community signage? *Reusable water bottles will be used for education and as give away items at different events.*

Commissioner Pattje – was recently at a Chamber of Commerce meeting where there was a bottled water company trying to do business.

Commissioner Houle – blue communities people spoke at the RDN – but they were not endorsed.

Commissioner Houle - Will you be putting bottle filling dispensers in? *Yes – some retrofitting will be done.*

Commissioner Rinald - first year we haven't sent out the activity guide – has there been a significant impact in registration? *Spring – registration was up. Fall – registration is down. More of a flex program now for some classes – some fall programs can be registered for in the spring which may be the reason. Will provide an update at the end of November.*

It was moved and seconded that the report be received. The motion carried unanimously.

9. CORRESPONDENCE: (not related to a Report to Commission)

- (a) Card of thanks received 2012-OCT-02 from the Nanaimo Youth Choir for the Travel Assistance Grant funding received – making it possible for the Choir to attend the Pacific International Children's Choir Festival in Eugene, Oregon.
- (b) Thank you card received by Commissioner Thorpe on 2012-OCT-04 from Mr. Saul Hilchey, Nanaimo Gyro Club member, expressing thanks to Commission for their support and attendance at the Forest Drive Gyro Park grand re-opening on Sunday, 2012-SEP-23.
- (c) Minutes of the Nanaimo Harbour City Seniors, Board of Directors meeting, held 2012-OCT-05.

It was moved and seconded that the Correspondence be received. The motion carried unanimously.

10. NOTICE OF MOTION:

11. OTHER BUSINESS: None.

12. DELEGATIONS (not related to a Report to Commission): (10 MINUTES)

- (a) Mr. Bill Merilees and Mr. Mike Whately, Buttertubs Marsh Committee, c/o 3205 Granite Park, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 3C8, wishing to address the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission regarding the Buttertubs Marsh Conservation Area and Flood Plain.

Mr. Merilees advised that they are an Ad Hoc Committee that does work out there and has fun. Extended congratulations and thanks to the City, Commission and Staff, on the purchase of Buttertubs West Marsh. Their purpose is to preserve habitat for wildlife and provide a place for quiet enjoyment of recreation and nature. Buttertubs Marsh is managed under a 99 year lease with the provincial government. The next Committee meeting is coming up in mid-November. There are various partners involved in Buttertubs Marsh – Nature Trust of BC; Province of BC; City of Nanaimo; and, Buttertubs Committee. Compliance and enforcement continue to be issues. They would like to see a common governance body for all the properties at Buttertubs, feel the management plan should be upgraded, that there should be an evaluation of the hydrology and flood plain – artificial ditches in west marsh; and, an evaluation of wildlife. The Committee feels that the City needs to include Buttertubs in their park management and planning. They asked if the City could please consider a jogging track as part of the Jingle Pot Sports facility, rather than having joggers using the trails at Buttertubs Marsh. The Committee feels that the zoning should not imply that no attention or funding is required, and asked why there does not appear to be anyone in PRC responsible for environment with an environment report tabled at the meeting?

Commissioner Thorpe – thanked the delegation for their presentation and also expressed thanks to the volunteers for working at Buttertubs. He's noticed there seems to be a really rapid growth of the weeds – is there a danger of them choking out the waterways? *Vegetation growth increase in west marsh is of a major concern – not so much at Buttertubs.*

Commissioner Pattje – who is charged with governance of the marsh, Ducks Unlimited? *It is a side agreement – they work with the Nature Trust to maintain water levels but they are not part of the formal management agreement.*

Commissioner Young - what is the significance of the name “Buttertubs”? *The name goes back to the Morrell family who donated the Morrell Nature Sanctuary. It was originally intended as the name for a real estate subdivision, the name was re-applied to the wetland when it was purchased for wildlife conservation. The name “Buttertubs” comes from the Yorkshire Dales where local farmers, who used to bring their dairy products to market, used limestone sinkholes to keep their butter and cheese cool during warm weather. More information on the history is available at www.buttertubsmarsh.com*

Commissioner Rinald – what is the impact of joggers? Environmental, or simply recreational? *Joggers eventually degrade the trails and interfere with the quiet enjoyment of others of nature in the area. As numbers increase there have been more comments and complaints.*

Commissioner Johnstone – what problems have you had with dumping? *People pitching garbage and dumping over personal property lines.*

Commissioner Johnstone expressed that she would like the Commission to have an opportunity to have Mr. Merilees provide PRCC with a tour. Staff felt that this may be possible as a fall tour.

It was moved and seconded that the delegation be received. The motion carried unanimously.

- (b) Ms. Jennifer O'Rourke, 6108 Parkwood Drive, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 5Y7, wishing to address the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission on inequities in admission arrangements for pass holders and non-pass holders participating in the swimming program at Nanaimo Aquatic Centre.

Ms. O'Rourke provided a PowerPoint presentation and a handout explaining the issue and provided a suggested recommendation.

Commissioner Greves – does PRC offer swim lessons? *Staff – Yes. Ms. O'Rourke - referring to private swim lessons. Certain people are offering lessons at certain times of day.*

Commissioner Greves – felt that if he was getting charged he would sign up for swim lessons with PRC. *Staff advised that participants in PRC lessons pay for lessons with PRC and do not use their Rec Pass. If someone was involved in Master's Swimming, they would pay the Master's swim fees, regular drop-in swimmers would pay per use. If you are a master swimmer you pay your fees, but do not need a pass, but many do because they also want to use the gym and other facilities. Ms. O'Rourke – The issue is that some are pay per use, some are Rec Passes. Payment for lane rental is offset by not having to pay admission.*

Commissioner Alden – is your Rec Pass a drop in? *No, it is a one-year pass.*

Commissioner Alden - can you use it as many times as you want? *Yes.*

Commissioner Alden – you have signed up for private swim lessons? *Yes.*

Commissioner Alden – do you need to use your Rec Pass to take the lesson? *No, I don't. Everyone in a swim lesson is paying for instructional cost. Those who would have paid to be admitted to the pool do not have to pay.*

Commissioner Rinald – Private lessons have rented that lane, and have exclusive use of the lane for the group - other users cannot use that lane.

Staff - PRC does provide swim lessons – majority are youth-related. Yes they are subsidized, as is the Rec Pass, and the facility itself. PRC has a role in the community

of providing royal life saving lessons to the community. You have chosen to take a private, speciality swim program, and you've chosen to purchase a Rec Pass.

It was moved and seconded that delegation be received. The motion carried unanimously.

- (c) Mr. Tim Paw, Nanaimo Tubber's Hockey Club, 1971 Cinnabar Drive, Nanaimo, BC, V9X 1B3, wishing to address the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission with regard to liquor licences and rules, history of Tubber's Tournament, meeting minutes from user groups that host special events, and the news article on economic impact that the Tubber's Hockey Tournament has on the community.

Tim Paw thanks Commission for listening to their concerns and advised there would be a number of individuals speaking on behalf of Nanaimo Tubber's Hockey Club, the Nanaimo Coal Diggers, and other old timers' hockey clubs. He advised that the user groups use the profits from alcohol sales to keep the costs of putting on the tournaments down and provided some suggestions for the City to consider. Participants are 19-70 years of age. They obtain appropriate certification and check identification to ensure that all individuals drinking liquor of legal age. They also provide transportation to ensure that individuals are not driving in an impaired state.

Gary Colford – Nanaimo Coal Diggers – stays at the event personally to ensure the event is successful. Reviewed the costs of the event. Having a beer in the dressing room is a social and expected part of the game. LCB can license liquor in dressing rooms if approved by arena manager. If these tournaments are cancelled because the dressing rooms aren't licensed, there will be a significant loss of revenue to the City businesses.

Miles Parsons – Old Knights Tournaments – never had any problems and have always worked well with the staff. Lots of revenue for local businesses is generated through the tournaments. From revenues, they sponsor Boys & Girls Club and donate to the Canadian Cancer Society. Willing to spend hundreds of hours putting tournaments together, but need assistance of City.

Laurence Amy – referenced page 120 of the information on Special Occasion Licences.

Commissioner Greves - spoke in support of mature members of the community that want to come together and play hockey. He felt that there has to be some way to get around this issue to get these tournaments running again. Thinks we may have gone too far one way and should come back to the middle again. Doesn't agree with drinking in the dressing rooms, but, as of September that has changed – these groups are asking to sell their own beer, hold a tournament, and spend some money in Nanaimo.

Staff – we have options as to how we deal with liquor sales in our facilities. We have to work within liquor control licensing. Ice centre – we decided to stick with the primary license for a number of reasons. There are strengths and weaknesses with special occasion licences. The issue of drinking in the dressing room is another issue. Do we keep a primary license, or, do we cancel and only do Special Occasion License – which is great for tournaments, not for franchise teams. For example, lacrosse may require for more than 12 times a season for which a primary license is required.

Commissioner Houle - when this first came up he was very much in favour due to the problems; however, perhaps now we should consider a change.

Tim Paw – thinks that the city is in a good position to have a third party license and suspend the current primary and LCB can accept the SOL. This can happen as many times as the City sees fit.

It was moved and seconded that the delegation be received. The motion carried unanimously.

Commission Alden asked what the policy was before and Staff provided the history and background.

Commissioner Thorpe - agrees with Commissioner Greves and would like to see PRCC do everything they can to support the teams. Feels all user groups should be brought together to ensure they are all on the same page.

Commissioner Young – can facilities have multiple licensing in effect at the same time? No.

It was moved and seconded that Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission host an information and input session to be held with all user groups and other interested stakeholders providing background and issues to liquor licenses, that this occur within the next three weeks, and that input from this session be included in a 2012-NOV-24 report to Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- (a) Overnight Camping in the Parks. *(Referred to the Recreation Committee on 2012-JUN-27 for review and report back to PRCC with recommendations.)*
- (b) Vancouver Island Military Museum – Veteran's Wall of Honour. *(Referred to Staff on 2012-JUL-25 for a Report to Commission and a Draft Memorandum of Agreement for review and consideration.)*
- (c) Request for Ban of Training Collars in Dog Off-Leash Parks. *(Referred to the Parks Committee on 2012-SEP-19 for further review and report back to Commission.)*

It was moved and seconded that Item 13.(c) be removed from Unfinished Business. The motion carried unanimously.

14. QUESTION PERIOD: *(Agenda Items Only)*

- Mr. Fred Taylor, re: Maffeo Sutton Park Improvements and connection of Swy-a-Lana to Bowen Park.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 9:46 p.m. that the meeting adjourn, with the next regular meetings as follows:

COMMISSION	Wednesday, 2012-NOV-28; 7:00 p.m. Bowen Park Complex Conference Room
Cultural Committee	Wednesday, 2012-NOV-07; 4:00 p.m. – if required Bowen Park Complex Conference Room
Recreation Committee	Wednesday, 2012-NOV-14; 3:00 p.m. – if required Bowen Park Complex Conference Room
Parks Committee	Thursday, 2012-NOV-08; 5:00 p.m. – if required Bowen Park Complex Conference Room

The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



D. Johnstone, Chair
Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission

R. Harding, Director
Parks, Recreation and Culture