

**NOTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
RECREATION COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, 2012-OCT-10, COMMENCING AT 3:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Commissioner Ted Greves, Chair

Members: Commissioner Karen Alden
Commissioner Lynda Avis
Commissioner Diana Johnstone

Regrets: Commissioner Mercedes Beaudoin-Lobb

Staff: M. Smith H. King
J. Ritchie Charmaine Kuziw, Recording

1. CALL THE OPEN MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 3:07 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

NONE.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

4. ADOPTION OF MEETING NOTES:

(a) Meeting Notes of the Regular Recreation Committee Meeting held Wednesday, 2012-SEP-12, at 3:00 p.m. in the Bowen Park Complex Conference Room.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting notes of 2012-SEP-12 be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

NONE.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT:

NONE.

7. REPORTS OF PROJECT COMMITTEES:

NONE.

8. STAFF REPORTS:

(a) Fields – Verbal – Jeff Ritchie

Discussion held. Final recommendations to be brought forward at the conclusion of the Bylaw review in a comprehensive report.

(b) Lacrosse Boxes – Verbal – Jeff Ritchie.

Discussion held. Final recommendations to be brought forward at the conclusion of the Bylaw review in a comprehensive report.

(c) Fines – Verbal – Jeff Ritchie.

Discussion held. Final recommendations to be brought forward at the conclusion of the Bylaw review in a comprehensive report.

(d) Advertising in Parks for Sports Teams – Verbal – Jeff Ritchie.

Discussion held. Final recommendations to be brought forward at the conclusion of the Bylaw review in a comprehensive report.

(e) Sport Tourism / Camping – Verbal – Mary Smith / Hannah King.

- PRC has a policy that has been used for several years.
- The Overnight Camping in Parks Survey was discussed. *(attached for information)*
- 2012 Event Camping at Beban Park statistics were discussed *(attached for information)*

Delegations: (10 minutes)

1. Ian Johnson, Westwood Lake Campground, 380 Westwood Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 6S5. Westwood Lake R.V. Park would like the City of Nanaimo to not allow overnight camping, to the benefit of the City and the local businesses.

Mr. Johnson expressed his disagreement with campers being allowed to stay on City facilities grounds while participating in special events and felt that events hosted at facilities are taking revenue from the local campgrounds. He is asking the City to not allow some event groups to (excluding those with large animals) stay on facility grounds.

It was moved and seconded to receive the delegation. The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence:

1. Letter dated 2012-SEP-12 from Ms. Janice McAllan, CGA, 2315 Rosstown Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 3R4, regarding the Nanaimo Daily News article of 2012-AUG-02, "Campground operators unhappy with city policy".

It was moved and seconded to receive the correspondence. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff's Recommendation: *That the Recreation Committee recommend that Staff return with a report on camping contract conditions and any policy change recommendations to the current camping policy at the next meeting of the Recreation Committee.*

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

9. CORRESPONDENCE: (not related to a Report to the Committee)

NONE.

10. NOTICE OF MOTION:

NONE.

11. OTHER BUSINESS:

NONE.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- (a) 2012 Parks, Recreation and Culture Regulation Bylaw 2008 No.7073 Review Process.
- (b) Overnight Camping in the Parks.

13. QUESTION PERIOD:

No questions.

14. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 4:43 p.m. that the meeting adjourn, with the next meeting of the Recreation Committee to be held, if required, Wednesday, 2012-NOV-14, commencing at 3:00 p.m. in the Bowen Park Complex Conference Room.

The motion carried unanimously.



Ted Greves
CHAIR
RECREATION COMMITTEE

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



S. Samborski
SENIOR MANAGER
RECREATION AND CULTURE SERVICES

APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:



Richard Harding
DIRECTOR
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Overnight Camping in Parks Survey – Responses Compiled

- A) Red – **Vancouver Island Exhibition** responses. Lynn Haley.
 - B) Blue – **Jehovah's Witnesses** responses. Russ Ball.
 - C) Green – **Nanaimo Equestrian Association** responses. Lesley Coultish, President.
 - D) Orange – **DAWG Agility and Obedience, Agility Association of Canada** responses. Bernadette van Klaveren.
 - E) Purple – **Kennel Club** responses. Colleen Doll, Parking Representative for previous 8yrs!
 - F) Dark Green – **Nanaimo BMX Association** responses. Kathy Davidson, Track Operator/Treasurer.
1. What event(s) do you host where overnight camping is allowed? Please describe the general nature of the event(s) and at which park it takes place.
- A) The annual fair held the third weekend of August at Beban Park.
 - B) Annual 3-day Watchtower convention held at Beban Park. This is a family oriented Christian gathering. 3,000 in attendance.
 - C) Equestrian and Dog events are held on the Equestrian grounds which is our leased portion of Beban Park.
 - D) Beban Park, VIEX grounds, or NEA grounds.
 - E) We host a 3 (now 4) day dog show on the Fathers Day weekend each year. It is for conformation and obedience. People bring 1-10 dogs to show for the event.
 - F) Our club hosts one large race weekend each year at the BMX site. We see on average 500 participants + 2000 spectators. At these events we bring officials and factory bike teams as well as additional electronic equipment, ATM, portable signage, and bikes and store it on site. We allow officials, factory teams, and track staff to camp on site during our events. We also hire a local security company to do hourly checks for the entire weekend.
2. On average at how many events per year do you use the camping option?
- A) One event per year.
 - B) One.
 - C) 6-12 times per year, primarily during the months of May to September.
 - D) Six.
 - E) Camping varies from 25-45 rigs per year. It tends to fluctuate with show entry numbers.
 - F) Once per year.
3. On average how many camping units (RV's) are on site during your events?
- A) Approx. 40 units
 - B) 40-45.
 - C) Varies considerably for each event, but an average would be 20.
 - D) From 3 to 50.
 - E) NKC also hosts agility events and hosted the National Agility this year. Some years all we use it for is the Father's Day weekend show. *I believe the Agility rep has done a survey as well.*
 - F) 20 to 25 RV's.

4. On average what percentage of your total event participant's camp?
- A) 5%.
 - B) 3%.
 - C) Varies by event, but anywhere from 25-95%.
 - D) 5 to 10%.
 - E) It is difficult to say. Some handlers have 10-12 dogs entered. It is safe to say that a third to one half of entries are with campers in the park.
 - F) 5%. We encourage riders and their families to use local camping establishments. We have had many good reviews from riders that camp annually at the 'Living Forest' and 'Brannen Lake'.
5. Why do you think the majority of your campers choose to camp in the park (check all that apply);
- ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ Convenience
 - ☒ Low cost
 - ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ Proximity to event
 - ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ Other (please specify)
 - C) Participants need to be close to their animals to care for them, and for their safety.
 - D) Unable to find hotel due to multiple dogs at event, since event starts very early am (6 am often!), not practical to camp elsewhere.
 - E) **Convenience** – Dog show participants like to stay on grounds if possible.
Low Cost – Although hauling rigs on ferry makes costs similar to some folks!
Proximity to Event – And proximity to other participants – camaraderie.
Other – They can have dogs with them/less convenient staying hotel rooms. More camaraderie and family atmosphere in camping. Nanaimo is an agriculture city and this is a unique facility within the city! We value this – we need to keep up family oriented animal events within the city!
 - F) Security.
6. Is it necessary for participants at your event(s) to have the option to camp and, if so, why?
- A) For the protection of property and animals. To provide security.
 - B) See #5. Some with health issues appreciate being close to the facility.
 - C) In addition to Participants needing to be close to their animals to care for them, the Park is not secured at night and has had problems with vandalism in the past. The animals cannot be left unattended in unlocked stalls. The Park is not completely fenced and it would be potentially disastrous if animals were deliberately released or escaped from their stalls. Conversely, stalls cannot be locked or left unattended in the event of a fire or other form of vandalism. The concerns about vandalism and theft extend to the expensive tack and riding/driving equipment that is used in shows. If camping is eliminated, out of town participants simply will not come.
 - D) Due to multiple dog entries often the preferred option, not practical to camp at campsite, would need to leave 5 or 530 am, which disrupts other campers at commercial sites.
 - E) Yes! While campsites have expressed desire to have business there are not many that wish the dog volume/noise. The show is outdoors – gives more shelter! Animal events cannot be compared to regular camping situations.
 - F) Yes – however, the camping is more fun for vendors, track officials & volunteers. In order to accommodate the volume of people attending our event, we have portable toilets on site; extra waste bins; portable signage; trailers with bikes & parts; lighting equipment; computers; ATM; and additional miscellaneous equipment required to run the event. Although we do provide 'paid' hourly security, all vendors insist on staying on site with their trailers and due to the early morning starts and 12-16 hour

days, it is more convenient for track officials and less costly for out of town volunteers to stay on-site.

7. If camping in the park was not an option what do you think those who typically camp would do;

☒ Bring their RV and camp elsewhere
☒ ? Stay in a hotel or motel
☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ No longer participate in the event

Other (please specify):

E) The club has polled campers! We fear entries would drop! Hotels are not a good option in Nanaimo. Other campsites are not useful or helpful.

F) We would lose the volunteer base that comes from other Vancouver Island tracks that normally support the event.

8. What per night camping fee do you feel campers are prepared to pay when camping in a park;

☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ \$20-24
☒ ☒ \$25-29
☐ \$30-34
☐ \$35-40
☐ Over \$40
☐ Other

D) Since no power or water or facilities offered, fees should be kept at minimum.

E) We use to charge \$20. This year \$25 – for power only – we believe this is fair. – Anything above would start to harm our entry counts. Four years ago we moved to Brannen Lake Campsite due to a date conflict. While Brannen Lake did their best it was not a good fit! We are unique campers – similar to VIE X horse events!

F) **Note: Our club absorbs this cost for our volunteers.

9. Are there any changes to the Overnight Camping Policy you would recommend?

A) That it be limited to special events only.

B) No.

C) Eliminate any non-animal related camping. Include the ability to offer power within the limits of the existing infrastructure. This may increase our ability to host events in the cooler months if participants have the ability to heat their campers.

D) No.

E) Please continue it! Decrease the cost – we will lose money at present!

F) No.

10. For Beban Park events only, would you be in favour of all camping being confined to a single, consistent area?

A) No, depends what the event is, for example VIE X would need to have 4-H in one area, security in another, and Vendors.

B) That is what we do now.

C) Nanaimo Equestrian Association would encourage camping in a designated area that was within the Equestrian leased area. i.e. still close to the barns but not right next to them for safety's sake. We suggest the grassy area adjacent to the barns 3 and 4.

D) No reply.

E) It depends on the area. We rely on being close to the event – not down the back somewhere?

F) No.

11. Other comments:

- A) If camping is taken away from our special event it will have a serious financial impact on us.
- B) Thank you for including us in your discussion.
- C) Participants in our events are not camping for recreation. They are camping to be able to care for and protect their animals and equipment. Eliminating camping on the grounds will negatively affect our ability to host even a one day event as often out of town participants come the night before to be ready for an early start or to accommodate ferry schedules. There are no commercial facilities available to replace on site camping and it is neither practical nor possible to billet out 30-40 horses. Other City's allow camping on their city owned Equestrian grounds during Equestrian events. (Courtenay, Port Alberni, Sooke).
- D) No reply.
- E) JR handling finals – This year we have the entire Province JR obedience show handling finals. Being able to camp makes this more inclusive for all the kids and their pooches.

Power is a huge issue for us, and while I always thought this was because of grooming and comfort, this year it became apparent we have a new issue. Six campers were travelling with nighttime Nasal CPAP machines! These are medically prescribed and need power!

* NKC has a concern re: areas that should be paid to the city in the past we paid \$ only VIEX for any rigs behind the barns in VIEX or horse areas * we also have to pay VIEX \$5/night per rig for VIEX power. The city is really only providing LAND if we have to pay city and VIEX the cost becomes too HIGH!

2012 Event Camping at Beban Park

EVENT	DATES	# UNITS PER NIGHT	COMMENTS
Just for Fun Agility	May 25-27	4	
Jehovah Witness Convention	June 1-3	40	
Dog Agility Regional Championships	June 7-10	70	\$130,265 Total Economic Impact
Kennel Club Dog Show	June 15-17	10	\$226,469 Total Economic Impact
Nanaimo Quarter Horse Show	June 15-17	9	
BMX Clinic & National Championships	July 2-8	13	
Kennel Club Agility Trails	July 6-8	No campers	
Dog Agility Nationals Prep Trials	July 26-28	15	
AAC National Agility Championships	August 1-5	55	\$759,450 Total Economic Impact
Vancouver Island Exhibition	August 15-19	20 <i>approved *</i>	
NEA Event	Sept 22-23	No campers	
NEA Event	Nov 2-3	12 <i>approved *</i>	
NEA Event	Nov 30-Dec 1	16 <i>approved *</i>	
<u>2012 Event Camping at all other parks</u>			
BSCCA Provincials	August 13-19	1	Also 15 units on adjacent SD68 property *\$745,000 projected economic impact

Number of units can vary slightly from night to night during events.

Event organizers are given a maximum number of units allowed and submit payment for actual numbers after the fact.

- *Actual numbers yet to be confirmed.*

Economic Impact is determined by using the Canada Sport Tourism Assessment Model (STEAM) economic calculator. Data is based on either projected numbers provided at the beginning of the grant application process or on final event evaluation numbers. Grant recipients have 60 days to submit their evaluations.