

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION  
HELD IN THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX CONFERENCE ROOM  
ON WEDNESDAY, 2012-JUN-27, COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.**

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PRESENT: Commissioner D. Johnstone, Chair

Members: Commissioner T. Greves  
Commissioner F. Pattje  
Commissioner K. Alden  
Commissioner L. Avis  
Commissioner M. Beaudoin-Lobb  
Commissioner H. Houle  
Commissioner G. Savage  
Commissioner I. Thorpe  
Commissioner M. Young

Regrets: Commissioner A. McPherson  
Commissioner D. Rinald

|        |              |                     |
|--------|--------------|---------------------|
| Staff: | R. Harding   | J. Ritchie          |
|        | S. Samborski | R. Tweed, recording |

1. CALL THE OPEN MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 MINUTES:

(a) Minutes of the Regular Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission Meeting held Wednesday, 2012-MAY-23, at 7:00 p.m., in the Bowen Park Complex Conference Room.

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

5. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (Ns<sup>3</sup>) – providing an overview of the project to date and seeking a recommendation from the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission to Council for approval of the design and building of the Nanaimo Science Centre in the “washroom” location in Bowen Park.

Mr. Mel Sheng spoke in support of a science centre in Bowen Park and expressed how it is an extension of the work done with regard to the Millstone Side Channel

which would tie in as an educational component with a VIU Interpretive Centre for an outdoor classroom. Mr. Sheng is working with a group, including the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Pacific Salmon Foundation, the Puget Sound "Save the King" program, as well as the Vancouver Island University, which is working towards a long-term goal of an indoor classroom at Bowen Park.

Dr. DeMattia, on behalf of the Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society (Ns<sup>3</sup>), provided an update and overview of the work accomplished to date towards the establishment of a Science Centre in Bowen Park. Part of the overall plan is to have Outreach Programs available to the public – in 2012 they are offering "Science in the Park" on Wednesday through the summer, in 2013, "Science on the Move", and in 2015, "Citizens Science Program". Each of these outreach programs is designed to support the concept program of a science centre in Bowen Park. They have been in contact and working with Science World BC and School District 68. Dr. DeMattia emphasized that they would not be seeking funding from taxpayers, but instead would be looking at grants and partnerships. Staff advised that the land and some assistance in the construction process would be considered the City contribution and that taxpayers would not be asked to fund the science centre. They anticipate revenues will be realized through admission sales, programs and camp sales, gift and bistro sales, venue rentals in the evenings, and program grants. The building would be designed in such a way as to be a "gateway" to the Park - still permitting access to and along the roadway entrance to Bowen Park without the necessity of entering through the science centre. The proposed location of the centre in the Park would be near current services and would incorporate the area of the existing washrooms and the unused bank at the Wall Street side of the horseshoe pits. The footprint is long and narrow and is approximately 15,000 square feet in total. The Society feels that the science centre will result in a positive economic, social, educational, and ecological impact for the City and provided project capital and operating costs as well as projected operating revenues. A number of the Board Members were present and introduced. Commission thanked the group for their presentation.

(b) Development of an Invasive Plant Management Strategy for the City of Nanaimo – Rob Lawrance and Gail Pasaluko.

Mr. Lawrance provided an overview of the identification and management of invasive species and the projects that have taken place to remove them, as well as information on how and where invasive species can choke out other rare plant species within the Nanaimo ecosystem. Mr. Lawrance reviewed the process proposed with regard to implementing a strategy.

Ms. Pasaluko spoke with regard to the work that has been done by volunteers within Nanaimo and in particular, highlighted the "Broom Busters" program and the assistance provided by the Nanaimo Correctional Centre at Brannen Lake. The "Volunteer in Parks" program has been very effective in removing invasive species at various locations and noted that while there are three staff involved in the work parties, the majority of assistance comes in the form of 50-60 volunteers. The Department has been working toward minimal and sensitive use of herbicides to control and work towards eradicating invasive species – particularly those that cause potential problems to humans and animals due to their poisonous components – citing Giant Hogweed and Daphne as two main culprits that are harmful to humans. Plantings at City facilities are also working towards greater conservation challenges with the reduction of annuals,

planting of more grasses and native plants, and selecting species that require less water.

Commission asked if it would be possible to provide some public education, by way of seasonal newspaper advertising, to educate and inform the public on particular invasive species and their harmful components.

Commission also requested that a letter be sent to the Brannen Lake Correctional Centre thanking them for their contributions with regard to the removal of invasive species.

6. DELEGATIONS:

It was moved and seconded that the Delegations be permitted to address the Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

- (a) Mr. Jackson Hirota, 6040 Driftwood Place, Nanaimo, BC, V9V 1G2, requesting that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission lower the senior age limit for Nanaimo Parks and Recreation Badminton from 60 to 55.

Mr. Hirota advised that the BC Seniors Games recognizes individuals 55 years and older as seniors. He felt that as the majority of badminton time was booked for the Nanaimo Harbour City Seniors who recognize individuals of 60 and older as seniors, it placed Nanaimo residents at a disadvantage because seniors from other communities had the opportunity to train from 55 years of age. He would also like to see the Parks, Recreation and Culture Bylaw 7073 – Fees and Charges Schedule reduce the age limit of a senior from 60 years of age to 55 years of age.

Staff advised that if Mr. Hirota wishes the age limit determined by the Nanaimo Harbour City Seniors for membership to be lowered from 60 to 55, he will need to approach NHCS with his request. In order to lower the seniors age limit contained in Bylaw 7073 from 60 to 55, the Bylaw would need to be amended. The Department can review the amount of programming for adult badminton that is available to those individuals under 60 years of age. There are three other competitive badminton clubs that Mr. Hirota could be referred to.

- (b) Ms. Shawna Drinnan, 2054 Honeysuckle Terrace, Nanaimo, BC, V9S 2R1, presenting an update on the progress regarding the Forest Drive VIP improvements to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission and requesting a modification to the Forest Drive Park name to recognize sponsors and distinguish the park within the neighborhood. (*Note: Commission Policy Statement "Naming Parks and Facilities" attached for reference.*)

Ms. Drinnan provided a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of all the work that has taken place at Forest Drive Park in the last year and acknowledged all the contributions from within the community. The Gyro Club has been approached by the Forest Drive Park Committee with regard to a financial contribution and in order for the group to receive a contribution from the Gyro Club; the Club would like to have the Park renamed to "Forest Drive Gyro Park".

- (c) Mr. Michael & Mrs. Corinne Besler, Segway Victoria, BC, 764 Daisy Avenue, Victoria, BC, V8Z 2R9, presenting their proposal for a pilot project offering Segway PT tours in Bowen and Beban Parks for July 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012.

Mrs. Besler provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Segway Tours in Nanaimo concept and information regarding the Segway devices. The devices are not intended to replace walking; however, they do provide opportunities for people with physical limitations to enjoy our parks. Individuals do not need to be physically fit to use the device; however, they do require some core strength to balance on the Segway. Training for individuals prior to tour commencement will take approximately 15-30 minutes. All riders must sign a release waiver. Segway Victoria BC is hoping to keep the tours affordable by offering a number of options: 10 minutes for \$10; one-hour tours at \$49; and, two-hour tours at \$79. In the event that someone tries the 10/10 and then wants to take a full tour, their \$10 will be credited towards the tour cost. They are requesting a six-month trial because they feel that it will take that period of time to gain interest and then properly assess the viability of the business in Nanaimo. They would prefer to utilize two parks; however, given the current restrictions under the Motor Vehicle Act, Commission is willing to consider Bowen Park for the trial period and agrees that there would be no issues with Segway Victoria BC entering into an agreement with the Vancouver Island Exhibition at Beban Park for the three-day fair in August. For the trial period, Segway Victoria, BC will continue to operate out of Victoria and will attend Nanaimo on a pre-booked basis. They will not come to Nanaimo if there are no bookings.

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

7. CHAIR'S REPORT:

- (a) Thanks to all the Commission members who were able to attend the "Youth in Motion" grand opening and thanks to Staff for working so quickly on assisting the group with this event.
- (b) Thanks to Staff for organizing the PRCC Spring Tour. Staff advised that they hope to organize another tour in September, as well as a line-by-line Budget Review meeting. It is hoped that one of the upcoming meetings can be held on Protection Island. Staff requested that Commissioners advise if they would like to have any particular information sessions scheduled.

8. REPORTS OF ADVISORY BODIES:

- (a) **Parks Committee.** Commissioner Thorpe reported on the meeting held 2012-JUN-14.

Provided some background with regard to the presentation to the Parks Committee by Segway Tours on 2012-JUN-14.

Segway Tours Within Nanaimo's Parks and Trails Network.

*Parks Committee's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve piloting Segway tours within Nanaimo's Parks and Trails network, specifically restricted to Bowen Park, with the provision of a current business plan, and written guidelines stipulating rider age limit as 16 or older, for the period 2012-JUL-01 to 2012-DEC-31.*

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation of the Parks Committee be adopted.

Staff asked if the Commission or the Parks Committee had any concerns with Segway Victoria, BC being at VIEx for the three-days of the VIEx Fair. This would simply be a chance to showcase as an experiment for the three days of the fair. While they would be located on City property, the agreement would be with the VIEx. They would have a spot where people could try them and have a circuit as a fair attraction in a small area just for the duration of the VIEx. It would be necessary that they adhere to the 16 year age minimum.

Commissioner Avis felt that there should only be one test area and would prefer that test area be at Beban Park not Bowen – where there was the chance that this operation may disturb the tranquility for other users of Bowen Park.

Commissioner Pattje had advised that the group had not yet determined whether they would use a bell on the device or an air horn as the warning system and felt that an air horn would not be appropriate in the Park. Staff advised that they would not be allowed on the trails until they have suitable warning devices installed.

The motion carried. ***Opposed: Commissioner Avis***

(b) **Recreation Committee.** No meeting held.

(c) **Cultural Committee.** Commissioner Pattje reported on the meeting held 2012-JUN-06.

Highlights from the meeting notes were:

- Appointment of the Chair.
- Selection of Members for Project Committees:
  - Cultural Awards Project Committee
  - Cultural Forum Project Committee
  - Art In Public Places Project Committee
- Confirmation of Meeting Dates /Times

Cultural Committee Meeting Start Time.

*Cultural Committee's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve the adjustment of the start time of the Cultural Committee meetings from 4:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month and adopt the 2012 PRC COMMISSION / COMMITTEE MEETING DATES/TIME calendar as revised.*

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

- (d) **Grants Advisory Committee.** Commissioner Beaudoin-Lobb reported on the meetings held since 2012-MAY-23. The Committee met on 2012-JUN-20 and voted that Pacific Child and Family Enrichment Society (PacificCARE) be placed on the City's 2012 Permissive Tax Exemption (PTE) Bylaw for property it leases at 3156 Barons Road, receiving exemption from taxation for the 2013 year until the next review. The Committee will be sending PacificCARE a letter advising that their financial statements are to be submitted for review each year until the next PTE review.
- (g) **Port Theatre.** Monthly report for May, 2012.
- (h) **Nanaimo Art Gallery.** Monthly report for May, 2012.
- (i) **Nanaimo Museum.** Monthly report for May/June, 2012.
- (j) **Sports Hall of Fame.** By consensus, the Commission received an update on the Sports Hall of Fame meeting held on 2012-JUN-26 from Commissioner Thorpe who advised that planning for the induction ceremony is underway. The ceremony will be held at the Nanaimo Museum on Saturday, 2012-SEP-22.

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

9. **STAFF REPORTS (Action):**

Commission determined that they would address all Travel Assistance Grant Applications and Reports with one motion.

(a) **Travel Assistance Grant – Nanaimo Bike Polo.**

*Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council approve the application for a Travel Assistance Grant to the Nanaimo Bike Polo in the amount of \$300.00 for six players to attend the Cascadia Regional Championships - North America Qualifier being held in East Vancouver, BC.*

(b) **Travel Assistance Grant – Nanaimo Judo Club.**

*Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council approve the application for a Travel Assistance Grant to the Nanaimo Judo Club in the amount of \$300.00 for three players to attend the 2012 National Judo Championships, being held in Toronto, Ontario.*

(c) **Travel Assistance Grant – Upper Vancouver Island Metro Soccer.**

*Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council approve the application for a Travel Assistance Grant for Upper Vancouver Island Metro Soccer in the amount of \$300.00 for six*

*players to attend the BC Soccer Provincial A Cup Championships, being held in Kamloops, BC.*

(d) **Travel Assistance Grant – Nanaimo Youth Soccer Club.**

*Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council approve the application for a Travel Assistance Grant for Nanaimo Youth Soccer Club in the amount of \$850 for 17 players to attend the Girls U17 Gold Division BC Soccer Provincials, being held in Kelowna, BC.*

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations for each of the Travel Assistance Grant applications be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

(e) **Overnight Camping in the Parks.**

*Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission refer the issue of Overnight Camping in Parks to the Recreation Committee for review and report back with recommendations for updating.*

Commissioner Houle left the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

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

(f) **Zero Tolerance Alcohol Policy in Arenas.**

*Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve and adopt a zero tolerance alcohol policy in arenas.*

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

(g) **Nanaimo Science Centre Development at Bowen Park  
– Public Review Process.**

*Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council support in principle the draft concept and location of the Nanaimo Science Centre at Bowen Park for public review and input.*

When the recommendation goes to Council, the sentence "to support" means to some council that there are funds attached.

Ns<sup>3</sup> advised that no taxpayer money would be requested and that the city contribution would be land only. Staff will provide an explanation to council that Ns<sup>3</sup> will not be returning requesting funds.

Other departments will get referrals when various stages are met – for example, the building permit, concerns for traffic and access via Wall Street,

It is very important the concept is taken to the public for their input. Part of the proposal is that Ns<sup>3</sup> seek public input on Canada Day and throughout the summer.

Then other studies such as a traffic study and a geotechnical study would take place. The group has done a lot of work in the community to date.

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

Commissioner Houle returned to the meeting at 9:20.

10. STAFF REPORTS (Information Only):

(a) Monthly Report – Senior Manager, Parks & Civic Facilities – May 2012.

- There are a number of ongoing projects, including the Northfield rest area site.
- A number of RFP's have been awarded.
- Bowen West Sports Field – irrigation will be going in next week, sand will be replaced and then seeding.
- There has been lots of vandalism and graffiti, including vandalism to the fencing at May Richard's Bennett Pioneer Park.
- There is an infestation of caterpillars – it is worst year in a long time. It is coming to an end – they do eat the leaves, but don't kill the tree.
- Commissioner Pattje advised that last night he and Commissioners Thorpe and Savage – listened to the neighbourhood group at Stephenson Point regarding the playground. All were very impressed with how Kirsty MacDonald handled herself. Commissioner Thorpe suggested that in the future a portable sound system be used.

(b) Monthly Report – Senior Manager, Recreation and Culture Services – May 2012.

- Fees & Charges review – currently the reviews occur every three years. This fall the fees & charges review will come to the Recreation Committee. A speaker will be brought in to address and review fees, charges, discounts, ages, programs. As well, overnight camping, the LEAP program, other programs need to be looked at. The Committee will return to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission in February/March and then any amendments will be sent to Council for approval. PRCC will be kept advised as the process moves along.

It was moved and seconded that the Information Only Items be received. The motion carried unanimously.

11. CORRESPONDENCE: (Action Required.)

- (a) Letter dated 2012-JUN-16 to Mr. Richard Harding, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture, from Ms. Patricia (Pat) Rowe, 316 - 2815 Departure Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9S 5P4, regarding the need for a level walkway at Departure Bay Beach.

The Departure Bay Walkway is not in the current budget but could be moved to capital budget deliberations in the fall. There is a slope there; however, the sidewalk was built to incorporate the road drainage and must tie into the drainage components. A design



review can be sent to PRCC. The costs associated with remediation of the sidewalk are approximately \$300,000 and the money must come from general revenues. The walkway was to be part of the strategic plan. This is a standalone project.

Commissioner Alden feels the slope is significant and presents a danger. Staff advised that it had been tested and found that it had not been sloughing; however, appreciate that for those individuals who may be unsteady on their feet or controlling wheeled devices it could be a problem.

Staff to write a letter of response to Ms. Rowe to advise that the matter will be brought forward for the next budget deliberations.

It was moved and seconded that Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission will add this item to the budget deliberations this fall for approval in 2013. The motion carried. **Opposed: Commissioner Savage.**

CORRESPONDENCE: (Information)

- (b) Card dated 2012-MAR-26 and letter dated 2012-APR-17 received from Ms. Judie Roberts and Ms. Leslie Smith, Co-Chairs, Host Committee, Nanaimo Curling Club, thanking the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for their support through the grant program and providing their financial statement for the event.
- (c) Letter dated 2012-MAY-24 received from Ms. Penny Mitchell, Finance Chair, Island Bel Canto Singers, 5947 Butcher Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 5M7, thanking the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for their support by way of the \$530 Arts, Cultural and Festivals Events Grant for 2012 and providing their post-event report.
- (d) Minutes of the Nanaimo Harbour City Seniors, Annual General Meeting, held 2012-MAY-16.
- (e) Final Report for the Cultural Operating Grant 2012 received by the L'Association des francophones de Nanaimo, received on 2012-JUN-04.
- (f) Minutes of the Nanaimo Harbour City Seniors, Board of Directors Meeting, held 2012-JUN-01.
- (g) Letter dated 2012-JUN-08 from Mr. Peter McCaffery, President, Mid Island Velo Association, 101 - 6227 Pleasant Ridge Place, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 0B3, advising of the decision to cancel the Nanaimo Cobblestone Classic Criterium event for this year. *(Note: grant monies had not yet been disbursed; therefore, there would be no need for the group to return funds.)*

It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to St. Paul's Anglican Church to advise them that the event has been cancelled. The motion carried unanimously. *(NOTE: on review it was determined that the proposed event date had already passed.)*

- (h) Letter dated 2012-MAY-31 from Ms. Daurel Neve, General Manager, Theatre One, 150 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5G6, providing the final report for funding for the 2011/2012 season.

- (i) Letter dated 2012-JUN-06 from Mr. Michael Wright, General Manager, Crimson Coast Dance Society, 150 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5G6, providing their report on the February, 2012, Dynastic Dreams event.

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

- 12. NOTICE OF MOTION: (None.)
- 13. CONSIDERATION OF OTHER BUSINESS: (None.)
- 14. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

- (a) Mr. Jackson Hirota – Lowering Age Limit of Seniors Badminton.

It was moved and seconded that the matter be referred to staff for review and follow up. The motion carried unanimously.

- (b) Ms. Shawna Drinnan – Name Change for Forest Drive Park.

It was moved and seconded that the matter be referred to Staff for a report back to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff advised that the issue of naming will be brought back to Commission for an “In Camera” discussion.

- (c) Mr. Michael & Mrs. Corinne Besler – Pilot Segway Tour Project.

*(This matter was dealt with under Item 8.(a). Staff advised that prior to start up, a business license, insurance, and an agreement must be signed.)*

- 15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None.)
- 16. QUESTION PERIOD:

- (a) Jim Taylor asked for clarification on the Segway Victoria, BC request and was advised that it was approved as a pilot project in Bowen Park and that the company will be operating at the Vancouver Island Exhibition summer fair for the three-day period.

17. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 9:48 p.m. that the meeting adjourn, with the next regular meetings as follows:

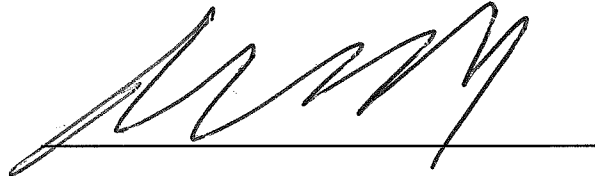
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|----------------------|---|
| COMMISSION           | Wednesday, 2012-JUL-25; 7:00 p.m.<br>Bowen Park Complex Conference Room               |
| Cultural Committee   | Wednesday, 2012-JUL-04; 4:00 p.m. – if required<br>Bowen Park Complex Conference Room |
| Recreation Committee | Wednesday, 2012-JUL-11; 3:00 p.m. – if required<br>Bowen Park Complex Conference Room |
| Parks Committee      | Thursday, 2012-JUL-12; 5:00 p.m. – if required<br>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

