

**NOTES OF THE REGULAR PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX CONFERENCE ROOM,  
ON THURSDAY, 2012-JUN-14, COMMENCING AT 5:00 P.M.**

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PRESENT: Commissioner Ian Thorpe, Chair

Members: Commissioner Diana Johnstone  
Commissioner Donald Rinald (arrived at 5:09 p.m.)  
Commissioner Graham Savage  
Commissioner Maureen Young

Staff: Jeff Ritchie R. Tweed, Recording

1. CALL THE OPEN MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 5:05 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) Notes of the Regular Parks Committee Meeting held Thursday, 2012-MAY-10, at 5:04 p.m., in the Bowen Park Complex Conference Room.

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

5. DELEGATIONS:

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

- (a) Mr. Michael & Mrs. Corinne Besler, Segway Victoria BC presenting their proposal for a pilot project offering Segway PT Tours in Nanaimo's Parks and Trails.

Mrs. Besler advised that the segways are battery powered and can charge in a regular household outlet. When they are out on site, they use a generator in the transport trailer. In the future, they hope to power the units with solar power. The costs charged for using the segways are 10 minutes for \$10, with tour costs at \$49 per hour or \$79 for two hours. Tours would commonly be one to two hours in length. At this time there is no family rate. Tour groups would have a maximum of five riders. Next year they will be outfitted with a communications set to advise riders of points of interest along the tour. In the interim, they will use walkie-talkies between guides. Currently, Segway tours are offered in Kamloops through the company, "Unique Adventures". Segway Victoria, BC is currently in discussions with the City of Victoria with regard to possible approval of segway tours in that City. The transport trailer would be set up as a base in available City of Nanaimo parks parking lots and the training and tours would take place from there – it is difficult to set up off-site training as they would then need to move the units to the tour start and are not

legally able to ride on or cross the roads and any exemptions would probably have to be through the motor vehicle body in British Columbia. The current parks bylaw permits electric bikes and has the flexibility to regulate and permit segways on the trail, including E&N and the parkway trail. Bylaw services cautions that there should be a sign to dismount to cross streets and crosswalks. 44 of the U.S. states permit them by law. Ideally, they would like to set up and use the Bowen Park lower parking lot on Wall Street and tour from there. The truck, trailer and training area would require an area approximately 20' X 20'. Should this venture be approved, the business would have two waivers – liability and code of conduct waiver - with their customers and the City would have a license of use agreement which would require \$5M general liability insurance as well as a city of Nanaimo business license. If riders don't follow the rules, their tour is over. Trail etiquette is used when meeting other users on the trails. Segway tour guides have the group slow down and pull over. Segway Incorporated recommends that the minimum age limit of riders be 16 years of age. Some tours allow riders of 10 years of age and up. No doubling is allowed and no babies can be carried. The tours are always guided therefore always supervised. If people are not accustomed to prolonged standing they do need to take breaks and breaks are built in to the tour. As the company does not currently employ anyone (all are family members) they do not have WCB coverage. Segway Victoria, BC would also like to provide these tours to the cruise ship passengers; however, as no location has been secured they are restricted as to where they can operate. The company is looking to provide a viewing experience along the way – making Bowen Park ideal and they hope, in the future, to have interpreters along the tour – for example where the totem poles have been laid down. The units are manufactured in New Hampshire. The model that is being proposed is equipped with bigger tires and is mean for rougher terrain and trails and can travel over chip, gravel, uneven terrain, and have a 30% gradient tolerance. Four sensor pads react to the weight – which is why there is a minimum weight restriction. They can be pushed without a motor. Each wheel operates independently. Some noise was built into it for safety

6. CHAIR'S REPORT: (None.)
7. REPORTS OF PROJECT COMMITTEES: (None.)
8. STAFF REPORTS (action):

(a) **Segway Tours within Nanaimo's Parks and Trails Network.**

*Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks Committee recommend that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve piloting segway tours within Nanaimo's Parks and Trails network.*

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation be adopted.

Discussion: Overall, the Committee felt that they are a great idea; however, they seem expensive for the public to rent for tours. The company also sells the units for approximately \$8,000.00. There is a benefit to tourism in getting more people out in the parks. There are a lot of hurdles for them to cross. Bowen Park offers the greatest ease of access with the advantage of the lower parking lot on Wall Street and they do not need to drive on or cross public roadways to tour the Park. Parks, Recreation and Culture charges a user fee to youth groups and non-profits to use facilities – as an example, the hot dog vendor at Long Lake would be charged about \$100/month. Approval could be for a pilot at a comparative nominal rate with success determined and then a monthly amount determined based on the results of the project. The Committee Chair had researched on

line and was disappointed to see, in more than one place, comments that tours had been confirmed in Nanaimo and were being offered at both Bowen Park and Beban Park

*A friendly amendment was made to the motion to read,*

*"That the Parks Committee recommend 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." The motion, as amended, carried unanimously.*

9. STAFF REPORTS (information only): (None.)

10. CORRESPONDENCE: (Action) (None.)

CORRESPONDENCE: (Information) (None.)

11. NOTICE OF MOTION:

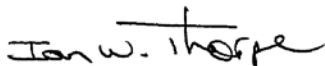
12. OTHER BUSINESS:

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None.)

14. QUESTION PERIOD: (No questions.)

15. ADJOURNMENT:

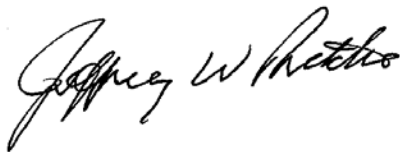
It was moved and seconded at 6:17 p.m. that the meeting adjourn, with the next meeting of the Parks Committee to be held, if required, on Thursday, 2012-JUL-12, commencing at 5:00 p.m., in the Bowen Park Complex Conference Room. The motion carried unanimously.



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Commissioner Ian Thorpe, Chair  
Parks Committee

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



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Jeff Ritchie  
Senior Manager, Parks & Civic Facilities

APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:



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R. Harding, Director  
Parks, Recreation and Culture