

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION
HELD IN ACTIVITY ROOM #1, BOWEN PARK COMPLEX
ON WEDNESDAY, 2011-JUL-27, COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Commissioner D. Johnstone, Chair

Members: Commissioner F. Pattje
Commissioner L. Avis
Commissioner J. Burnett
Commissioner B. Dempsey
Commissioner G. Rudischer
Commissioner B. Sparkes
Commissioner M. Young

Regrets: Commissioner J. Cowling
Commissioner J. Kipp
Commissioner S. Lance
Commissioner B. Meunier

Staff:	R. Harding	J. Ritchie
	M. Smith	R. Tweed, recording

1. CALL THE OPEN MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

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, 2011-JUN-22, at 7:00 p.m., in Activity Room #1, of the Bowen Park Complex.

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

5. PRESENTATIONS:

Ms. Lynn Haley and Mr. Stephen Kass, Vancouver Island Exhibition, #4 – 2300 Bowen Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 3K7, regarding the replacement of the existing VIEx barns with one new barn structure.

Ms. Haley provided an overview of the building footprint, planned revenue generating activities, and the project timeline. She advised that the VIEx is requesting the endorsement by the Commission to move ahead so that they can seek federal grants, a

commitment by the City for a lease in order to ensure their stability, financial contribution from the City, and site and ground testing.

Staff advised that there is the possibility for Alternative Approval Process for a License. If endorsed, capital funds would need to be moved forward through the Budget Review process.

Commissioner Pattje felt that there was a large spread between \$1.86M and \$300K and requested some clarification of the grants set up and efforts in the plans. Ms. Haley advised that they have not yet requested grants, and are hoping for approval in principal in order to do so.

Commissioners expressed some concerns about viability of exhibitions as they do not appear to be as successful as they once were. Mr. Kass advised that they have seen stats and agree that in the Eastern side of Canada this appears to be the case; however, the VIEx has only had one bad year in the last six to seven years. In the last few years they have been in the black, with attendance growing slightly in the past few years. The VIEx has been ensuring a balance of entertainment and agriculture to provide something for everyone in the community.

Staff reviewed the "Guidelines for City Assisted Community Capital Projects" document with regard to the process that has been followed to date for a new facility.

6. DELEGATIONS:

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

- (a) Ms. Julie Baldock and Ms. Sylvia Jenneson, Steering Committee, MSers Helping MSers, c/o 6265 Waterbury Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9V 1M3, requesting that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission institute a special rate for people with disabilities attending fitness programs at Nanaimo Parks, Recreation and Culture facilities.

Ms. Baldock and Ms. Jenneson requested that the City of Nanaimo provide a reduced rate for persons with disabilities for use of all PRC Facilities. Physical exercise reduces some of the symptoms of MS, improves quality of life, and minimizes the risk of complications down the road. Water exercise provides optimal conditions. Exercise is a major positive factor for all manner of disabilities. The group is proposing a fee category for people with all disabilities and/or eligibility for a LEAP card – regardless of income. The MS Society has had a special rate that was put in place many years ago before the LEAP program came into effect and has continued until present day, falling outside the Fees and Charges Bylaw. The MS Society was bringing in an instructor specific for MS sufferers. The MS Society has changed the structure on how they provide services to their members. The MS Society no longer provides an instructor. There is now a program being offered by PRC to the community at large, targeting persons with special needs. The registration fee for the six-week program of 12 classes would be \$3.91/class. The times/days are structured and what Ms. Baldock and Ms. Jenneson would like, is too have it offered as a drop-in class. They are requesting a designated rate for disabled persons. Rate was \$2.25, rate they are asking for is less than the full adult rate. They are not seeking additional staff for this.

7. CHAIR'S REPORT:

- (a) Selection of Commissioner for recommendation to Council to serve on the Grants Advisory Committee for the remainder of Commissioner Dawn Burnett's term.

Chair Johnstone advised that it is her understanding that Commissioner Brent Meunier is willing to serve on the Grants Advisory Committee. Should he be unable to serve, Commissioner Barry Sparkes would be willing to fill the vacancy.

It was moved and seconded that the Chair report be accepted.

8. REPORTS OF ADVISORY BODIES:

- (a) Parks Committee. No July meeting held.
- (b) Recreation Committee. No July meeting held.
- (c) Cultural Committee. No July meeting held.
- (d) Grants Advisory Committee. Commissioner Avis reported on the meetings held since 2011-JUN-22. There will be a session with Council in early September. Royal Canadian Legion 256 and Multicultural association have requested to be on PTE list for next year.
- (e) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee. Commissioner Lance absent - report deferred to September meeting.
- (f) Social Planning Advisory Committee. Commissioner Cowling absent - report on deferred to the September meeting.
- (g) Port Theatre. Monthly report for June, 2011.
- (h) Nanaimo Art Gallery. Monthly report for June, 2011.
- (i) Nanaimo District Museum. Monthly report for June, 2011, and July, 2011, newsletter.

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

9. STAFF REPORTS:

- (a) **Feasibility Study for the Beban Park Barn Replacement.**

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council endorse Option 1: replacing the existing barns on the VIEX grounds with one new consolidated barn structure as outlined in this report.

It was moved and seconded that the matter be referred to the Recreation Committee for review of Option 1, with heating, in accordance with the six key points in the "Guidelines for City Assisted Community Capital Projects" document and return to Commission with recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (staff reports):

(a) Senior Manager of Parks & Civic Facilities. Monthly report for June, 2011.

A lot of work has taken place in Pawson Park – it is now complete and is a very popular park. Salal and Cariboo also recently completed.

Second artificial turf field will be ready the end of August for play in September. Same company being used for repairs to first Artificial turf field. Possible official opening Friday, 2011-SEP-09. One field will be free of any obligations to any user groups so it can be utilized widely by all groups. 2,000 hrs of use per field per year – providing significantly more use opportunities over the natural grass fields.

Vandalism is up – wiring removed along Queen Elizabeth promenade for the copper content.

Smoking in the parks survey went out 2011-JUL-02 – 400 have been returned to date.

Dog bag dispensers are now in place. Well covered by the media. Good comments from public.

(b) Senior Manager of Recreation and Culture Services. Monthly report for June, 2011.

Weather has been having a major impact on the summer programs both positive and negative.

Final proof of the Fall and Winter Activity Guide is being reviewed.

Staff did a great job on Canada Day. Marine Festival went well.

NAC will be shut down for major maintenance in September which will put in place some of the major sustainability initiatives.

Beban will be closed mid-August for maintenance.

Kin Pool is open.

Kid Sport is holding a fundraiser and promotion – assisting families with cost of fees and programs. PRC does not work directly with them. Their fund raising is managed quite independently of PRC.

(c) Oliver Woods Landscaping.

Bullet #4 – 2012 capital plan – will look at traffic flow and playground / handicapped parking access. Parking and turnaround area has been previously identified and remediated and will still be reviewed under improvements.

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

11. CORRESPONDENCE: (Action Required.) (None.)

CORRESPONDENCE: (Information)

- (a) Letter dated 2011-JUL-05 from Ms. Maureen Pearse, Senior Manager Corporate Administration, advising of the appointment of Director Joe Burnett to the Nanaimo Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission.
- (b) Letter dated 2011-JUL-11 from Mr. Steve Jones, thanking the City of Nanaimo, Mayor Ruttan, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission and the Cultural Committee for honoring him with the Excellence in Culture Award.
- (c) Thank you card received from Commissioner Young to the members of the Commission and Parks, Recreation and Culture Staff on behalf of herself and her family for the gift of the palm tree in memory of Al Young.

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

12. NOTICE OF MOTION:

13. CONSIDERATION OF OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) **Skate Board Park in Cedar.**

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council send a letter of support to Minister Ida Chong with regard to the Cedar Skate Board Park. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) **Nanaimo Aquatic Centre.**

Compliment from visitors on the NAC.

(c) **PRC Staff Dress Code.**

Complaints from public regarding the dress standard of PRC Staff. This will be raised at the PRC Management Meeting 2011-JUL-28 for review and discussion.

(d) **Code Brown in the Pools.**

To be reviewed by staff to determine the number of incidents in a year. There are diapers available for children and special needs users.

14. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

(a) **MSers Helping MSers - Special Rates for Persons with Disabilities.**

It was moved and seconded that the matter be referred to Staff to determine the approximate number of disabled persons within the MS Society that this would impact.
The motion was defeated.

It was moved and seconded that the Staff be directed to determine if there is any funding available from VIHA for recreation passes for persons with disabilities and to contact BCRPA to determine if there are any special rates for disabled persons in any other municipalities. The motion carried unanimously.

15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None.)

16. QUESTION PERIOD: (No questions.)

17. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 8:56 p.m. that the meeting adjourn, with the next regular meetings as follows:

COMMISSION	Wednesday, 2011-SEP-21; 7:00 p.m. Bowen Park Complex Conference Room
Cultural Committee	Wednesday, 2011-SEP-07; 4:15 p.m. – if required Bowen Park Complex Conference Room
Recreation Committee	Wednesday, 2011-SEP-14; 3:00 p.m. – if required Bowen Park Complex Conference Room
Parks Committee	Thursday, 2011-SEP-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