

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION
HELD IN ACTIVITY ROOM #1 (UPPER LEVEL)
BOWEN PARK COMPLEX
ON WEDNESDAY, 2010-APR-28, COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Commissioner L. McNabb, Chair

Members: Commissioner D. Johnstone
Commissioner F. Pattje
Commissioner L. Avis
Commissioner S. Lance
Commissioner D. Burnett
Commissioner M. Young
Commissioner J. Cowling
Commissioner B. Sparkes
Commissioner B. Dempsey
Commissioner B. Meunier

Regrets: Commissioner G. Rudischer

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:

- Amend Item 6.(a) – Delegation – Mr. Cole Renner will be attending in the place of Mr. Ken Wagner, and has provided a letter and photos for review;
- Amend Item 6.() – Delegation - Mr. Sheng will provide a PowerPoint presentation;
- Add Item 6.(f) – Late Delegation – Mr. Fred Taylor; and,
- Add Item 6.(g) – Late Delegation – Ms. Ros Davies and Ms. Kate Lowe.

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, 2010-MAR-24, at 7:00 p.m., in the Hemlock Room, at the Oliver Woods Community Centre.

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

5. PRESENTATIONS: (None.)

6. DELEGATIONS:

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

- (a) Mr. Cole Renner, Nanaimo Clippers, 33 – 1925 Bowen Road, Nanaimo, BC V9S 1H1, presentation regarding backlit lighting at Frank Crane Area and speaking in support of same to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission.

Mr. Renner advised that he is new in the position; however, any information that the Commission may wish with regard to backlit lighting will be provided as required.

- (b) Mr. Mel Sheng, 4166 Departure Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC V9S 5W8, representing the Millstone River Community, providing the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission with an update on fisheries projects in Nanaimo.

Mr. Sheng requested that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission:

- (i) approve a study to determine the feasibility of developing a pink sport fishery at Neck Point Park;
- (ii) support development of a Coho sport fishery at the mouth of Millstone River (Coho smelt will be sea pen reared at the New Castle Ferry Dock for two to four weeks sometime between September and December);
- (iii) support promoting the pink fishery in 2010 (to include circulation of educational pamphlets, media events and develop of a guardianship program with DFO staff to ensure fisherman abide by posted regulations);
- (iv) support DFO in applying for a water license to release water continuously into Darough Creek (i.e. approximately 5-10 liters/second between November and July – which will have negligible impacts on lake level during these months, and will create unique habitat for cutthroat trout); and,
- (v) support the Millstone Committee in developing a public relations program this fall to promote the return of Coho in Bowen Park.

Mr. Sheng advised that DFO will provide the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission with an impact assessment report in the spring of 2011.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission support Mr. Sheng and his group in all of their endeavours, specifically, to:

- (i) approve a study to determine the feasibility of developing a pink sport fishery at Neck Point Park;
- (ii) support development of a Coho sport fishery at the mouth of Millstone River (Coho smelt will be sea pen reared at the New Castle Ferry Dock for two to four weeks sometime between September and December);
- (iii) support promoting the pink fishery in 2010 (to include circulation of educational pamphlets, media events and develop of a guardianship program with DFO staff to ensure fisherman abide by posted regulations);
- (iv) support DFO in applying for a water license to release water continuously into Darough Creek (i.e. approximately 5-10 litres/second between November and July – which will have negligible impacts on lake level during these months, and will create unique habitat for cutthroat trout); and,
- (v) support the Millstone Committee in developing a public relations program this fall to promote the return of Coho in Bowen Park.

The motion carried unanimously.

- (c) Ms. Barbara Densmore, and Ms. Sydney Robertson, 152 Irwin Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 4X2, representing the South End Community Association, providing the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission with an update on their efforts to beautify the neighbourhood, build their community, and advising of their future plans.

Ms. Densmore and Ms. Robertson provided a handout to Commission and jointly reviewed the document.

Commission members commended the presenters in their efforts and for coming to Commission with a collaborative approach.

Ms. Densmore and Ms. Robertson expressed their appreciation for all the support they have received from the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission.

- (d) Mr. Wayne Robinson, President, Vancouver Island Exhibition (VIE), #4 - 2300 Bowen Road, Nanaimo, BC V9T 3K7 requesting that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission provide funding assistance to offset the Vancouver Island Exhibition operating expenses.

Mr. Robinson provided history on the VIE which began in 1894 and in 1953 moved to Beban Park. This multi-day event now requires 250-300 volunteers for the three days. The event was free to public for almost 90 years; however, since the 1980's admissions have been required to offset the costs of the expenses. The gate admission has been increased in 2010 - for the first time in six years. Two of the four objectives mandated for the VIE are to promote and educate about agriculture. Due to the current economic climate it is becoming more difficult to obtain sponsorship, volunteers, grants and alternate sources of funding to offset their expenses. The VIE was proud to be

honoured with the 2009 Award for Excellence as top evaluated fair in BC with more than 20,000 in attendance. In order to continue on as a viable operation they need paid staff - an office administrator/bookkeeper, and a grounds keeper. They request that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission include the 2010 rentals fees of almost \$12,000 as part of their license agreement. For long term sustainability the VIEx requests that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission consider granting a minimum of \$10,000 for operating funds on an annual basis. Last year over 25,000 people attended the VIEx; however, in 2007 they were approximately \$50K in the red and have only been able to put approximately \$2-\$3K towards the buildings for upkeep.

- (e) Mr. Patrick Sullivan, Gyro Club of Nanaimo, c/o 450 Wentworth Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 3E1 asking that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission give consideration for an improved rate for long term rental of the Rotary Activity Centre by Gyro Club of Nanaimo on Thursday evenings from 5-10 p.m. throughout the year, except July and August.

He advised that he would be speaking specifically in regard to having a permanent location for the Gyro Nanaimo Club. The Gyro Nanaimo Club formed in 1922 as a friendship club for youth in the community. Each week, for about 40 weeks out of the year, they have a dinner meeting. Gyro, since 1922, has contributed to a number of parks and recreation facilities throughout the City and have contributed, over time, a fairly sizeable amount of money. They ask now that they are treated in kind with a reduction in their rental fees for utilizing the Rotary Field House.

LATE DELEGATIONS:

- (f) Mr. Fred Taylor, 204 Emery Way, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5Z8, requesting the opportunity to address the Commission in regards to Item 8.(b)(ii) City of Nanaimo – Parks, Recreation and Culture Fees and Rental Policy.

Mr. Taylor raised concerns regarding the use of Brechin boat ramp by non-recreational users. He feels that vehicles are being parked and stored by non-recreational users at a rate not enjoyed by other members of the City. There is no longer a 24 hour limit and Mr. Taylor requests that this be reinstated. Staff advised that they are working with Bylaws at this time regarding parking matters and they will return to Commission with further information.

- (g) Ms. Ros Davies, and,
Ms. Kate Lowe,
requesting that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission designate the 100 acre parcel overlooking Cinnabar Valley as parkland.

Ms. Davies and Ms. Lowe addressed the issue of the land owned by the City of Nanaimo within the boundary of the RDN. It can be accessed through South Wellington at the end of Plecas Road. Any development would likely comprise the wet lands due to steep slope and run off. The proposed Sandstone development abuts this area and poses concerns to the local residents. They want to take steps to formalize this property as a park to protect it from development and save it for future generations. They advised as to the amount of environmental damage being caused by dirt bikes using the property.

Staff advised that there are two options:

1. forward a request to Council to review; or,
2. refer to the Parks Committee for review by Staff and reporting back to the Commission and then forward a recommendation on to Council.

Ultimately, the decision on this matter would rest with Council.

It was moved and seconded that this matter be referred to the Parks Committee for review and reporting back to Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

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

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- (a) Two separate dates, 2010-MAY-12 and 2010-MAY-31, are being planned for the PRCC tours. With two scheduled tours there is the opportunity for Commission members to visit many locations of interest. If you have any specific areas that you wish to tour, please contact the Commission Secretary by 2010-MAY-01.

The tour times will be either 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., or from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., depending on the availability of the bus. As the 2010-MAY-12 date was already committed on many members calendars, another date will be chosen in addition to the 2010-MAY-31 date. Lunch will be provided.

It was moved and seconded that the Chairman's Report be received. The motion carried unanimously.

8. REPORTS OF ADVISORY BODIES:

- (a) Parks Committee. No meeting held.
- (b) Recreation Committee. Commissioner Johnstone reported on the meeting held 2010-APR-15.
 - (i) Grade 5 Get Active! Program.

Recreation Committee's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council endorse the Grade 5 Get Active! program, giving Grade 5 students from the City of Nanaimo, and contributing areas, free admission to drop-in swimming, skating and gymnasium-based activities for the 2011 school year.

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

(ii) City of Nanaimo – Parks, Recreation and Culture Fees and Rental Policy.

Recreation Committee's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council:

- (i) approve the fees and rental adjustments which average a 3% increase annually for the period from 2010-SEP-01 to 2013-AUG-31, and further;*
- (ii) give the first three readings to the amendment of SCHEDULE "B" of the PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE REGULATION BYLAW 2008 No. 7073.*

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

Discussion was held with regard to the "dinner meeting" rate charge at Rotary Activity Centre. The Commission was presented with a number of options. Rotary Activity Centre does not have a fully complemented kitchen; therefore, any dinner functions at the Centre must be catered.

It was moved and seconded that a friendly amendment be made to 8.(b)(ii) to amend Schedule B to remove the "dinner meeting" function rate from Rotary Field House. The motion carried unanimously.

(c) Cultural Committee. Commission Fred Pattje reported on the meeting held 2010-APR-07 on behalf of the Chair, Eveline O'Rourke.

(i) City of Nanaimo Community Plan for Public Art.

Cultural Committee's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council approve the City of Nanaimo Community Plan for Public Art.

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

(d) Grants Advisory Committee. Commissioner Burnett reported that a meeting was held 2010-MAR-31; however, minutes are not yet available. There were two motions, one was to waive fees for the volunteer society's luncheon in kind, and the other was to deny the in-kind rental for Beban Park for the school dry grad.

(e) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee. Commissioner Lance reported that there had been one meeting held since 2010-MAR-24 – it was a very short meeting with only one rezoning. Mr. Pete Sabo is now sitting on the Committee.

- (f) Social Planning Advisory Committee. Commissioner Cowling reported that she was absent from the meeting that was held in the past month, and, as she had not yet received the minutes, advised that she would report on this meeting and any subsequent meetings at the 2010-MAY-26 Commission meeting.
- (g) Port Theatre. Monthly report for March, 2010.
- (h) Nanaimo Art Gallery. Monthly report for March, 2010.
- (i) Nanaimo Museum. Monthly report for March/April, 2010.

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

9. STAFF REPORTS:

(a) Class E Funded Projects at Frank Crane Arena.

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission support the following projects being funded from the Class E Liquor Reserve at Frank Crane Arena to be completed in conjunction with the Recreation Infrastructure grant improvements:

1. Completion of spectator seating;
2. Accessibility upgrades to lobby washrooms; and,
3. Completion of warm room flooring replacement.

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

(b) Travel Assistance Application –
Nanaimo Diamonds Synchronized Swim Club.

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council approve the application for a Travel Assistance Grant for the Nanaimo Diamonds Synchronized Swim Club in the amount of \$500.00.

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

(c) Urban Forest Management Strategy.

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council receive the Urban Forest Management Strategy as a guide for the ongoing management of Nanaimo's urban forest.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendation be adopted.

Discussion ensued regarding private property, tree protection, the Tree Protection Bylaw, and protected species of trees.

It was moved and seconded that the Urban Forest Management Strategy, Module 5, be amended to remove any reference to "private property". The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council receive the Urban Forest Management Strategy, as amended, as a guide for the ongoing management of Nanaimo's urban forest. The motion carried unanimously.

(d) **Civic Merit Awards for Sports / Arts and Culture Achievement.**

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council approve the attached, new:

1. City of Nanaimo "Civic Sport Merit Awards and Arts / Culture Merit Awards" policy; and,
2. "Selection Criteria – Civic Merit Awards for Sports / Arts and Culture".

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

(e) **Nanaimo Sports Field Strategy.**

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council receive the Nanaimo Sports Field Strategy as a guide for improvements to the field system for the next fifteen years.

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

(f) **Capital Improvement Project for Frank Crane Arena.**

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve:

1. The installation of the improved advertising program (backlit and updated sliders), with capital costs of \$100,000 to be funded 100% by the Nanaimo Clippers; and,
2. The forgiving of advertising revenue from the Nanaimo Clippers for seven (7) years (valued at an average of approximately \$11,500/year based on historical performance).

Discussion ensued. Staff clarified that at the end of the seven years the City owns the signage.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations be adopted. The motion carried. **Opposed:** Commissioner Pattje, Commissioner Meunier, Commissioner Burnett, and Commissioner Cowling.

10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (staff reports):

(a) Monthly Report – Senior Manager of Parks.

- Trial dog off-leash parks open 2010-MAY-01.
- Bowen outdoor park opening soon.
- Floral emblem open house 2010-MAY-08
- Altrusa Park – fall protection to wood fibre rather than pea gravel.

(b) Monthly Report – Senior Manager of Recreation and Culture Services.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE: (Information)

(a) Minutes of the Nanaimo Harbour City Seniors, Board of Directors Meeting held 2010-APR-09.

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

12. NOTICE OF MOTION:

13. CONSIDERATION OF OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Costs Incurred for Dog Pickup Bags – Commissioner Lance.

Commissioner Lance advised that as it is costing approximately \$40,000 / year for bags and pickup of dog deposits, could we ask Council to consider adding \$5.00 to dog licensing for 2011, and have this money go into an account to offset the dog bags and pick up. Commissioner Lance provided some comparisons from other municipalities.

Discussion ensued, with some options such as advertising on dog bags (ex. dog stores, veterinary offices, suppliers) proposed.

It was moved and seconded that this matter be referred to the Parks Committee for review and report back to Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

14. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

(a) Mr. Cole Renner - Nanaimo Clippers.

[This matter was dealt with under Item 9.(f).]

- (b) Mr. Mel Sheng - Millstone River Community.

[This matter was dealt with under Item 6.(b)]

- (c) Ms. Barbara Densmore & Sydney Robertson
- South End Community Association.

[The delegation was received.]

- (d) Mr. Wayne Robinson - Vancouver Island Exhibition (VIEEx).

Additional discussion ensued, and it was proposed that, as an option, the City remove the cost charged for the facilities at the VIEEx fair, and that, in turn, the VIEEx put these funds into an account for future facilities.

It was moved and seconded that the matter of offset funding for the VIEEx be referred to the Recreation Committee for review and reporting back to Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

- (e) Mr. Patrick Sullivan – Gyro Club of Nanaimo.

[This matter was dealt with under Item 8.(b)(ii).]

- (f) Mr. Fred Taylor – City of Nanaimo – Fees and Rental Policy.

[The delegation was received.]

- (g) Ms. Ros Davies & Ms. Kate Lowe – Parkland in Cinnabar Valley.

[This matter was dealt with under Item 6.(g)]

15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

16. QUESTION PERIOD:

- (a) Mr. Fred Taylor spoke regarding Item 13.(a) with specific reference to the suggestion that dog licensing fees be increased by \$5.00/year. He advised that there are many people who, while they may license their dogs, do not take their dogs off their property and as such do not use the bags or park facilities. As this can be the case, it is unfair to expect everyone to pay increased license fees.


17. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 8:47 p.m. that the meeting adjourn, with the next regular meetings as follows:

COMMISSION	Wednesday, 2010-MAY-26; 7:00 p.m. Activity Room #1, Bowen Park Complex
Cultural Committee	Wednesday, 2010-MAY-05; 4:15 p.m., if required Bowen Park Complex Conference Room
Recreation Committee	Wednesday, 2010-MAY-12; 3:00 p.m., if required Bowen Park Complex Conference Room
Parks Committee	Thursday, 2010-MAY-13; 5:00 p.m., if required Bowen Park Complex Conference Room

The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



L. McNabb, Chair
Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission



R. Harding, Director
Parks, Recreation and Culture

