

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION  
HELD AT ROTARY FIELD HOUSE  
850 THIRD STREET  
WEDNESDAY, 2010-FEB-24, COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.**

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**PRESENT:** Commissioner L. McNabb, Chair

**Members:** Commissioner D. Johnstone  
Commissioner F. Pattje  
Commissioner L. Avis  
Commissioner S. Lance  
Commissioner M. Young  
Commissioner G. Rudischer  
Commissioner J. Cowling  
Commissioner B. Sparkes  
Commissioner B. Meunier

**Regrets:** Commissioner D. Burnett  
Commissioner B. Dempsey

**Staff:** R. Harding J. Plasteras  
S. Samborski R. Tweed, recording

**1. CALL THE OPEN MEETING TO ORDER:**

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

**2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:**

- Add Item 13.(a) – Location of PRCC Meetings – Commissioner Shirley Lance.

**3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

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

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

- (a) Minutes of the Regular Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission Meeting held Wednesday, 2010-JAN-27, at 7:03 p.m., at Rotary Field House.

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. Mike Lundine, 400 Campbell Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 3G7 on behalf of Pauline Haarer School showing support for new grass field at Comox and advising of the benefits to the School and the community.

Mr. Lundine advised that he is appearing on behalf of both the School and the Parent's Advisory Committee (PAC). He advised that the new grass field is seen as a positive for the school and all their activities. The children benefit greatly from the field which is not only safer, but will result in more productive attendance and increased numbers. This upgrade will also be a bonus for the PAC. The positive attitude and relationship that the Coach and the Vancouver Island Raiders bring to the school promotes healthy living and activities. This also increases the relationships between the teams and the school. Currently, transient individuals from the downtown core present some safety issues to the children and undesirable activities are occurring during the evening hours. If there are team practices and lights in the area, it will be less attractive to those individuals that are currently causing concerns for the safety of the children.

Commission asked if there will be equipment storage. Mr. Lundine advised that there may be a flat level surface used by the Raiders for equipment storage.

- (b) Mr. Hadi Abassi, 2005 Boxwood Road, Nanaimo, BC V9S 5X9, Mr. Dominic Abassi, and Mr. Hameed Rashid, appearing on behalf of the Vancouver Island Raiders providing support of the conversion of the Comox field to a grass turf field and presenting their future plans for the field.

Mr. Hadi Abassi has requested over time that Parks and Recreation cooperate and work with the Raiders for a practice facility – this has been realized and, Mr. Abassi, on behalf of the Raiders expressed their thanks for all the support. Their first degree graduate from Nanaimo will be playing for a university football team. A lot has been accomplished both off and on the field. Having practice locations has always been a challenge and so the Raiders have looked to how Comox Field could be shared in partnership to transfer to a grass field for use during the period of May – mid-November (approximately Remembrance Day). The Raiders are looking forward to a partnership with Parks, Recreation and Culture. By bringing the sport to the children's field will be a great partnership. This would be a great practice facility and everyone can be proud of the outcome.

Commission asked who would maintain the Field. Staff advised that it would be maintained as part of the City Inventory.

There were also some concerns expressed about the amount of damage that may be done to the field from use for football. Mr. Abassi advised that games have been played at Elaine Hamilton Parks, and that Comox Field would be for practice only. Practice is not as big an issue as the games. Footwear will vary due to weather and the type of grass; however, practice sessions are not as hard on the field and games. Field will be lit when required. The Raiders anticipate that they will use Comox Field for practices for three nights per week guaranteed – Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Friday they will be moving the team to Caledonia. Their games are played on Saturday at Elaine Hamilton and then it is up to the Coaching Staff whether practice would also be required on Sunday and Monday.

It was moved and seconded that decision-making on the redevelopment of Comox Field under Items 9.(a), 14.(a) and 14.(b) be brought forward on the Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve the redevelopment of Comox Field. The motion carried unanimously.

- (c) Mr. Larry Lokun, 2937 Departure Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC V9T 1B3, requesting that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve a hot dog vending cart at Departure Bay Beach.

Mr. Lokun advised that he would like to put a vending cart at Departure Bay Beach – even if only on a trial basis, at the far end at the foot of Bay Street near the sidewalk area where there was a cross-walk.

Commission asked if Mr. Lokun had been in contact with the Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association. Mr. Lokun advised that he had not yet approached the Association.

Commission asked if Mr. Lokun was currently in possession of the vending cart. Mr. Lokun advised that he has not yet obtained the cart.

Commission asked if Mr. Lokun had been in contact with the Bathtub Days Society yet as they have quite an extensive refreshment area during Bathtub Days. Mr. Lokun advised that he had not yet approached the Bathtub Society.

Commission asked Mr. Lokun what were his anticipated hours of operation. Mr. Lokun advised that he expected to be open seven days a week, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., during the period from May to September.

Commission received the delegation.

- (d) Mr. Jim Young, 1419 Fielding Road, Nanaimo, BC V9X 1K8, appearing as a Director of the Chase River Community Association, wishing to update the Commission on recent happenings at the former Chase River Activity Centre.

Mr. Young advised that he has lived in Chase River for over 40 years and has been on the Chase River Community Association for many years. He presented information on the renovation and relocation of the Boys and Girls Club to the old Station 4 Fire Hall on Cranberry Avenue.

Commission asked as to the number of current members of the association. Mr. Young advised that there are 4-40 depending on the issues; however, he was not able to provide information on the number of paid up memberships.

Mr. Len Manual, Coordinator of Facilities and Transportation, Boys and Girls Club, also spoke briefly and extended an invitation to both the Commission and Staff to tour the newly renovated facility at the old Station 4 Fire Hall, at 1400 Cranberry Avenue, in Chase River.

Commission received the delegation.

- (e) Mr. Grant Renton, 722 Connaught Avenue, Nanaimo, BC V9R 4J6, on behalf of Football Nanaimo requesting that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve their request to put signage for advertisers on the equipment tower at May Bennett Park as well as put up sandwich board style signage at field level on game days.

Mr. Renton and Mr. Derik Ewen requested year-round signage for their practice and home game facility - May Bennett Park. Due to the reduction in gaming funds, their operating budget has been cut by one-half. They hope to raise approximately \$8K through advertising if Commission approves their request.

Commission raised concerns about visibility of advertising signage from the roadway, the size and number of signs, the permanency of the signs, and how many months of the year the signage would be in place.

The delegation advised that while the signs would be visible from the roadway, they felt that they would not be readable at that distance. They are proposing to sell the space in 4 feet X 3 feet block areas and that the number of signs would be dependent on how many blocks were purchased individually or as multiple units for a larger sign. A total of 100 square feet of signage advertising space is anticipated. Additionally, the free-standing sandwich board signs would be 2 feet X 4 feet. The signs would remain in place, year-round as long as the advertising was paid. Mr. Renton advised that he had driven around Nanaimo and checked for signage in other parks advising that this is signage at a number of locations.

Staff advised that further consideration should be given to this matter as with the gaming funding cuts to all groups, if the Nanaimo Football request is approved, they anticipate that other field users will be asking for the same.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

(a) Committee Appointments.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission extend appointments to all PRCC Committees and Sub-Committees, with the exception of the appointments to the Cultural Committee, for a term to 2012-MAR-31 as directed by Council at their meeting of 2010-JAN-25. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) Dog Off-Leash Parks.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission formally ratify the e-mail decision of the Commission to modify Priority 3 of the Dog Off-Leash Report to Council to remove Neck Point Park from the identified areas for "Dog Off-Leash" parks and instead, replace it with "Other Beach Accesses (eg. Invermere Beach, Beach Estates Park)". The motion carried unanimously.

8. REPORTS OF ADVISORY BODIES:

(a) Parks Committee. No meeting held.

(b) Recreation Committee. No meeting held.

(c) Cultural Committee. No meeting held.

(d) Grants Advisory Committee. No meetings held.

(d) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee. Commissioner Lance, reporting on the meetings held since 2010-JAN-27, advised that PNAC discussed re-zoning and one application to change the OCP.

(f) Social Planning Advisory Committee. Commissioner Cowling reported that there no matters affecting the Department or Commission at the meeting held 2010-FEB-02.

(g) Port Theatre. Monthly report for January, 2010.

(h) Nanaimo Art Gallery. Monthly report for January, 2010.

(i) Nanaimo Museum. Monthly report for January/February, 2010.

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

9. STAFF REPORTS:

(a) Comox Field Upgrade.

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve the redevelopment of Comox Field.

*[Note: This matter was moved forward on the Agenda and dealt with under Item 6.(a)]*

(b) Cultural Committee Structure and Mandate.

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

1. approve that the purpose and structure of the Cultural Committee be included as a review item at this year's Cultural Forum to obtain input from the cultural community;
2. direct that Staff report back with options for Commission's consideration by July of this year; and,
3. extend the Cultural Committee appointments through to September 30, 2010.

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

(c) School District 68 Formal Request To Contribute Financially To The Track Resurfacing Project At Rotary Bowl

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council consider funding for Rotary Bowl when the School District commits to multi-use at this facility.

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

10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (staff reports):

(a) Senior Manager of Parks. Monthly report for January, 2010.

(b) Senior Manager of Recreation and Culture Services. Monthly report for January, 2010.

- (i) 4000 that visited NAC in January were actually gym users – the gym is being very well utilized.
- (ii) VIEX meeting follow-up – partnership program between viex and PRC and Chickens in your own backyard sessions.

- (iii) Picnic in the Park on Monday – snowboard competition – Parks, Recreation and Culture and Alternative Groove organized this event. There were two and one-half jumps and snowboard tricks to watch. The event was attended by both younger children and older youths. Very well done.
- (iv) Reminder – Saturday, 2010-FEB-27, 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Beban Park Redevelopment - Rooms 19, 20, 21.

Commissioner Pattje commented on the Maple Sugar Festival, advising that it was absolutely first class – great entertainment and great event.

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

It was moved and seconded that a letter of thanks be sent to the staff involved in snowboard competition. The motion was carried unanimously.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: (Information)

- (a) E-mail correspondence from Ms. Stephanie Johnson, Chair, Pauline Haarer Parent Advisory Committee, in support of the Comox Field Upgrade plan.
- (b) Minutes of the Nanaimo Harbour City Seniors, Board of Directors Meeting held 2010-FEB-12.
- (c) Letter dated 2010-JAN-20 from Mr. Wayne Reis, 5721 Bayshore Drive, Nanaimo, BC V9V 1G9, to Mr. Richard Harding regarding the Bayshore Drive Park tree issue and Mr. Harding's letter of response dated 2010-FEB-04 addressing Mr. Reis' concerns.

Commissioner Pattje raised discussion on the letter from Mr. Reis. Mr. Reis feels that a promise was made by Harry Wipper and was not fulfilled.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission once again refer the matter of the ongoing concerns with regard to the removal of trees at Bayshore Drive Park to the Parks Committee for their review and return to Commission with a report. The motion carried unanimously.

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

12. NOTICE OF MOTION: (None.)

13. CONSIDERATION OF OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Location of PRCC Meetings.

Commissioner Shirley Lance brought forward the matter of the venue for the PRCC meetings. Commissioner Lance felt that this should be moved back to Bowen Park – at least three of the female Commissioners are uncomfortable going to the Rotary Field House at night, the lighting is not adequate, and they do not feel safe. During this time of year, while it is dark and rainy, Rotary Field House is not comfortable to come to.

Commissioner Cowling pointed out that she finds the Bowen Complex Conference Room to be uncomfortable and poorly ventilated and when the air conditioner is turned on, the room is cold and it is difficult to hear the discussion.

Oliver Woods Community Centre was suggested as an alternative.

The Chair and Director are to discuss the issue.

14. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

(a) Mr. Abassi, Mr. Rashid, and Mr. Abassi - Vancouver Island Raiders.

*[Note: This matter was moved forward on the Agenda and dealt with under Item 6.(a)]*

(b) Mr. Mike Lundine - Pauline Haarer School.

*[Note: This matter was moved forward on the Agenda and dealt with under Item 6.(a)]*

(c) Mr. Larry Lokun - Food Vending in Departure Bay.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission refer the matter regarding establishment of a hot dog vending cart at Departure Bay Beach to Staff for review, and that they involve both the Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association and the Bathtub Society in their review and report back to Commission with their findings. The motion carried unanimously.

(d) Mr. Jim Young - Chase River Community Association.

Receive delegation.

(e) Mr. Grant Renton - Football Nanaimo.

It was moved and seconded that the matter of allowing the Nanaimo Football Club to erect signage for advertisers on the equipment tower at May Bennett Park as well as put up sandwich board style signage at field level on game days be referred to the Parks Committee for report back to Commission with a recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.



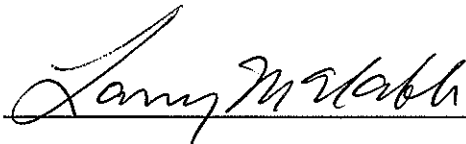
15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: (None.)
16. QUESTION PERIOD: (No questions.)
17. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 8:05 p.m. that the meeting adjourn, with the next regular meetings as follows:

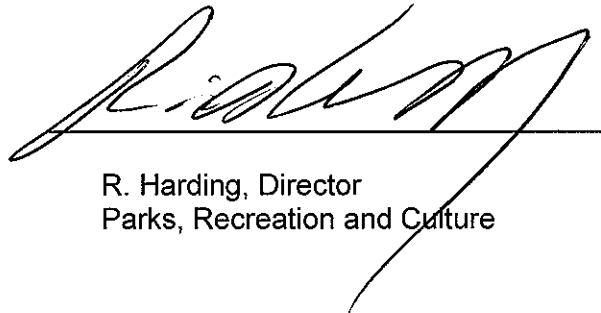
COMMISSION	Wednesday, 2010-MAR-24; 7:00 p.m. (Location to be determined.)
Cultural Committee	Wednesday, 2010-MAR-03; 4:15 p.m., if required Bowen Park Complex Conference Room
Recreation Committee	Wednesday, 2010-MAR-10; 3:00 p.m., if required Bowen Park Complex Conference Room
Parks Committee	Thursday, 2010-MAR-11; 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

