

**NOTES OF THE REGULAR PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX CONFERENCE ROOM,
ON THURSDAY, 2010-JAN-14, COMMENCING AT 5:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Commissioner Barry Sparkes, Chair

Members: Commissioner Fred Pattje
Commissioner Brian Dempsey
Commissioner Maureen Young
Commissioner Brent Meunier

Staff: Jeff Ritchie R. Tweed, Recording
Kirsty MacDonald

1. CALL THE OPEN MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 5:30 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) Meeting Notes of the Regular Parks Committee Meeting held Thursday, 2009-NOV-12, at 5:00 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: (None.)

6. CHAIR'S REPORT:

- (a) Review proposed DRAFT "Dog Off- Leash Parks" Report to Commission.

Staff provided some information on the document "Summary of Survey Events From First Open House held July 29th at the Beban Park Dog off-leash Park", and summarized the Open House and the information comments received by members of the public that could not attend, and feedback received following the Open House by those that could attend. It is expected that there will be a period of public education of the process and it is also expected that there may be some issues with enforcing the Dog On-Leash vs. Dog Off-Leash areas. This has been discussed with the Dog Off-Leash Enforcement Officers and the pound. To date, our sports fields have been the largest area of infractions. There will be signage for those areas where dogs should again be leashed in order to prevent interaction with wildlife. Additionally, there will be signage regarding dangerous and restricted dogs – the signage will be consistent with the Bylaw regarding dangerous and restricted breeds. Two major financial issues in the installation of proposed new Dog Off-Leash Parks are water for the dogs and required fencing. If there is no water source available, and to put

one in would require a major financial expenditure, one would not be provided. There are also areas where the public do not, and will likely not, effectively clean up after their dogs. Committee asked if there was a possibility that signage could be increased to more effectively deal with the clean up after dogs. The issue of liability was also raised. Staff will research other municipalities and how they deal with the issue of dogs in unfenced parks. Staff reviewed each of the Priority locations referenced in the document. Staff also advised of the donation of the property at 5978 Icarus Drive. This property is being considered for a "loop" walk from Invermere Park, along the waterfront, to, into, and back from, 5978 Icarus Drive. Committee members proposed that usage of the Diver Lake site be seasonal. Some areas of the Regional District, Area C being one, do not require that dogs be licensed. Signage in Nanaimo advises that dogs must be licensed to use the park.

The Committee approved the Report with the following amendments:

- Diver Lake Park be noted as "Seasonal Use";
- Colliery Dam Park have hours of use limitations;
- Beban Park be included in Phase 1;
- Phase 2 be adjusted to show the last half of 2010/first half of 2011)
- More emphasis be placed on the wording with regard to the one-year trial basis.

Staff to submit the amended draft to the Committee members for their final review before it is submitted to Commission.

It was moved and seconded that the "Dog Off-Leash Parks" report, with the changes as noted, be submitted to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for their recommendation to Council to approve the phase-in implementation plan as re-written. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) **Loudon Park Improvement Plan Update**

Recommendation: That the Parks Committee recommend that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission adopt the amended Loudon Park Improvement Plan.

The attached drawing showing the footprint of the building and its proposed relocation is to be appended to these minutes for background and provision to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for their review process.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks Committee recommend that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission adopt the amended Loudon Park Improvement Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

7. **REPORTS OF PROJECT COMMITTEES:** (None.)
8. **STAFF REPORTS:** (None.)
9. **INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (staff reports):** (None.)
10. **CORRESPONDENCE:** (Action) (None.)
CORRESPONDENCE: (Information) (None.)

11. NOTICE OF MOTION: (None.)

12. OTHER BUSINESS: (None.)

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- (a) Bowen Park Improvement Plan – update on the improvement plan to be brought to the Parks Committee;
- (b) Steps at Pipers Lagoon – staff to meet with Mr. Dean and return to the Parks Committee with recommendations.

It was moved and seconded that Item 13.(a) “Bowen Park Improvement Plan” be removed from Unfinished Business. The motion carried unanimously.

14. QUESTION PERIOD:

- (a) Commissioner Pattje raised the issue of the obstruction being created by a sludge collector along Departure Bay Creek which is preventing accessibility up the Creek by pink salmon. Staff to look into the matter with Mel Sheng (DFO and Pacific Salmon Foundation) and advise Committee members by e-mail.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 6:38 p.m. that the meeting adjourn, with the next Meeting of the Parks Committee to be held, if required, Thursday, 2010-FEB-11, commencing at 5:30 p.m. in the Bowen Park Complex Conference Room.

The motion carried unanimously.



Commissioner Barry Sparkes, Chair
Parks Committee

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Jeff Ritchie
Senior Manager, Parks Operations

APPROVED FOR DISTRIBUTION:



R. Harding, Director
Parks, Recreation and Culture