

**NOTES OF THE REGULAR PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX CONFERENCE ROOM,
ON THURSDAY, 2009-NOV-12, COMMENCING AT 5:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Commissioner Barry Sparkes, Chair
Commissioner Fred Pattje
Commissioner Brian Dempsey
Commissioner Brent Meunier

REGRETS: Commissioner Maureen Young

Staff: Jeff Ritchie

R. Tweed, Recording

1. CALL THE OPEN MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

. 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-OCT-15 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:

6. CHAIR'S REPORT:

(a) Changes to Parks opening and closing dates and times were approved by PRCC at their 2009-OCT-28 meeting, and these changes were subsequently approved by Council on 2009-NOV-09 and the Bylaw given the first three readings.

7. REPORTS OF ADVISORY BODIES: None.

8. STAFF REPORTS:

(a) WPVL Request for VIP Grant.

At its regular meeting held 2009-OCT-28, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission received a delegation from Mr. Chris Bassett, 849 Athena Place, Nanaimo, BC V9V 1B9, providing a review of the WPVL request for a VIP program grant of \$20,000 for the construction of a batting cage at May Bennett Pioneer Park. Following receipt of the delegation, the Commission referred the WPVL request to the Parks Committee.

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks Committee recommend that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve a VIP Grant of \$20,000 to WPVL for the construction of a batting cage at May Bennett Pioneer Park.

Staff confirmed that the request does comply with the VIP program guidelines and that there are funds this year to accommodate this request. The project would be managed by Staff in cooperation with the WPVL.

Mr. Chris Bassett attended the meeting in order to respond to any questions the Parks Committee members might have and provided information on the following issues:

1. Noise - the batting machine is electric, but balls are sponge, not hard and don't impact the bats the same;
2. Lighting – goal is for a solid roof and it is not anticipated that the lights would be projected outward;
3. Hours of Use – generally would not be used later in the evening. Used most heavily in the spring before the season – probably most all day on weekends, and at most practices during the week. Later in the season may not be used full-time on weekends.
4. Usage by Other Organizations – anticipated that other organizations, specifically the men's league, would help in the construction and would use; however, the unit and associated storage would remain locked and therefore would be available by key access only. WPVL would be open to the use of the batting cage by other associations.
5. Construction Manager – MJ Chahley Construction Group.
6. Percentage of Volunteer Time – WPVL is hoping to get a good percentage of time or contribution sponsored or donated.
7. Who makes up the WPVL - 80% of the players come from old association (Quarterway North). There are a few players from Cedar and Cinnabar. Third street batting cage is Minor Baseball's. The area was graded by PRC, but they constructed the cage.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks Committee recommend that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve a VIP Grant of 50 percent of the construction costs, up to \$20,000, to the WPVL for the construction of a batting cage at May Bennett Pioneer Park. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks Committee recommend that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve the VIP Grant conditional upon the WPVL making the facility available to other organizations when not required for WPVL use. The motion carried unanimously.

9. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (staff reports):

- a) Dog Off-Leash Parks – verbal report - still gathering information from the last open house. Staff should be able to present a potential plan at the January Parks Committee meeting for review at the following Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission meeting. Parks Committee members requested that the scale be shown so that all areas are comparable. Staff confirmed that a description of the actual area and size of same will be provided.

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

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. Ongoing – will be tendering shortly. Staff provided some information regarding the “disconnection” process, the timeline for the “reconnection” process is still to be determined. Parks Committee members felt that some signage would be helpful to explain the totems and locations.
- (b) Steps at Pipers Lagoon – staff to meet with Mr. Dean and return to the Parks Committee with recommendations. Ongoing – some residents are in favour of the steps; however, it is split. The information kiosk provided a 50/50 split on the issue of steps.

14. QUESTION PERIOD: No questions.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:43 p.m. that the meeting adjourn, with the next meeting of the Parks Committee to be held, if required, Thursday, 2010-JAN-14, commencing at 5:00 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:



Richard Harding, Director
Parks, Recreation and Culture