

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION
MEETING
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, OF THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX,
ON WEDNESDAY, 2008-JUL-23, COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioner L. McNabb, Chair

Members:

Commissioner D. Burnett
Commissioner J. Cameron
Commissioner B. Dempsey
Commissioner P. Field
Commissioner L. Fraser
Commissioner D. Johnstone
Commissioner S. Lance
Commissioner L. Sherry
Commissioner B. Sperling
Commissioner A. Young

Absent: Commissioner L. Avis

| | | |
|--------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Staff: | R. Harding | R. Tweed, recording |
| | S. Samborski | |
| | J. Ritchie | C. Connett, observing |

1. CALL THE OPEN MEETING TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- Add item 11(o) – meeting notes – Frank Crane Arena Elevator location.
- Add item 11(p) – letter – Maffeo Sutton Park
- Add item 11(q) – letter – Maffeo Sutton Park

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, 2008-JUN-25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Bowen Park Complex.

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

5. PRESENTATIONS:

Thank you and presentation of flowers to Carol Connett, Secretary to the Director and Commission, on her retirement.

6. DELEGATIONS: None.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Letter from Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport regarding the City of Nanaimo being selected as one of the initial 18 locations in BC for an ActNow BC Seniors' Community Park. Letter distributed to Commission members.

Richard Harding has contacted the Ministry via e-mail to confirm interest. Jeff Ritchie to follow up with an implementation plan and to return to Commission in the fall with the outcome.

(a) Frank Crane Arena Elevator

Commission's motion went to Council on 2008-JUL-14; however, it was not accepted and was sent back to Commission with the following motion: "that the issue of the location of an elevator at the Frank Crane Arena be referred back to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission in order to canvass the disabled community to determine their preference." As a result, a meeting was held on 2008-JUL-17 with staff and representatives of various special needs organizations. Minutes of the meeting were circulated for review and discussion.

It was moved and seconded that, based on consultation with the disabled community, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council:

1. direct Staff not to proceed with the Frank Crane Arena elevator as designed and tendered; and,
2. direct Staff to proceed with developing terms of reference, for Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission's consideration of a comprehensive

facility upgrade plan that would encompass the areas, swimming pool, and social centre and their relationship with the whole of Beban Park.

The motion carried.

Opposed: Commissioner Sperling and Commissioner Sherry

8. REPORTS OF ADVISORY BODIES:

(a) Parks Committee. No meeting held.

(b) Recreation Committee. Commissioner Lance reported on the meeting held 2008-JUL-09.

2008 Tournament and Festival Grant Application and Funding Recommendation regarding the Nanaimo Child Development Centre Society Silly Boat Regatta.

Recreation Committee's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council not approve the \$1,000 tournament and festival grant request from the Nanaimo Child Development Centre Society for the Silly Boat Regatta.

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

(c) Cultural Committee. Commissioner Lance reported on the meeting held 2008-JUL-02. On Thursday, 2008-JUL-17, Commissioner Lance joined approximately ten people on a tour in Errington of the EJ Hughes mural. She reports that she was very impressed with the quality and the detail of what appears to be a work of love, and that it was a real joy to see the artist working. The restoration is very time consuming and involves many challenges. Commissioner Cameron felt that the Cultural Committee should perhaps have a press release prepared to ensure the public is aware of the restoration and its progress, and also that it should be presented as a focal event in the community. Suzanne Samborski advised that staff will be working with the conference centre and the art gallery on official unveiling. A videographer has been hired to relate the story.

(d) Grants Advisory Committee. Commissioner Burnett reported no meeting held.

(e) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee. Commissioner Lance reported no meeting held.

(f) Social Planning Advisory Committee. Commissioner Johnstone reported no meeting held.

(g) Port Theatre. Monthly report – June & July 2008.

(h) Nanaimo Art Gallery. Monthly report – June to July 2008.

- (i) Nanaimo District Museum. Monthly report – July 2008. Grand opening on Saturday, but a private reception on July 24th.

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

9. STAFF REPORTS: None.

10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (staff reports):

- (a) Cultural Capitals of Canada Report from Mr. B. Kuhn, Manager of Cultural Capitals of Canada 2008 Project.

An 11-day multicultural arts festival, “Alive with the Arts of Many Cultures”, was held and was well attended.

“Portals to our Heritage” will be taking place at Departure Bay 2008-JUL-26. Suzanne Samborski advised that the official unveiling will be at 5:00 p.m..

Theatre One’s Young Company will be performing street theatre for three, four-day weekends in August.

- (b) Monthly Report from Mr. J. Ritchie, Senior Manager of Parks.

Vandalism is up – electrical building at Merle Logan field was vandalised resulting in property damage and loss.

Urban forestry – there is a pilot restoration project at Westwood Lake using an independent, certified arborist to determine health of trees. Signage will be erected around the restoration area and some trees need to be replaced.

Commission Johnstone raised the issue of blight or infestation attacking garry oaks. Jeff will investigate and respond to Commission on the issue.

Commissioner Lance advised that she had seen a report on television regarding birch trees being infested and the result being that the trees are dying from the top down. It appears that this may be affecting trees in the Cilaire area. Jeff Ritchie advised that our parks do not have many birch trees; however, further advised that birch trees are susceptible to that type of disease.

- (c) Monthly Report from Ms. S. Samborski, Senior Manager of Recreation and Culture Services.

Joelle Rabu was a great addition to Canada day.

Commission Cameron enquired as to whether there were any plans for Diana Krall Plaza opening. Richard Harding advised that the work on the Plaza is still underway so a date for the opening has not yet been determined. Updates will be provided to Commission.

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

11. CORRESPONDENCE: (Information)

- (a) Letter dated 2008-JUN-23, to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Mike and Andria Gillespie, 55 Pirates Lane, Protection Island, BC, requesting continued support of the Protection Island community garden/park project.
- (b) Letter dated 2008-JUN-23, to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Dr. Jan Brown, 169 Colvilleton Trail, Nanaimo, BC V9R 6R1, expressing support of the community garden project on Protection Island (DIGS).
- (c) Letter dated 2008-JUN-23, to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Tauno and Cathy Tuominen (e-mail: tuominen@telus.net) expressing support of the DIGS – Protection Island Community Garden, phase 2 proposal.
- (d) Letter dated 2008-JUN-23, to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Thora and Jerry Howell (e-mail: hwijt@telus.net) requesting support of the DIGS proposal for private use of gardens.
- (e) Letter dated 2008-JUN-23, to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Michael MacColl, 156 Captain Morgans Boulevard, Protection Island, BC, expressing support of the private use of the gardens.
- (f) Letter dated 2008-JUN-23, to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Dianne M. Glassen, 151 Pirates Lane, Nanaimo, BC V9R 6R1, requesting approval of the proposed expansion of the garden.
- (g) Letter dated 2008-JUN-23, to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Pamela and Russ Morgan (e-mail: pmorgan1@telus.net), expressing support of the community garden project on Protection Island (DIGS).

- (h) Letter dated 2008-JUN-24, to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from R. Stuart Murray, 108 Capt. Morgan's Boulevard, Protection Island, BC, expressing support of the community garden project on Protection Island (DIGS).
- (i) Letter dated 2008-JUN-24, to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Mike Matthews, 102 Pirates Lane, Protection Island, BC, expressing support of the community garden project on Protection Island (DIGS).
- (j) Letter dated 2008-JUN-24, to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Valerie Hennell, 58 Pirates Lane, Protection Island, BC, expressing support of the community garden project on Protection Island (DIGS), the planting of an orchard on the adjacent land, and a recommendation that a new survey of rate payers be undertaken with regard to support of private plots.
- (k) Letter dated 2008-JUN-25, to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Anne and Graham Millington, 22 Spyglass Lookout, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 6R1, expressing support of the community garden project on Protection Island (DIGS).
- (l) Letter dated 2008-JUN-25, to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Tamara Hurtado, 22 Treasure Trail, Protection Island, BC, requesting support of the proposed phase II expansion of the Protection Island Community Gardens.
- (m) Letter dated 2008-JUN-26, to Richard Harding, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture, from Margaret and Jim Harris, 173 Colvilleton Trail, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 6R1, voicing concern over the opposition to the expansion of the community gardens on Protection Island and advising that they are stepping back from the project and allowing someone else to manage it.
- (n) Minutes of the Bowen Park Seniors Board of Directors Meeting held 2008-JUN-06.
- (o) Notes from meeting held 2008-JUL-17 at Frank Crane Arena to discuss the elevator location with groups representing various special needs organizations.
- (p) Letter dated 2008-JUL-14 to Richard Harding from L.R. Johannes, Nanaimo Lions Club expressing thanks for including the Lions Club input into the Maffeo Sutton Park development plan.
- (q) Letter dated 2008-JUL-14 to Richard Harding from L. Smith, Nanaimo Lions Club expressing thanks for including the Lions Club input into the Maffeo Sutton Park development plan.

Commission Dempsey felt that the letters seem supportive in what is being done; however, the writers are expressing differing opinions with regard to the issue of private plots. Commission Fraser was concerned with the content of the letter from the Harris' and the possibility that they may not wish to continue their involvement in the Protection Island Community Gardens project. Richard Harding reported that they have been contacted, advised their work and effort on the project has been appreciated, and that they are being encouraged to re-think their decision. Commissioner Cameron hopes that the DIGS project can be viewed as a community model for other gardens, so that if people wanted to do something in another area (for example Chase River) there will be a foundation to build from. Richard Harding advised that, at present, there is no Commission Policy on Community Gardens and Private Beds; however, staff hope to bring one to Commission in the fall or early in 2009. Commission Cameron felt the overall DIGS project has been a success.

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

15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- (a) Process of Advisory Bodies Reporting to Commission – staff report.

Staff continues to work with Legislative Services regarding all Council Committees and Sub-Committees.

- (b) “Atlantis” Theme for Beban Pool – referred to Recreation Committee.

No update from Recreation Committee.

- (c) Prepare DIGS License for Commission’s review – staff report Oct 2008.

Staff work on the license is continuing.

- (d) Frank Crane Arena Elevator – terms of reference for comprehensive facility upgrade plan – staff report.

17. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 7:37 p.m. that the meeting adjourn, with the next Meeting of Commission to be held Wednesday, 2008-OCT-01, commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Bowen Park Complex; and,

With the next meeting of the Cultural Committee to be held Wednesday, 2008-SEP-03, commencing at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Bowen Park Complex; and,

With the next meeting of the Recreation Committee to be held, if required, Wednesday, 2008-SEP-10, commencing at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Bowen Park Complex; and,

With the next meeting of the Parks Committee to be held, if required, Thursday, 2008-SEP-11, commencing at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Bowen Park Complex.

The motion carried unanimously.

*

L. McNabb, Chair
Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

*

R. Harding, Director
Parks, Recreation and Culture