

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION MEETING
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, OF THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX,
ON WEDNESDAY, 2008-JUN-25, COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioner L. McNabb, Chair

Members:

Commissioner L. Avis
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 A. Young

Absent: Commissioner B. Sperling

Staff:	R. Harding	J. Ritchie
	S. Samborski	D. Tyre, recording
		R. Tweed, 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:

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-MAY-28 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:

6. DELEGATIONS:

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

- (a) Ms. Denise Wood, General Manager, and Ms. Isabel Albrecht, Co-Chair of Elevator Committee, Nanaimo Curling Club, requesting that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission contribute \$4,000-\$5,000 as well as the cost to obtain a building permit and other miscellaneous inspection and construction items regarding the installation of an elevator in the Curling Club building.

Ms. Woods noted that the Nanaimo Curling Club has provided the sport of curling to the community for over fifty-five years. The building was built in 1969 and hosts 15-20 plus events, bonspiels and playdowns each season and has 23 plus leagues running weekly. The Curling Club also has a room that seats over 200 people and would like the space to be accessible to everyone. Community and sporting groups are often seeking meeting space.

The Club has been fundraising for four years and tested the Nanaimo market for interest in wheelchair curling before creating a Wheelchair Curling Program. Presently, the wheelchair curlers enter the ice area from a door off the east side of the building. Plywood is laid down and volunteers clean the wheels to minimize the amount of dirt and gravel on the ice and a small ramp is provided to enter sheet one. In order for the wheelchair curlers to access the lobby for food service, warmth and washrooms, they are required to exit the ice area and travel outside to where they are assisted up the freight ramp.

Previous to the Wheelchair Curling Program the need for the elevator was evident as access has been a challenge for any persons with mobility issues wanting to attend events at the Club. In 2000, some of the founding members struggled to attend the 50th anniversary celebration due to these barriers. During the 2004 Disability Games, athletes also had difficulty using washrooms and the lobby.

Ms. Wood noted that the Club wants to be known as the Nanaimo Curling Centre, a welcoming accessible environment.

Ms. Wood advised that the Nanaimo Curling Club Centre has undertaken an elevator installation project in order to allow accessibility for all three floors of the Club. Two handicap washrooms have been built and the Club has been fundraising for this project since 2004. The Club has raised \$221,890.00 to date but has a shortfall of \$3,860.00.

Ms. Albrecht and Ms. Wood requested that the City of Nanaimo assist with the following areas of elevator construction: costs of a building permit(s); cost of survey inspection, if necessary; cost of waste removal during construction; provide backfill or removal of excess dirt; provide fencing around the site during construction; and grade and pave around the new entrance to the elevator area.

Commissioner Cameron inquired where the City funds for this project would come from. Mr. Richard Harding, Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture noted that the only funds available would be from the 2008 VIP Capital Fund and that Commission has the discretion to allocate funds for this type of project.

Commissioner Sherry noted that on page 236 of the Agenda the figures are firm except for the shortfall amount. Ms. Wood responded that they have taken into account increases in construction costs. Commissioner Sherry noted that the building fees have not been shown and that the Club is also looking for additional survey work. Ms. Wood replied that the Curling Club is not able to access the funds otherwise they would not be eligible for the grant. Commissioner Sherry indicated that there are surveyors and engineers in the community that could provide estimates. Ms. Albrecht noted that Herold Engineering provided some figures but were unsure if an environmental survey was also required.

Commissioner Sherry noted that the contribution of \$5,000 should cover all costs requested of the Nanaimo Curling Club.

Commissioner Johnstone vacated the conference room at 7:10 p.m.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission allocate up to \$5,000, which would include any costs assigned to building permits and other miscellaneous inspection and construction items, regarding the installation of an elevator in the Curling Club Building be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Johnstone returned to the conference room at 7:11 p.m.

- (b) Ms. Lynda Avis, President, Bowen Seniors Board, 500 Bowen Road, Nanaimo BC, V9R 1Z7, requesting approval in principle for a Seniors Wellness Park.

Ms. Avis advised that a Seniors Wellness Park in Nanaimo, designed for safe usage by the seniors population and appropriate for individuals over 13 years of age, would have exercise equipment to develop flexibility and strength, as well as promoting fall prevention. The purpose of the Park would be to stress the importance of exercise and preservation of quality of life. She also stated that a Seniors Wellness Park is an excellent opportunity to exercise in a safe environment, with no increased financial constraints, while experiencing the beauty of natural surroundings.

Ms. Avis noted that the Bowen Park Seniors Board has been following the progress of the Tsawwassen Seniors Wellness Park. This park was installed near seniors housing and has experienced a high success and usage rate; and that people in wheelchairs were also making use of the equipment. She also noted that Nanaimo has a large and growing senior's population and that there are many locations for such a park in Nanaimo, with Oliver Woods Community Centre being an ideal location.

The development of a Seniors Wellness Park in Nanaimo could be achieved through partnerships in order to raise funds. Funds could be from various sources such as the City of Nanaimo, provincial and federal governments, local service clubs as well as private businesses with sponsorship and promotional advertising. Ms. Avis noted that the Bowen Park Seniors will contribute an additional \$10,000.

Ms. Avis advised that they successfully applied to the BC Seniors Games 2008 Legacy Fund.

Commissioner Avis vacated the conference room at 7:16 p.m.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve the concept in principle and direct staff to work with the Bowen Seniors on project design, costs and fundraising options. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Avis returned to the conference room at 7:17 p.m.

- (c) Mr. Jim Harris, President, Douglas Island Garden Society (DIGS), Community Garden VIP Committee, 173 Colvilleton Trail, Nanaimo BC, V9R 6R1, requesting approximately \$2,000 to continue with Phase Two of the Garden Project.

Mr. Harris introduced Ms. Margaret Harris and presented a five minute slideshow depicting pictures of the DIGS Community Garden Project.

Mr. Harris noted that the project has been successful from a community perspective as well as crop production. He advised that they would like to start construction on Phase Two this fall. Mr. Harris stated that many types of gardens have been incorporated into the community garden such as step beds and children's beds and now they would like to have space available for more serious gardeners.

Mr. Harris advised that DIGS proposes extending the existing community garden eastward by 30 feet to provide room for 8 new beds, a perimeter bed along the fence and a greenhouse. He informed Commission that DIGS also proposes to offer these 8 raised beds to the islanders as allotment beds, subject to the rules outlined in the garden guidelines. He stated that there has been concern regarding allotment beds and proposes to hold a meeting for the islanders and make rules that could be changed as the need arises.

Commissioner Cameron questioned what the square footage of the current garden is. Mr. Harris replied that the garden is 5,000 square feet and the proposed expansion is an additional 2,000 square feet.

Commissioner Johnstone questioned if the islanders have access to the existing beds and how the allocation of produce is done. Mr. Harris stated that the beds are operated and shared communally and that a notice is placed on the community board to let people know when harvesting will occur.

Commissioner Avis asked what the population of Protection Island is. Mr. Harris responded that during the winter there are approximately 200 people and during the summer 350 people or more.

- (d) Ms. Linda Irvine, 196 Captain Morgan's Boulevard, Nanaimo BC, V9R 6R1, speaking to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission in support of the DIGS Community Garden Project.

Ms. Irvine advised that she is supportive of the DIGS Community Garden expansion plan for Protection Island. She commented that the community garden has been a

rich experience, providing shared knowledge, ideas and conversation with neighbours.

Ms. Irvine stated that some needs would be met by offering private garden spaces, as there are some people who can not work in the garden on Saturdays or want to work in solitude. She also noted that having people gardening at various times would allow for a stronger presence in the area and the park would be used more frequently throughout the week.

Ms. Irvine noted that she is not on the DIGS executive, nor has she attended many meetings but has been sufficiently informed regarding plans for each phase of the garden through the various meetings and bulletin boards. She indicated that her ideas have been given consideration during meetings and that the executive would like to see a plan that would suit the community.

Ms. Irvine noted that there have been concerns regarding the green space of the island and stated that there are still ample places for walking. The proposed expansion will occupy a small fraction of the green space in this area and the space is unlikely to be used in another way. Ms. Irvine commented that the park did not hold much attraction prior to the community gardens being installed and that decisions should be balanced about the opportunity for participation.

- (e) Ms. Christina Nichol, 80 Pirates Lane, Nanaimo BC, V9R 6R1, speaking to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission regarding the DIGS Community Garden Project and the plots of land being assigned to individuals.

Ms. Nichol advised that the space being used by the DIGS Garden Project is more than sufficient due to the lack of open green space on the island and that expansion for more beds is not necessary. She indicated her objection to expansion into more park space by creating allotment beds due to the potential of leading to privatization of other park areas on the island and beach accesses. Ms. Nichol noted that the park is a public space.

Ms. Nichol stated that the City does not have private allotments in other parks and that this would be precedent setting. She also noted that the type of gardening being done on Protection Island is hobby gardening and does not yield a significant amount of food and questioned if the City was ready to supply public space for this purpose. She questioned if there was anywhere in the City to rent garden space.

Ms. Nichol stated that few islanders had seen the map of the proposed expansion area. She noted that she is not active in DIGS and that the expansion plan was posted in a difficult place to access for those not involved in the society. Ms. Nichol proposed that Commission wait to make the decision of private allotment beds until a survey of the area is done.

Commissioner Sherry asked if Ms. Nichol had a problem with the allotment section of the gardens. Ms. Nichol responded that she did. Commissioner Sherry asked if she also had a problem with the area being continued as a community garden. Ms. Nichol replied that she did not have a problem with the community garden continuing.

- (f) Ms. Barbara LeBrasseur, 47 Pirates Lane, Nanaimo BC, V9R 6R1, speaking to the Parks, Recreation and Culture regarding the DIGS Community Garden Project and the plots of land being assigned to individuals.

Ms. LeBrasseur advised that Commission's support of the DIGS venture has assisted in creating a garden that is welcoming, laid out well and successful for both gardening and community gatherings.

Ms. LeBrasseur noted that originally the garden was intended to consist of only communal plots. She also noted that she had heard of developing a community garden in Smugglers Park prior to this project beginning. She stated that islanders have in the past rejected the idea of private plots due to potential inequities and tensions that would be magnified in a small community.

Ms. LeBrasseur noted that a survey was done a year and a half ago and that this is what is being used to determine the direction of the gardens.

She requested the sharing of more information from DIGS regarding their intentions in the community gardens, such as posted minutes from meetings and an operating budget and meeting with the islanders.

Ms. LeBrasseur questioned if there was a land use agreement and if so, what the terms are and if the time frames are referenced. She also questioned if the park was covered by insurance and if there are requirements with respect to dialogue in the community. She noted that the management of construction of the garden by DIGS has been exemplary but that communication has been lacking.

Ms. LeBrasseur noted that she has supported DIGS financially and sat on the sub-committee that planned the grand opening. She stated further discussion between Parks staff and the community is required before allowing Phase Two to begin.

- (g) Mr. Liam Taylor, 53 Cutlass Lookout, Nanaimo BC, V9R 6R1, speaking to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission regarding the DIGS Community Garden Project and the plots of land being assigned to individuals.

Mr. Taylor advised that private allotments are not a necessary part of the community garden and there are examples of successful gardens that do not have private allotments, such as Spring Ridge Commons and Bamfield Commons.

Mr. Taylor noted that using the eight new beds as communal beds would be in keeping with the nature of the public park lands upon which the garden rests.

Mr. Taylor requested that if Commission decides to move forward with private allotments, that a time limit be enforced on the owners of the private plots so that all persons interested in obtaining a plot could be accommodated, even if the plots must be smaller. He noted that by making the plots smaller, more people could participate in private plots. He stated that private plots not being used should revert to communal status until the demand for allotments increase.

Commissioner Cameron questioned if he envisions a big demand for the allotments. Mr. Taylor noted that 47 people expressed an interest a year and a half earlier and was not sure of the interest today. He noted that if there is a larger demand than

plots then there would be an issue of waiting lists, which is difficult for a small community. Mr. Taylor noted that this would also indicate the demand for future expansion plans.

- (h) Mr. Terry G. Gordon, 133 Pirates Lane, Nanaimo BC, V9R 6R1, speaking to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission regarding the DIGS Community Garden Project.

Mr. Gordon advised that he is a former Parks contractor for Protection Island and is well known to City parks staff. He stated that he has worked in various communities over a span of twenty years.

Mr. Gordon noted that since 1957 the Protection Island community developed its first water system, volunteer fire department, community dock, Lions Club, Community Hall and more. These achievements occurred due to volunteering of time and financial donations from the residents.

Mr. Gordon stated that the community discovered DIGS plans after decisions had been made and that information on Phase 2 was released in May 2008, confirming Commission's support of Phase 1 with reference to Phase 2. Mr. Gordon questioned if there was a land use agreement in place between DIGS and the Parks department. He stated he had no objection to the community gardens as it presently exists but that there are objections to the lack of communication regarding intentions and actions from DIGS. Mr. Gordon stated that the objections of private allotments are due to concerns regarding privatization of public land and the inequities this would create.

Mr. Gordon commented that the demand for private lots is not known nor is how DIGS is intending to allocate these allotments and for what length of time. He noted that further consultation with Protection Island residents is necessary to determine how to proceed.

It was moved and seconded that Staff Report 9 (a) Phase Two of Douglas Island Garden Society Community Garden Project be brought forward for discussion.

9. STAFF REPORTS:

- (a) Phase Two of Douglas Island Garden Society Community Garden Project.

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

1. Approve proceeding to Phase Two of the DIGS Community Garden Project including eight new beds to be offered to the islanders as allotment beds.
2. Approve allocation of an additional \$2,000 from the 2008 VIP fund for implementation of Phase Two.
3. Approve proceeding with a License of Use Agreement.

At the 2007-MAR-28 Commission meeting, Commission allocated a \$15,000 grant from the VIP Program for Phase One of the DIGS Community Garden Project. After completion of one year of the project, staff report that the project has been

successful and are recommending support of Phase 2 of the DIGS Community Project.

Mr. Harding noted that there is not a license agreement with DIGS at this time, and that when the project was initially presented to Commission, Commission requested a one year trial basis to see how the community would react to a community garden. He noted that if Phase 2 proceeded, a license agreement would be drafted for Commission's consideration.

Commissioner Avis questioned if a survey of the residents was done. Mr. Harding stated that the concept was created through the Volunteer in Parks (VIP) process and involved neighbourhood meetings. It was determined after this process to move ahead with a one year trial period.

Mr. Harris noted that a door-to-door survey occurred and that the completed questionnaire was returned by 136 people. The questionnaire had 96% approval of the concept and 47 people indicated they would like allotment beds.

Commissioner Cameron questioned what term the license of agreement would be for. Mr. Harding noted that the agreement could be for five years or less.

Commissioner Cameron commented that she heard the concerns from the delegations but would like to see this project given an opportunity.

Mr. Harding noted that Protection Island is ahead of other communities and that the garden has been successful and that they are now dealing with new issues.

Commissioner Johnstone noted that from what she heard during delegations, the island is being divided. She questioned if there was discussion regarding private allotments during the earlier meeting on Protection Island. Mr. Harding noted that there was and the concern at that time was the garden itself.

Commissioner Sherry stated that the project started as a community garden and now for Phase 2 there is a request for \$2,000. He noted that the VIP program is for everyone and not just individuals and if the City allows expansion of private allotments, VIP funds should not be allocated. If Phase 2 is for community beds, Commissioner Sherry noted, he supports the expansion and allocation of funds. He commented that the video presented is something the City would like to build on and the project should be given a few years to grow.

Mr. Jeff Ritchie, Senior Manager of Parks Operations, explained that interested parties for the private allotments would be chosen randomly at the DIGS Annual General Meeting. Chair McNabb asked if it would remain a community garden. Mr. Ritchie confirmed that it would.

Commissioner Lance noted that she has talked with active community members of Protection Island and that there is concern regarding Phase 3 being too close to the children's play area. She also commented that the private allotments may divide the community and perhaps a survey should be conducted to find out what the community wants.

Commissioner Field stated that the Commission was led to believe that this was a community garden when originally put forward by DIGS and that perhaps there is an opportunity for Protection Island Rate Payers Association (PIRA) to play a role in this project. Commissioner Field stated his approval of the application in conjunction with PIRA.

Commissioner Fraser noted that she has received emails and telephone calls from Protection Island residents and stated that a third of those people indicated a desire to have allotments and were not adverse to a balance of community and private gardens.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve proceeding to Phase Two of the DIGS Community Garden Project, including eight new community beds. The motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve allocation of an additional \$2,000 from the 2008 VIP fund for implementation of Phase Two.

Opposed: Commissioners Burnett, Cameron and McNabb.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve proceeding with a License of Use Agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that the Commission Chair correspond with Protection Island Rate Payers Association requesting that they provide a position on the community garden as it is now and as it relates to allotment beds. Motion defeated.

Opposed: Commissioners Avis, Burnett, Cameron, Dempsey, Fraser, Johnstone, Lance, Sherry and Young.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- (a) Chair McNabb and Mr. Richard Harding introduced Ms. Robin Tweed, recent hire-on as the Commission Secretary.

8. REPORTS OF ADVISORY BODIES:

- (a) Parks Committee. No meeting was held.
- (b) Recreation Committee. No meeting was held.
- (c) Cultural Committee. No meeting was held.
- (d) Grants Advisory Committee. No meeting was held.
- (e) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee. No meeting was held.
- (f) Social Planning Advisory Committee. Commissioner Johnstone reported that there were no issues pertaining to Parks, Recreation and Culture at their meeting.

- (g) Port Theatre. Monthly report – May 2008.
- (h) Nanaimo Art Gallery. Monthly report – May to June 2008.
- (i) Nanaimo District Museum. Monthly report – June 2008. The public grand opening of the museum will occur 2008-JUL-26, after bathtub parade.

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

9. STAFF REPORTS:

- (a) Phase Two of Douglas Island Garden Society Community Garden Project.

Dealt with previously.

- (b) Renewal of License of Use Agreement for the Boys and Girls Club of Central Vancouver Island.

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council approve the renewal of the License of Use Agreement between the City of Nanaimo and the Boys and Girls Club of Central Vancouver Island for the Chase River Activity Centre at 1400 Cranberry Avenue for the five year period from 2008-JUL-01 to 2013-JUN-30 at an annual rental of \$1.00 in addition to an administrative fee of \$125.00 upon renewal of the license.

The "Guidelines Establishing the Value of Rent for Lease or License Agreements to Non-Profit Societies" as recommended by the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission were adopted by Council at their meeting of 2007-JUL-09.

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

- (c) Frank Crane Arena Elevator.

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission's direction is sought.

The need to construct an elevator at Frank Crank Arena to provide access to persons with disabilities has been discussed for many years. In 1994, Staff began reviewing location options and developing site design and engineering plans. The proposed location of the elevator minimizes building retrofit and structural changes resulting in a lower cost alternative.

An initial tender for consideration was released in 2007. The bids received were substantially higher than the funds allocated. Project specifications were adjusted to decrease construction costs and a request was made through the 2008 budget process to increase capital funding. A second tender was released in the spring of 2008 and bids received meet current funds available for the project.

Commissioner Cameron recommended that City Staff proceed with awarding the tender.

Commissioner Avis noted that the third option should be considered more indepthly, and questioned if Option A would work because of the ramps.

Commissioner Lance recommended Option C and noted that Staff should develop a plan and move forward.

Commissioner Sherry stated that he viewed the location and believes the original location is suitable. The gradient for the ramp was a problem but could be corrected using a turnaround and some further work on the doors. Chair McNabb questioned if that required moving the ramp. Commissioner Sherry stated that wouldn't be necessary but the ramp could taper to the corner.

Commissioner Avis commented that this option would have a problem area at the top, would require taking out seats and that it would be awkward for disabled persons.

Commissioners Field and Burnett noted their agreement with Option C.

Chair McNabb stated that he has been to the original elevator location on three occasions and that the location is poor, with the hallway becoming congested because of the referee room and dressing rooms.

Commissioner Cameron asked what the approximate cost of the study would be. Mr. Harding stated that the initial study would be \$70,000.

Commissioner Sherry noted that a facility upgrade also means having elevator accessibility to the fitness room and guesstimates that the project would be millions of dollars. Chair McNabb stated that this would have to go to Council for approval.

Commissioner Dempsey questioned how long the project has been before Commission. Mr. Harding replied that it had been at least three years. Commissioner Dempsey commented that as much time as necessary should be given to complete the most suitable plan.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture move forward with Option C, and direct staff to proceed with developing terms of reference, for Commission's consideration, of a comprehensive facility upgrade plan that would encompass the arenas, swimming pool and social centre and their relationship with the whole of Beban Park. The motion carried.

Opposed: Commissioners Sherry and Cameron.

(d) Maffeo Sutton Park Improvement Plan.

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

1. approve the Concept Plan for Maffeo Sutton Park as a long term guide for park improvements as identified in Park Plan Vision Schedule "A".

2. approve the Spirit Square development area, as identified in Schedule "B", as Phase 1 for improvements.
3. direct staff to proceed with detailed design of the Sprit Square with the goal to start construction by this year.

Mr. Harding thanked Commission for attending the various Open Houses.

Commissioner Sherry stated that staff's recommendation 1 should be changed to receive rather than approve.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council:

1. receive the Concept Plan for Maffeo Sutton Park as a long term guide for park improvements as identified in Park Plan Vision Schedule "A";
2. approve the Spirit Square development area, as identified in Schedule "B", as Phase 1 for improvements; and
3. direct staff to proceed with detailed design of the Sprit Square with the goal to start construction by this year be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

(e) Travel Assistance Application from the Woodlands Secondary School Jazz Combo.

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council approve the application for a Travel Assistance Grant for the Woodlands Secondary School Jazz Combo in the amount of \$400.00. The application meets all of the grant criteria.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture recommendation be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (staff reports):

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

Nanaimo Culture Capitals of Canada produced a Cultural Capital Event Supplement with the Nanaimo News Bulletin that was distributed 2008-JUN-07. The purpose of the supplement was to promote the Cultural Capital events for the summer and fall of 2008. A similar but smaller supplement will be produced in cooperation with the Daily News.

Ms. Suzanne Samborski, Senior Manager, Recreation and Culture, stated that the upcoming activities for Cultural Capitals of Canada includes "Alive with the Arts of Many Cultures" Multicultural Festival; Aboriginal Day; Francophonie Day; Living Our Culture Cabaret (postponed until fall); Whizzbang Stoked; and Canada Day Celebrations.

Ms. Samborski advised that the City has had the opportunity to send four artists, Gerda and John Hoffman, Phil Ashbee and Jorge Lewis to Ottawa for Canada Day Celebrations.

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

Mr. Ritchie stated that staff will be hosting an Open House regarding Urban Forestry at Maffeo Sutton Park on 2008-JUN-26.

Mr. Harding noted that staff will formalize the License of Use Agreement with DIGS and include it on a future Commission Agenda for consideration. Mr. Ritchie noted that they would produce a draft one year agreement with options. Commissioner Sherry noted that the islanders should be involved in drafting the agreement and perhaps a one year agreement with option to renew for two or three years. Chair McNabb noted his agreement.

Mr. Ritchie stated that the Loudon Park parking lot has been completed, the canoe and kayak float has been relocated and the new accessible fishing dock and connecting walkways have been installed. The fishing dock has been well used and some landscaping is still to occur.

Commissioner Cameron questioned if the caretaker was in place at Westwood Lake. Mr. Ritchie replied that they were and that they open and close the gates and washrooms.

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

Ms. Samborski advised that the Oliver Woods Community Centre playground opened recently. She stated that a luncheon honouring the Bowen Park Seniors volunteers was held 2008-JUN-17.

Ms. Samborski advised that the arena and aquatic seasonal user group meetings have been held and users are looking forward to the fall season.

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

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

(a) Invitation advising that the Vancouver Island Exhibition 4-H Barnyard Grand Opening (formerly located in Bowen Park), is Monday, 2008-JUN-30, at Beban Park Fair Grounds at 3:00PM.

(b) Letter dated 2008-JUN-09 to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Janet Rygnestad, 172 Pirates Lane, Nanaimo BC, V9R 6R1, expressing concerns regarding Phase 3 of the DIGS Community Garden Project.

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

12. NOTICE OF MOTION:

13. CONSIDERATION OF OTHER BUSINESS:

14. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

It was moved and seconded that Item (a) Nanaimo Christian School Request for Joint Use of Holland Road Park and Item (b) Host a Public Open House re Loudon Park Building Locations, be removed from Unfinished Business. The motion carried unanimously.

CURRENT UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- (a) Process of Advisory Bodies Reporting to Commission – staff report.
- (b) “Atlantis” Theme for Beban Pool – referred to Recreation Committee.
- (c) Prepare DIGS License for Commission’s review – staff report October 2008.
- (d) Frank Crane Arena elevator – terms of reference for comprehensive facility upgrade plan – staff report.

16. QUESTION PERIOD:

- (a) Mr. Fred Taylor, 204 Emery Way, Nanaimo BC V9R 5Z8, questioned if the proposed License Agreement with DIGS would be with the Protection Island Rate Payers Association. Mr. Taylor questioned if DIGS was a registered society. Mr. Harding noted that DIGS is a registered society.

17. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 8:47 p.m. that the meeting terminate, with the next Meeting of Commission to be held Wednesday, 2008-JUL-23, 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-JUL-02, 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 Wednesday, 2008-JUL-09, 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-JUL-10, commencing at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Bowen Park Complex.

The motion carried unanimously.

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L. McNabb, Chair
Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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R. Harding, Director
Parks, Recreation and Culture

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PRCC080625M