

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD IN THE HEMLOCK ROOM, OF THE OLIVER WOODS COMMUNITY CENTRE ON  
WEDNESDAY, 2008-APR-23 COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.

---

PRESENT: Commissioner L. McNabb, Chair

Members:

Commissioner L. Avis  
Commissioner J. Cameron  
Commissioner B. Dempsey  
Commissioner P. Field  
Commissioner L. Sherry  
Commissioner B. Sperling

Absent:

Commissioner D. Burnett  
Commissioner L. Fraser  
Commissioner D. Johnstone  
Commissioner S. Lance  
Commissioner A. Young

Staff:

R. Harding  
S. Samborski  
A. Kemp

J. Ritchie  
R. Kuhn  
C. Connett, recording

1. CALL THE OPEN MEETING TO ORDER:

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

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Commissioner Sherry requested that Mr. R. Reimer be permitted to address Commission as a late delegation regarding the Parks Committee report relating to Loudon Park.

It was moved and seconded that Mr. R. Reimer be permitted to address Commission as a late delegation. The motion carried unanimously.

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-MAR-26 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. Holly Morris, Sierra Park Volunteer In Park (VIP) Committee, 6098 Montgomery Way, Nanaimo BC V9V 1T5 requesting that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission allocate \$20,000 towards their park improvement project; and to re-name Sierra Park to "Carmanah Way Park".

Ms. Morris advised that the original park was under half an acre; however, with land acquired through subdivision development, the park is now two acres. A green space is being created that will be seeded this month and with the addition of amenities, this park has the potential to be a great neighbourhood attraction, she said. In addition, Ms. Morris noted that a playground for young children is needed for the neighbourhood.

Following the neighbourhood meeting held 2008-APR-10, a VIP Committee was formed and a concept plan developed, advised Ms. Morris. The plan is to retain the wooded area that backs on to Sierra Way, incorporate the large trees in the middle area into the playground development and create an open play field along Carmanah Way. Ms. Morris advised that the developer will be donating pear and cherry trees for along the boulevard; and neighbours are willing to install the playground equipment. This is phase one of a two phase project and at this time the Committee is requesting \$20,000 for the playground equipment.

Ms. Morris noted that the request to change the name from Sierra Park to "Carmanah Way Park" is supported by the neighbourhood as it better reflects the location of the park.

Commissioners noted that budget and community contribution information was not included and that is an important component of the application.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission allocate "in principle" \$20,000 from the Volunteer In Park fund for the Sierra Park VIP project. The motion carried.

*Opposed: Commissioners Sherry, Cameron and Field.*

- (b) Mr. Kim Smythe, Cultural Capitals, speaking to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission about Cre8 – The Youth Arts Experience.

Mr. Smythe advised that the program was initially called Spring Break Festival and was renamed Cre8 – The Youth Arts Experience to better connect with the youth. The program involved over 150 students from all over Vancouver Island from 2008-MAR-17 to 20 in a variety of workshops and competitions held in downtown Nanaimo. This was a great kick off for the Cultural Capitals of Canada program.

Students from Grade 7 through 12 participated and competed in Literary Arts, Fine Arts, Song Writing, Video Production, Photography and Interactive Workshops. Each participant was critiqued by an adjudicator and received a certificate of participation.

- (c) Ms. Carmella Luvisotto, Cultural Capitals, speaking to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission about the “Capturing the Music” School Jazz Program.

Ms. Luvisotto advised that jazz music is a great part of the City’s heritage and having Nanaimo recognized as a Cultural Capital is a national distinction. The event was an educational and developmental opportunity for aspiring young musicians in our community. She noted that approximately 200 high school and college music students were given an opportunity to receive jazz instruction and share a billing with world class guest artist, Hugh Fraser. A large component of this event, stated Ms. Luvisotto, was the student rep band which was formed through nomination by band teachers and music directors and consisted of students from Dover Bay, Woodlands, John Barsby, Wellington, NDSS and Malaspina University College.

Ms. Luvisotto stated that in the past twenty years, Nanaimo has become well known for the arts because of Diana Krall, Ingrid Jenson and Christine Jenson. She expressed appreciation to Cultural Capitals of Canada and the City of Nanaimo for providing this exciting opportunity to local young musicians.

- (d) Ms. Kelly Tracey, Brechin School PAC, 434 Girvin Avenue, Nanaimo BC V9S 4W6, requesting that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission allocate funds toward the Brechin School playground equipment replacement.

Ms. Tracey advised that Brechin Elementary School is an inner City School with 190 students and fundraising is a challenge. The school has an afterschool program, there are 14 neighbourhood daycares and a summer day camp for physically challenged children who all use the playground, she noted. Ms. Tracey stated that the existing playground no longer meets standards and some of the structures have already been removed. She advised that the Brechin School PAC is finding it more and more difficult to raise sufficient funds to meet the basic needs of the students, but has raised \$16,500 towards creating a safe, wheelchair accessible playground. The proposed playground equipment is estimated at \$50,000 and she informed Commission that the Brechin School PAC applied for school grant funding but was unsuccessful. Ms. Tracey asked for any financial support that the City could provide for the purchase of the play equipment and parent volunteers are willing to install it.

Commissioner Avis asked where the nearest City playground is located. Mr. Ritchie replied at Mansfield Park which is about 4 blocks away.

Commissioner Sherry asked the delegation if they had requested funds from the School Board. Ms. Tracey replied that they had, but were not successful and Mr. P. Sabo, Director of Facilities for School District 68, advised that no other funds are available through the School District.

Commissioner Dempsey asked Staff if funding this request will set a precedent. Mr. Harding advised that funding was provided for the playground at Fairview School and the Nanaimo Christian School because there was no City playground in the immediate area. Funding was provided with the understanding that both playgrounds would be available for public use throughout the day.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission request that Staff contact School District #68 to discuss Brechin School playground funding options; and report back to the Commission, who may then consider funding from the Volunteer In Park program. The motion carried unanimously.

- (e) Mr. Nolan Graham, Director of Marketing, Nanaimo Clippers Hockey Club, 33 – 1925 Bowen Road, Nanaimo BC V9S 1H1 regarding upgrading signage at Frank Crane Arena.

Mr. Graham distributed an information package and reported that the Nanaimo Clippers Hockey Club wish to upgrade advertising signage in the Frank Crane Arena to create consistency in appearance. The Club, he said, is not requesting funding from the City to undertake this improvement and the cost is approximately \$100,000. Mr. Graham stated that the old signage will be removed and replaced in phases.

The Clippers have an advertising agreement with the City for the Frank Crane Arena, noted Mr. Graham, and pay a percentage of revenue to the City with the balance shared between the Clippers and Lacrosse.

Commissioner Dempsey asked if the proposed advertising lighting will be energy efficient. The delegation replied that LED lighting is too expensive and florescent bulbs will be used.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission request that the Arena Manager work the Clippers in upgrading advertising signage. The motion carried unanimously.

- (f) Mr. Ron Reimer, 4212 Corunna Avenue, Nanaimo BC V9T 1Z5 speaking to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission about Loudon Park.

Mr. Reimer advised that he and his wife own the two properties, 4212 and 4244 Corunna Avenue, which are adjacent to Loudon Park. He advised that Mr. Bill Loudon donated the parkland to the community of Wellington and he was passionate about it being used as a family swimming area. Over the years, the park has become very busy with hundreds of families using the park as well as two special interest groups. Mr. Reimer stated that the park was intended for everyone

and allocating over 25% of the park to two special interest groups does not uphold Mr. Loudon's wishes. He urged the City to protect the existing green spaces.

Mr. Reimer noted that the Rowing Club and Canoe/Kayak Club are noisy but provide a great activity for our youth, so he never complained. He stated that a meeting was held in the park to discuss various concerns with Richard Harding and the consensus was to move the Canoe/Kayak and Rowing Clubs drop off point further up Victoria Avenue, clean up the park and the lake trail. But at a public meeting held later, Options A, B and C were presented, said Mr. Reimer, which did not reflect the original options discussed.

A survey was distributed to the neighbours and also to the Rowing Club and Canoe/Kayak Club members which, in Mr. Reimer's opinion, influenced the results; and the neighbour who complained about the noise has sold and moved from the neighbourhood. Mr. Reimer informed Commission that he has lived on Corunna Avenue for 41 years and that there have not been problems with traffic flow until the City blocked the road through the park. As well, he feels strongly that the huge canoe storage area in the middle of the park is not appropriate use of parkland and suggested that perhaps the Rowing Club and Canoe/Kayak Club need to relocate to a larger lake. He said the entire neighbourhood has been turned upside down since the park plan implementation and it needs to stop.

Commissioner Cameron stated that Commission had been provided with information indicating that there had been a significant amount of problems including parking issues and rowdy parties. The RCMP and Staff suggested that blocking off the road through the park was a good solution.

Mr. Reimer replied that the improved park lighting and security patrols helped to reduce the rowdy parties; however, with the road blocked off all patrols have ceased. He said that the neighbours were not given an opportunity for input regarding blocking off the road and the plan forged ahead because of one neighbour only.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

8. REPORTS OF ADVISORY BODIES:

(a) Parks Committee. Commissioner Field reported on the meeting held 2008-APR-10.

1. Loudon Park Improvement Plan.

Parks Committee's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission host a public meeting with the neighbouring residents at Loudon Park to discuss the final locations of the buildings prior to construction.

Commissioner Dempsey asked if the proposed building is larger than the existing building. Mr. Harding replied that the building is only a general concept at this time and if a two story option is selected, the building will be higher but the footprint will be less. Mr. Harding further advised that the

Clubs have not yet raised funds for the building and that a long and comprehensive public consultation process took place in the development of the Loudon Park Implementation Plan.

Commissioner Dempsey noted that the parking issues may be worse now because of the redevelopment - construction process. Mr. Harding replied that Staff has discussed parking concerns with both Clubs.

Commissioner Cameron said that she was very surprised by Mr. Reimer's comments because she understood that the neighbours supported the Loudon Park Improvement Plan.

Commissioner Sherry stated that if the canoe compound remains in the location it is now, there will be an area of green space which will not be adequately utilized; and access to the waterfront will also be restricted. Mr. Harding advised that the compound is temporary and construction of the building is not currently in the Five Year Capital Plan.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission host a public open house at Loudon Park to discuss the final locations of the buildings prior to construction. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Westwood Lake Building.

Parks Committee's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission request that Staff prepare a report regarding the role of the Westwood Lake Building Caretaker.

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

3. Advisory Body Reporting Process.

Commissioner Field advised that a simplified process needs to be documented regarding how items are assigned to the Committees, how the Committees provide progress reports and how they report back to the Commission. The Council Bylaw and the Commission Bylaw provide some direction, he noted, but a clear process is needed. Commissioner Field said he would be pleased to work with Staff on this topic.

Parks Committee's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission request that Staff prepare a report regarding the process used by Advisory Bodies in reporting to the Commission.

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

(b) Recreation Committee. Commissioner Avis reported on the meeting held 2008-APR-09.

1. Travel Assistance Grant Funding.

Recreation Committee's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend no changes be made to the criteria requiring that Travel Assistance Grant applicants travel out of province; and further,

That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council provide Recreation and Culture staff with the authority to recommend directly to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission Travel Assistance Funding for travel grants that clearly meet the grant criteria; and,

That the Chair of the Recreation Committee be notified when a grant application has been processed.

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

2. Travel Assistance Application from Wellington Secondary School.

Recreation Committee's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council award \$1,500 to Wellington Secondary School to attend the Canadian National Band Competition.

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

3. Travel Assistance Grant Application and Criteria.

Recreation Committee's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council adopt the Travel Assistance Grant criteria as revised.

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

(c) Cultural Committee. Commissioner Avis reported on the meeting held 2008-APR-02.

1. Nanaimo Cultural Strategy Update.

Cultural Committee's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council approve the updated Nanaimo Cultural Strategy as attached.

Commissioner Field thanked the Cultural Committee for providing the draft Cultural Strategy and asked that the request for resources be separate from the Cultural Strategy document. The draft Cultural Strategy calls for the addition of one staff and \$100,000 annually and he believes that should not be part of the Strategy. Commissioner Field stated that the draft Cultural Strategy also has clauses that are in direct conflict with the Council and Commission Bylaws. Another concern he

noted was that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan has been updated since the Cultural Strategy was first developed and those changes are not reflected. He said the Cultural Strategy wording makes the Cultural Committee appear to be a stand alone Committee.

Commissioner Avis stated that it was the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission that requested the Cultural Committee to review the Cultural Strategy and, over the past year, the Committee has invested a significant amount of time and effort in doing this. The Committee included the staff position and the minimum of \$100,000 annually in the Cultural Strategy, she said, because they felt that would emphasize the importance of the two items. Commissioner Avis noted that the Cultural Strategy is a guideline only.

Commissioner Field stated he appreciates that the Cultural Strategy is only a guideline; however, the contents need to be accurate. For example, the Cultural Committee is not responsible for commissioning public art; they are responsible for reviewing and making recommendations to Commission who in turn recommend to Council. Also, the Cultural Committee does not have the authority to create sub-committees or make decisions. The document is confusing, Commissioner Field stated. He suggested that the Cultural Strategy document should follow the Horticultural Strategy format.

Mr. Bob Kuhn, Cultural Capitals Manager, stated that the Cultural Strategy is a City document, not a Cultural Committee document, and it does not suggest that the Cultural Committee is a stand alone Committee.

Commissioners discussed the Art in Public Places Guidelines. Mr. Harding stated that the Art in Public Places Guidelines were approved by Commission and Council and confirmed that they were followed in the selection of the Harbourfront Plaza Public Art.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission be invited to attend the Cultural Committee meeting 2008-MAY-07 to discuss and clarify the Draft Cultural Strategy. The motion carried unanimously.

- (d) Grants Advisory Committee. No report.
- (e) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee. No report.
- (f) Social Planning Advisory Committee. No report.
- (g) Port Theatre. Monthly report – March 2008.
- (h) Nanaimo Art Gallery. No report.
- (i) Nanaimo District Museum. No report.

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



9. STAFF REPORTS:

- (a) Yearly Charges For Parks, Recreation And Culture "Nominal" Fee Licences And Agreements.

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission continue to charge a \$1.00 per year for licences that have been approved by Commission and Council as "nominal" fee agreements.

Historically, non-profit organizations that provide Parks, Recreation and Cultural services on City of Nanaimo parkland have been charged a fee of \$1.00 per year. The City solicitor, Staples McDannold Stewart, advise that in their experience, other municipalities in British Columbia charge between \$1.00 to \$10.00 for similar agreements.

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

10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (staff reports):

- (a) Urban Forest Planning Process Update (A. Kemp).

Mr. A. Kemp, Urban Forest Coordinator, presented an Urban Forest Planning Process Update to the Commission noting that the plan was a recommendation from the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan. A random sample public survey mail out to 2,000 residents was undertaken and had a 56% return which provides very good statistical information. The results indicate strong support from the residents of Nanaimo for sustaining urban forestry by having trees in their yards, on City streets and parks. An Open House is planned in June to obtain more public input.

Mr. Kemp confirmed that City staff will be recommending types of trees to be planted, and providing urban forest education regards to view corridors, intersections and stop signs.

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

Mr. B. Kuhn, Manager of Cultural Capitals, advised that the street banners are up on Third Street and Bowen Road, and more will be installed at Brechin Hill. He informed Commission that Ottawa asked the City of Nanaimo to send 3 artists to the Canada Day celebrations in Ottawa. Mr. Phil Ashby, Ms. Gerda Hoffman and Mr. Brendan Tang have been selected by the Cultural Capitals Board of Directors to represent Nanaimo.

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

Mr. J. Ritchie, Senior Manager of Parks, advised that the recent snow storm resulted in serious damage to trees in many City parks and trails.

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

Ms. S. Samborski, Senior Manager of Recreation and Culture, advised that the Healthy Foods Grant Application submitted to UBCM/BCRPA was not successful. The LEAP processes are being updated after which Staff will undertake a promotional campaign and attend schools.

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

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

- (a) Information from Commissioner Avis suggesting that an "Atlantis" theme be introduced at the Beban Park Pool to increase usage by creating a sense of freshness to the facility.

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission refer this information to the Recreation Committee for consideration and recommendation.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: (Information)

- (b) Letter dated 2008-MAR-12 to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Mr. Boyd Shaw and Mr. Gordon Webb, Pacific Gael Pipes and Drums, expressing appreciation for the Cultural Grant in the amount of \$1,250.
- (c) Letter dated 2008-MAR-31 to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Ms. Sara Frisch, President, Malaspina Choir, expressing appreciation for the Cultural Operating Grant in the amount of \$2,350.
- (d) Bowen Park Seniors Board of Director's meeting minutes of 2008-APR-04.

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:

- (a) Ms. Holly Morris, Sierra Park VIP, 6098 Montgomery Way, Nanaimo BC V9V 1T5 requesting that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission allocate \$20,000 towards their park improvement project; and re-name the park to "Carmanah Way Park".

Commissioner Cameron requested that the Commission be provided with information regarding the value of the community contribution in all future VIP requests.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommends that Council rename Sierra Park to "Carmanah Way Park". The motion carried unanimously.

15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

It was moved and seconded that Item (b) Options for Annual Fees for Non-Profit Organizations be removed from Unfinished Business . The motion carried unanimously.

CURRENT UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- (a) Nanaimo Christian School Request for Joint Use of Holland Road Park – referred to Parks Committee for consideration in Spring 2008.
- (b) Host a Public Open House re Loudon Park Building Locations - Commission.
- (c) Role of the Westwood Lake Building Care Taker – staff report.
- (d) Process Of Advisory Bodies Reporting to Commission – staff report.
- (e) "Atlantis" Theme for Beban Pool – referred to Recreation Committee.

16. QUESTION PERIOD:

17. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 9:09 p.m. that the meeting terminate, with the next Meeting of Commission to be held Wednesday, 2008-MAY-28, 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-MAY-07, 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-MAY-14, 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-MAY-15, 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