

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, OF THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX,  
ON WEDNESDAY, 2008-MAR-26, COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.

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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 B. Sperling  
Commissioner A. Young

Staff:

R. Harding	A. Tucker
J. Ritchie	D. Jensen
S. Samborski	K. MacDonald
M. Duerksen	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:

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-FEB-27 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:

- (a) On behalf of the City of Nanaimo, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission presented Provincial certificates and medallions to Nanaimo Track and Field Club Cross Country champions Marita Deschiffart and Rebecca Bassett.
- (b) The Draft Official Community Plan was presented by Andrew Tucker, Director of Planning, and Deborah Jensen, Community Development Planner.

Mr. A. Tucker, Director of Planning, distributed a flyer regarding the Draft Official Community Plan (OCP) noting that changes include: a modified urban containment boundary; a focus on urban nodes, corridors and neighbourhoods; increased density – particularly in urban nodes and corridors; new goal for social enrichment – liveability, affordable housing, schools, food security, arts and culture, and heritage; new goal to promote a thriving economy; and greater emphasis on protecting the environment.

Elements of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan and Cultural Strategy have been included in the draft plan, Mr. Tucker advised. He further noted that the OCP is a general policy statement and is intended to be read as such. Input for the document has been sought from all City Committees, Malaspina University College, and the public. All input from the Community Forum will be reviewed by the Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee and it is hoped that a final draft will be presented to Council in mid-May with a public hearing in June.

Mr. Tucker invited Commission members to attend the 2008-APR-10 Community Forum being held at 7:00 p.m. at the Beban Auditorium.

It was moved and seconded that the Official Community Plan presentation be received. The motion carried unanimously.

6. DELEGATIONS:

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

- (a) Ms. Debbie Trueman, General Manager, Nanaimo Museum, speaking to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission on the Development of Exhibits in the Nanaimo Museum's new facility in the Port of Nanaimo Centre Facility

Ms. Trueman provided an overview of the new museum reception and gallery space noting that the modular walls are moveable which will provide great flexibility for changing exhibits as well as changing the gallery configuration

She also advised that currently 26 people have been nominated for the Sports Hall of Fame. The Sports Hall of Fame Selection Committee will adjudicate nominations with the first induction ceremony 2008-SEP-20.

Ms. Trueman noted that the Adopt an Artefact Campaign has been very successful and will continue. The Endowment Fund is currently at \$200,000 and the Society hopes to increase it to \$500,000.

The school programs now take place in the school classrooms and bookings are up 30% over last year, Ms. Trueman advised.

- (b) Mr. Rob Ripley, President, Nanaimo and District Minor Fastball Association, 726 Railway Avenue, Nanaimo BC V9R 4L2 requesting that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission make a decision on the allocation of the Beban Gyro Softball Fields for the 2008 season.

Mr. Ripley stated that the Beban Gyro diamonds are the premier fields for fastball in Nanaimo. He informed Commission that the Nanaimo and District Minor Fastball Association has donated volunteer time and money in working with the City to develop and maintain these diamonds.

Mr. Ripley advised that Nanaimo and District Minor Fastball Association and Wellington/Pleasant Valley/Lantzville Fastball Association (WPVL) have been unable to reach an agreement for sharing the use of the Beban Gyro Softball Fields. He stated that Nanaimo and District Minor Fastball Association has been the umbrella organization for community youth fastball for over 20 years and during that time has been allocated the Beban Gyro fields. This year, WPVL started a competitive fastball program in addition to their house league and has also requested use of the Beban fields. Because of this conflict, the field was not allocated at the field user meeting. Staff advised that the 4 diamonds would be allocated based on registration numbers. Mr. Ripley stated that the 2 groups need to work together, not separately, and that he strongly disagrees with splitting use of the Beban Gyro diamonds.

The Nanaimo and District Minor Fastball Association accommodates youth from all areas of the Nanaimo district whereas WPVL accommodates only youth from Wellington, Pleasant Valley and Lantzville stated Mr. Ripley. He noted that it is essential to have the fields allocated prior to 2008-APR-04 in order to establish schedules. Mr. Ripley asked the Commission to support allocating the Beban Gyro fields to the Nanaimo and District Minor Fastball Association.

Commissioner Cameron asked that if the Beban Gyro fields were allocated to Nanaimo and District Minor Fastball, would they accommodate the WPVL players. Mr. Ripley replied they would do their best to accommodate but their own players would receive priority.

Mr. R. Harding, Director, commented that staff have met with each group and because of the impasse are prepared to allocate the diamonds based on registration.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission request staff to meet, within one week, with Nanaimo and District Minor Fastball Association and Wellington Pleasant Valley Lantzville Minor Fastball Club and explore options to resolve the Beban Gyro field use conflict. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lance suggested that members of the Commission should be invited to attend this meeting.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- (a) Chair McNabb advised at the 2008-FEB-25 Council meeting, a letter was received from the Nanaimo Track & Field Club, and the Chair, Board of Education, requesting Council's written support for the "Help Us Stay on Track" campaign to accumulate the necessary funds to resurface Rotary Bowl Track and Field Complex. Council directed that this issue be referred to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission.

*Chairman's Recommendation: That the City support in principal the fundraising campaign "Help Us Stay on Track" providing that Rotary Bowl becomes a multi-purpose facility.*

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

8. REPORTS OF ADVISORY BODIES:

- (a) Parks Committee. Commissioner Field reported on the meeting held 2008-MAR-13 and requested that Mr. J. Ritchie, Senior Manager of Parks, review the Millstone Side Channel Interpretative Plan for Commission.

1. Millstone Side Channel Interpretative Plan.

Parks Committee's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission request staff to proceed with Phase One of the Interpretative Plan for the Millstone Side Channel in Bowen Park using the funds allocated in the 2008 Parks, Recreation and Culture Capital Plan.

In October 2007, the Millstone Side Channel was completed and opened to the public. The City of Nanaimo has allocated \$100,000 from the 2008 Capital Budget for this project.

Phase One, funded from the 2008 Capital Budget for Bowen Park Improvements, includes.

- Wall Street entrance upgrades (signage, cleanup). Cost \$10,000.
- Upgrades to Bowen East parking lot, washroom facilities, pedestrian walkways and picnic shelter. Cost \$20,000.

- Two entrance kiosk signs in Bowen Park highlighting the Millstone side Channel, approximate cost \$10,000. Design, construction and installation are scheduled to be completed in July 2008.
- 18 interpretive signs. Cost \$35,000 of which Nanaimo Fish and Game Club are applying for \$25,000 in grants to help fund. The theme for the interpretive signage is "The journey of the Salmon." Signage will include educational information about wildlife, salmon, flora and fauna, history of Bowen Park, geology, stewardship tips and First Nation's culture.
- Outdoor amphitheatre/event area to be located near the duck pond. Cost \$50,000.

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

- (b) Recreation Committee. Commissioner Lance reported that no meeting was held.
- (c) Cultural Committee. Commissioner Lance reported on the meeting held 2008-MAR-12 and requested that Ms. Kirsty MacDonald, Open Space Planner, provide an overview of the "Songbird" concept.

1. The Harbourfront Plaza Art In Public Places Project.

Cultural Committee's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council approve the concept "Songbird" by Muse Atelier as the public art to be installed on the Commercial Street entrance of Harbourfront Plaza.

In 2007, an Improvement Plan for Harbourfront Plaza was adopted. The plan identified upcoming changes including a "Meet Here" public art piece to be located at the Commercial Street entrance to the plaza. All of the plaza improvements are intended to make it more inviting, enhance pedestrian activity through and into the plaza, enhance aesthetics and plaza function, and visually link the plaza to adjacent streets in the downtown.

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

*Opposed: Commissioner Sherry*

- (d) Grants Advisory Committee. Commissioner Burnett reported no meeting was held.
- (e) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee. Commissioner Lance reported that a Community Forum will be held 2008-APR-10.
- (f) Social Planning Advisory Committee. Commissioner Johnstone advised that the draft Official Community Plan was presented.
- (g) Port Theatre. Monthly report – February 2008.
- (h) Nanaimo Art Gallery. No report.

- (i) Nanaimo District Museum. Monthly report – February 2008.

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

9. STAFF REPORTS:

- (a) Leisure Economic Access Program (LEAP).

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council amend the Leisure Economic Access Program (LEAP) guidelines to enable eligible adult LEAP clients to receive 50 free swim/skate passes per year.

Ms. Duerksen, LEAP Coordinator, provided an overview of the program and commented that it is exciting to see how taking part in recreation and fitness programs help the participants.

Staff supports the recommendation which would benefit all LEAP participants by creating greater incentive to become more fit and active through the use of department facilities. Family members who access department facilities through the LEAP program would be able to recreate together on a more consistent basis.

Commissioner Dempsey suggested that all school counsellors should be advised of the LEAP program.

Commissioner Cameron suggested that, assuming Council support this recommendation, a press release should be prepared promoting this program.

It was moved and seconded that the 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.

Mr. Kuhn, Manager of Cultural Capitals of Canada 2008 Project, announced that two major projects have been completed:

- The project event guide was distributed last week; and,
- The website [www.nanaimoculturalcapital.ca](http://www.nanaimoculturalcapital.ca) is operating with a link on the City's website.

Mr. Kuhn also advised that the Cre8 - Youth Arts Experience, which was hosted in conjunction with the Vancouver Island Arts Festivals Society, was very successful with 60 youth participating. He added that the student jazz program workshops have also been well received.

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

Mr. J. Ritchie, Senior Manager of Parks, advised that the Maffeo Sutton Park Plan Request for Proposals was awarded to Archadia Landscape Architecture Ltd. and an open house will be held in May. Loudon Park parking lot improvements will commence next week and should be complete by mid-May.

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

Ms. S. Samborski, Senior Manager of Recreation and Culture Services, advised that the Cultural Strategy Open House information is currently being compiled and a report will be presented at Commission's April meeting. Staff is working to obtain a Healthy Food and Beverage grant to assist in implementing healthy food in City facilities. She also noted that BCRPA has chosen Nanaimo as a pilot community to work with the School District in meeting Physical Education criteria.

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

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

- (a) Correspondence to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Mr. Vince Katnich, President, Arts Alive, expressing appreciation for the Arts and Cultural Operating Grant.
- (b) Minutes of the Bowen Park Seniors Board of Directors Meeting held 2008-MAR-07.
- (c) Correspondence to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Ms. Lynda Avis, President, Bowen Seniors, donating \$1,000 to be used towards the lighting component of the artwork in the lobby of the Oliver Woods Community Centre.

It was moved and seconded that a thank you letter be sent to the Bowen Seniors for their donation. The motion carried unanimously.

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

12. NOTICE OF MOTION:

13. CONSIDERATION OF OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Sport Tourism PowerPoint.

Commissioner Lance suggested that the Sport Tourism PowerPoint should be presented to Council.

(b) Parking Lot and Sign Lighting at Oliver Woods.

Commissioner Avis asked staff to investigate the possibility of additional lighting in the Oliver Woods Community Centre parking lot and lighting the entrance sign.

Mr. R. Harding advised that staff will look into this and report back.

(c) BC Seniors Games Legacy.

Commissioner Johnstone advised that there will be a news article shortly regarding how groups can apply for the BC Seniors Games Legacy Funding (\$35,000). She invited Mr. R. Harding to sit on the Adjudication Committee.

(d) BC Community Achievement Award.

Commissioner Johnstone thanked Chair McNabb and Commission members for nominating her for the BC Community Achievement Award which she will receive in Victoria on 2008-APR-23.

14. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

Dealt with previously.

15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

(a) Nanaimo Christian School Request for Joint Use of Holland Road Park – referred to Parks Committee for consideration in Spring 2008.

(b) Options for Annual Fees for Non-Profit Organizations - staff report.

16. QUESTION PERIOD:

17. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 8:40 p.m. that the meeting terminate, with the next Meeting of Commission to be held Wednesday, 2008-APR-23, commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Hemlock Room of the Oliver Woods Community Centre; and,



PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION

2008-MAR-26

PAGE 9

With the next meeting of the Cultural Committee to be held Wednesday, 2008-APR-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-APR-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 Thursday, 2008-APR-10, commencing at 12:00 noon at Loudon Park.

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