

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION MEETING
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, OF THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX,
ON WEDNESDAY, 2008-FEB-27, 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	C. Connett, recording
	B. Meunier	

1. CALL THE OPEN MEETING TO ORDER:

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

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

Commissioner Lance requested that the plaques at the Lion's Bridge and the BCRPA Symposium be discussed.

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-JAN-23 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) Mr. I. Beitsma and Ms. J. Howardson, Nob Hill Volunteer In Park (VIP) Committee, 303-315 Hecate Street V9R 4J9, requesting that the Commission allocate \$30,000 towards their park improvement project.

Mr. Beitsma and Ms. Howardson presented on behalf of Ms. Barbara Henoeh who was unable to attend. Mr. Obitza stated that Nob Hill is one of the oldest parks in Nanaimo and that since 2002 the Neighbours of Nob Hill have taken an active interest in the revitalization of Nob Hill Park. He noted that in addition to the community hosting special events such as community picnics, Solstice celebrations, Christmas caroling, pot luck picnics and bocce games, many neighbours now use the park on a daily basis.

In order to maximize the use of Nob Hill Park, the outdated playground equipment needs to be replaced with CSA compliant structures; comfortable seating and picnic tables also need to be installed. Mr. Obitza stated that residents will provide volunteer labour and the Committee is exploring fundraising opportunities. He advised that the VIP Committee is requesting \$30,000 from the City of Nanaimo to pay for the play equipment and wood fibre safety surfacing.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission allocate \$20,000 from the Volunteer In Park fund and \$10,000 from the Playground Capital Budget for the Nob Hill VIP project. The motion carried unanimously.

- (b) Ms. Peggy Sketchley, Kinette Evergreen Volunteer In Park (VIP) Committee, 481 Mulberry Drive, Nanaimo BC V9R 6N8, requesting that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission allocate \$19,500 towards their park improvement project.

Ms. Sketchley expressed appreciation to the City for preserving so many green spaces in the community; and for hosting the VIP program which teaches children stewardship and helps to maintain a close knit neighbourhood.

She advised that the VIP Committee is requesting \$19,500 to undertake upgrades to the Kinette Evergreen Park (KEP) including creating a children's clubhouse structure, removing non CSA compliant play equipment, relocating existing play equipment, upgrading bench and picnic tables, removing pea gravel and installing wood fibre surfacing. The Committee has been involved with the VIP Program since 1997 and has maintained the park by mowing, weeding, removing graffiti, collecting garbage,

undertaking boulevard upkeep, trimming of trees and compost maintenance and will continue to do so.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission allocate \$19,500 from the Volunteer In Park fund for the Kinette Evergreen VIP project. The motion carried unanimously.

- (c) Mr. Ian Kalina, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Club of Nanaimo, 20 Fifth Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 1M7, requesting that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission endorse the expansion of their program area at the Chase River Fire Hall by providing a five year license and permission to undertake capital improvements to the facility.

Mr. Kalina advised that the Nanaimo Fire Rescue Department will be moving their Chase River Station to a new location in 2008 leaving the existing Fire Hall vacant. The Boys & Girls Club of Central Vancouver Island currently has a license for the Activity Centre portion of this building. With the support and endorsement of many community agencies, the Boys & Girls Club would like to license the entire building, make facility improvements, expand their services to the neighbourhood and make the facility a community services "hub" for the Chase River area by executing a five year license on the facility.

The Boys & Girls Club is also seeking approval to renovate the facility; but is not requesting funds from the City for this project advised Mr. Kalina. The Boys & Girls Club has applied for a \$250,000 capital grant from the Ministry of Children and Family Development to create new child care spaces in a public facility.

Mr. Mike Parker, Chair, Chase River Community Association, was introduced and voiced strong support for this request which will provide community space to conduct neighbourhood activities. He stated that the population in the Chase River/Cinnabar area is growing rapidly and community space is desperately needed to host events and activities for children, teens and adults and asked Commission to support this request.

It was moved and seconded that Staff Report Item 9 (a) be brought forward for consideration at this time. The motion carried unanimously.

9. STAFF REPORTS:

- (a) Facility Improvements and License Extension at the Chase River Activity Centre for the Boys & Girls Club of Central Vancouver Island.

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

1. recommend that Council authorize a five year license with the Boys & Girls Club of Central Vancouver Island to occupy the entire Chase River Activity Centre / Fire Hall facility; and further,
2. support the Boys & Girls Club of Central Vancouver Island's plans for capital improvements to the Chase River Activity Centre / Fire Hall after all funding and permits are obtained.

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

- (d) Mr. Bruce Clark, Nanaimo Timbermen Lacrosse Association (NTLA), 3945 Rock City Road, Nanaimo BC V9T 4L6, speaking to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission about Lacrosse's use of the Arenas.

Mr. Clark advised that NTLA oversees all lacrosse clubs in Nanaimo. He stated that lacrosse expected that the status quo would remain after the demolition of the Civic Arena; however, that has not been the case. Meetings with Staff and the Commission last spring provided some resolution; however, insufficient dry floor time was allocated again this year. He expressed appreciation to Councillors McNabb and Sherry and Staff for meeting with them on 2008-FEB-19 to discuss the concerns of the various lacrosse clubs. Compromises were made and a reasonably acceptable resolution was found.

Mr. Clark noted that all levels of lacrosse have experienced growth and new teams have been added; therefore, more dry floor time is required. He informed Commission that Mr. Harding has advised that lacrosse will be consulted in the fall to evaluate their needs for the 2009 season. Lacrosse will be developing and implementing initiatives to utilize floor times including offering camps, clinics, and tournaments so that the floor does not sit idle when it is not being used for practice or game play. The Nanaimo Timbermen Lacrosse Association is a non-profit society, stated Mr. Clark, and is interested in a joint partnership with the City to develop a lacrosse facility which could be used for other purposes when not being used for lacrosse.

- (e) Mr. Forbes Mitchell, Junior A Timbermen Lacrosse Association, 2878 Twin Oaks Drive, Ladysmith, BC V9G 1C7, speaking to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission about Lacrosse's lack of floor times, prior to and post, regular season.

Mr. Mitchell informed Commission that because all senior levels of lacrosse have experienced dramatic growth in the past few years, the likelihood of teams consistently going further into playoffs is much greater. Nanaimo is, and always has been, a strong lacrosse community, commented Mr. Mitchell. He informed Commission that dry floor was available for a longer period of time when only three arenas were available; and now with four arenas, there is less dry floor time. There are more lacrosse teams now and a resolution is urgently needed.

Jr. A Lacrosse is entering their fourth season, playing in an 18 league team and doing very well, advised Mr. Mitchell. He noted that this is the league from which professional players are drafted; and further, the Club plans to bid to host the Minto Cup in 2010.

Mr. Mitchell expressed appreciation to Commissioners McNabb and Sherry and Staff for working with them to arrange additional dry floor time.

- (f) Mr. Fred Taylor, 204 Emery Way, Nanaimo BC V9R 5Z8, speaking to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission with respect to Staff Report Item 9 (b) entitled, "Renewal of License Agreements for Non-Profit Organizations (McGirr Sports Society, Nanaimo Curling Club & Nanaimo BMX Association)."

Mr. Taylor noted that copies of the license agreements were not included with the Staff report and Commission members have a responsibility to review the licenses before approving them. In view of the Yacht Club negotiations, and today's demands by legislation for protection of the public interest, the proposed \$1.00 per year does not create a level playing field in his opinion.

Further, Mr. Taylor stated that the Commission has a responsibility to recognize how parkland is acquired and held; and the City, acting as a Trustee over Bowen Park, is under a duty to recognize the Trust on the Title of the land, "to use the lands for public park only". Mr. Taylor stated that the City of Victoria ignored the terms of a Trust on Beacon Hill Park and lost the case in court. He referred to a letter dated 1964-JUL-30 from Harry Whipper, former Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, regarding the Commission's responsibility to City Council and the citizens of Nanaimo regarding the use of Bowen Park.

Mr. Taylor stated that there should be no license for any area of Bowen Park because the park belongs to the public and requested that Commission reconsider the proposed license with the Nanaimo Curling Club.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

8. REPORTS OF ADVISORY BODIES:

- (a) Parks Committee. Commissioner Field reported that no meeting was held.
- (b) Recreation Committee. Commissioner Lance reported on the meeting held 2008-FEB-13.

1. Review of Travel Assistance application from the Vibrant Studios Performance Group.

Vibrant Studios Performance Group is requesting \$2,000 in travel assistance to travel to Los Angeles, California, to perform at Disneyland and on a Carnival Cruise in July of 2008.

Recreation Committee Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission not award the requested \$2,000 to Vibrant Studios Performance Group as it does not meet Travel Assistance Grant criteria of travelling to a Regional, National or International level championship.

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

- (2) Review of Travel Assistance application from the Nanaimo Minor Hockey Mid-Island Extreme Female Bantam "A" Hockey Team.

The Mid-Island Extreme Female Bantam "A" Hockey Team is requesting \$1,300 for travel to the Provincial Championships in Prince Rupert in March, 2008.

Recreation Committee Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission not award the requested \$1,300 to Nanaimo Minor Hockey Mid-Island Extreme Female Bantam "A" Hockey Team as it does not meet Travel Assistance Grant criteria of travelling to a Regional, National or International level championship.

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-FEB-13 and noted that the Cultural Strategy Open House was held at Oliver Woods Community Centre on 2008-FEB-21. A final draft of the Cultural Strategy will be submitted for Commission's review at their March meeting.
- (d) Grants Advisory Committee. Commissioner Burnett reported that no meeting was held.
- (e) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee. Commissioner Lance reported that a draft of the New Nanaimo Plan was circulated and an RDN representative will attend the next meeting to speak to their growth plan.
- (f) Social Planning Advisory Committee. Commissioner Johnstone advised that there was nothing to report.
- (g) Port Theatre. Monthly report – December 2007 and January 2008.
- (h) Nanaimo Art Gallery. Monthly report – January 2008.
- (i) Nanaimo District Museum. Monthly report – January 2008.

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

9. STAFF REPORTS:

- (a) Facility Improvements and License Extension at the Chase River Activity Centre for the Boys & Girls Club of Central Vancouver Island.

Dealt with previously.

- (b) Renewal of License Agreements for Non-Profit Organizations (McGirr Sports Society, Nanaimo Curling Club & Nanaimo BMX Association).

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council approve the five-year license renewals of the following non-profit organizations at an annual fee of \$1.00 per year in addition to an administrative fee of \$125.00:

1. McGirr Sports Society effective 2008-JAN-01 to 2012-DEC-31; and,
2. Nanaimo Curling Club effective 2008-JAN-01 to 2012-DEC-31; and,
3. Nanaimo BMX Association effective 2008-JAN-01 to 2012-DEC-31.

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. These guidelines were used in reviewing the renewal of the license agreements for the McGirr Sports Society, the Nanaimo Curling Club and the Nanaimo BMX Association. It was determined that the service provided by all three organizations meet the guidelines and an annual rent of \$1.00 for each organization was appropriate.

Commissioner Sherry stated that the nominal \$1.00 per year fee should be reviewed and perhaps \$1,000.00 would be more appropriate but he would like information on what other City's have done.

Commissioner Lance commented that the organizations operate and maintain these facilities at their own cost and if they had to pay \$1,000 per year, it is possible that they would approach the City for grant funding or turn the facility over to the City to operate.

Commissioner Johnstone confirmed that the Curling Club does all their own maintenance and upkeep, and receives no City funding, in the same way as the BMX Association.

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

Opposed: Commissioners Burnett, Sherry and Avis.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission request staff to review what other municipalities charge non-profit organizations for annual license fees and report back to Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

- (c) L'association des francophones de Nanaimo's Request for Free Facility Usage.

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that L'Association des Francophones de Nanaimo consider applying for a Tournament and Festival grant to offset costs associated with hosting the annual Maple Sugar Festival.

Fees and rental charges are recommended by the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission to City Council for approval as part of the "Bylaw to Regulate Parks,

Recreation and Culture Services and Facilities”; and the current Fees and Rental Policy was approved by Council in 2007. Historically, waiving of fees has not been recommended because, as a Bylaw, changes require a Bylaw Amendment by City Council and the fees and rentals for non-profit organizations are already subsidized.

Commissioner Lance noted that the L'Association des Francophones de Nanaimo receive a City of Nanaimo Cultural Operating Grant.

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.

- Events Guide: a 32 page full colour glossy guide detailing all the Cultural Capital events for 2008 to be delivered to all Nanaimo residents in early March. There will be approximately 40 events throughout the year.
- Website: www.nanaimoculturalcapital.ca: will be completed in early March and will be the most accurate source of information on all the Cultural Capital events.
- Sponsorships and other grants: approximately \$140,000 has been secured for In-Kind and \$25,000 in cash to date.
- Street signs: are installed at BC Ferries at Departure Bay; at Third Street; and at Salish Park. Planning to order 1 more sign for the North end Welcome entrance.
- Street Banners: will be placed in March.
- Nanaimo Magazine: Cultural Capital will be the cover story for the March issue.
- Cultural Capitals of Canada (CCC) logo: will be on the second page of the Daily News and front page of the Bulletin.
- Master Sponsors: the Wave and Wolf Radio stations are both Master Sponsors and are providing regular coverage of Cultural Capital events.

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

Mr. Ritchie, Senior Manager of Parks, advised that the Maffeo Sutton Park Plan proposals will be reviewed next week. He also noted that the Oliver Woods Community Centre playground construction is underway with an anticipated completion date of 2008-APR-01; and the Rotary Field House is being roofed.

Commissioner Young commended staff on the improvements to Knowles Park.

Commissioner Lance asked that copies of the "City Trees and You" survey be distributed to all Commissioners.

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

Ms. Samborski, Senior Manager of Recreation and Culture Services, noted that the Oliver Woods Community Centre public opening was attended by approximately 2,000 people. Staff will be hosting a meeting in March with the area seniors to discuss program planning. The Community Policing office will open in April.

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

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

(a) Letter dated 2008-FEB-01 to Mr. Al Baronas, Chief Executive Officer, Island Coastal Economic Trust, from Mr. John Furlong, Chief Executive Officer, VANOC, expressing support for the 2009 World Under 17 Hockey Challenge Society's application for funding from the Island Coastal Economic Trust.

(b) Letter dated 2008-FEB-08 to Ms. Suzanne Samborski, Senior Manager of Recreation and Culture Services, from Ms. Lynda Avis expressing appreciation for the excellent Beban Pool operation.

(c) Bowen Park Seniors Board of Directors Meeting Notes of 2008-FEB-01.

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

12. NOTICE OF MOTION:

13. CONSIDERATION OF OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) Plaques adjacent to the Lion's Great Bridge.

Commissioner Lance noted that several of the plaques adjacent to the Lion's Great Bridge need to be cleaned and asked Staff who is responsible for this. Mr. Ritchie, Senior Manager of Parks, replied that he will discuss this with the Lion's Club.

(b) Appreciation to Mr. B. Meunier.

Mr. Harding, Director, thanked Mr. B. Meunier for over 27 years of dedicated service to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and congratulated him on his retirement.

(c) BCRPA Symposium.

The BCRPA annual symposium is April 24 – 26 in Victoria. Commissioners interested in attending are to advise the Secretary prior to 2008-MAR-07.

14. BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

Dealt with previously.

15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

It was moved and seconded that Item (b) Alternate funding options for Maple Sugar Festival's building rental fees, be removed. 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) Options for Annual Fees for Non-Profit Organizations - staff report.

16. QUESTION PERIOD:

- (a) Mr. Fred Taylor, 204 Emery Way, Nanaimo BC V9R 5Z8, spoke to the Nob Hill VIP request to remove the stairway. He felt this may present a hardship for the public travelling to and from downtown.

Mr. Harding, Director, replied that Staff are working with the Downtown Safer City Committee on ideas about the stairway.

- (b) Ms. Denise Wood, Curling Club Manager, thanked Commission for their support over the years and advised that the Club is hosting a national event in April with 22 teams participating. The Club is currently raising funds for an elevator and it is important to have a license with the City to enable them to apply for grants.

17. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 8:28 p.m. that the meeting terminate, with the next Meeting of Commission to be held Wednesday, 2008-MAR-26, 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-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, if required, 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-MAR-13, 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