

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION MEETING
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, OF THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX,
ON WEDNESDAY, 2007-OCT-24, 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 L. Fraser
Commissioner D. Johnstone
Commissioner L. Sherry
Commissioner B. Sperling

Absent:

Commissioner P. Field
Commissioner S. Lance
Commissioner A. Young

Staff:

R. Harding
S. Samborski

J. Ritchie
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 Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission Budget Meeting held Wednesday, 2007-OCT-03 at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Bowen Park Complex.

- (b) Minutes of the Regular Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission Meeting held Wednesday, 2007-OCT-03 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:

On behalf of the City of Nanaimo, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission presented certificates and medallions to the BC Seniors Games gold place participants Michael Poole, Georgina Boyd, Anne Northwood, Roger Northwood, Barb Jubenville, Ella Haylock, Brian Foan, Frank Kimantas, Jan Lapinski, Ken Bibby, Ruby Miller, Dalton Corbett, Arlene Blundell, Marvin Worden, Greg Blundell, Doug Sommers, Joanne MacIntosh, Pat Franklin, Greg Jones, Joanne Husband, Wendy Potter, Alan Gustafson, Erik Warners, Ian Burvill, James Scantland, Karel Korinek, Nancy Ryan, Dan Ford, George Kress, Joan Lord, Ken Milne, Barry Sparks, Santokh Parhar, Zlatko Zvekich, Clifford King, Sharon Stonehouse, Brian Scorer, Margaret Obee, Jim Corder, Duffy Johnston, Evelyn Lim, Geoffrey Ramsey, Patricia Garton, Fran McColl.

6. DELEGATIONS:

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

- (a) Mr. Fred Taylor, 204 Emery Way, Nanaimo BC V9R 5Z8 speaking to the Park Zoning report.

Mr. Taylor advised that:

- Westwood Lake properties are protected by a trust on title for a public park and only a Supreme Court order can direct otherwise.
- several of the Westwood lands were not identified as parkland, leaving the door open to offers of purchase.
- elected officials have sold some of the Westwood lands without authority.
- the City now owns one of the "Westwood properties" that was unlawfully disposed of and he is requesting identification by Plan 74 RW within Subdivision Plan VIP64275.
- this land could accommodate trails to Westwood Lake.
- this is a good example of why parkland needs identification and how it is acquired.
- parkland needs to be protected.

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

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

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) Athletic Commission. Commissioner McNabb reported on the meeting held 2007-OCT-16 advising that a 'So You Think You're Tough' event is scheduled for 2008-MAR-29 and a 'Cage Fight' is scheduled for 2007-NOV-17.
- (e) Grants Advisory Committee. No meeting was held..
- (f) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee. No report.
- (g) Social Planning Advisory Committee. Commissioner Johnstone reported that grant funding has been approved and social planning awards will be announced the first week of November.
- (h) Port Theatre. Monthly report – September.
- (i) Nanaimo Art Gallery. No report.
- (j) Nanaimo District Museum. Monthly report – September.

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

9. STAFF REPORTS:

- (a) Branding of the Nanaimo Sports Zone.

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve the branding of the Nanaimo Ice Centre, the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre, Serauxmen Sports Fields and the Rotary Bowl as the 'Nanaimo Sports Zone' with a promotional tagline of *Learn, Train, Play*.

Since 2000, the City of Nanaimo has developed a multi-purpose sport and recreation corridor with the construction of a variety of facilities situated in the Fifth Street, Wakesiah Avenue and Third Street area. In addition, various community organizations have partnered with the City of Nanaimo in the development of some of the venues. The facilities include a state-of-the-art aquatic centre, ice centre, multi-purpose sports fields, Malaspina University-College and Nanaimo District Secondary School facilities all within close proximity to one another.

Multi-media information and marketing materials are being developed that highlight the various sport and recreation facilities located in this area. As part of the process

in the development of the marketing materials and current work being conducted for Sports Development, a need has been identified to 'brand' the area in a manner that would provide meaning to potential end users. '*The Nanaimo Sports Zone – Learn, Train, Play!*' will provide connotation for end users about what the area has to offer in terms of multi-purpose sports facilities. The various stakeholders all support this promotional tagline. The current names of the individual facilities will remain.

Commissioner Cameron asked if further buildings or fields will be constructed on the Third Street property. Mr. R. Harding, Director, advised that the only development planned for the property at this time is the Rotary Field House.

Commissioner Johnstone congratulated the Department's marketing team for producing such a comprehensive marketing package; and noted that the Nanaimo BC Seniors Games Committee will be producing a video including these facilities.

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

(b) Proposed Park Zoning.

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

1. receive the comments submitted in response to the parks zoning open house; and further,
2. recommend that Council proceed with the proposed park zoning as outlined in the report.

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, at their regular 2007-JUN-27 meeting, approved the draft park zones for public review and directed staff to host a public open house to receive input. Parks, Recreation and Culture staff, in conjunction with Development Services, held an open house on 2007-OCT-10. Based on the comments received during the open house staff are recommending no change to the 3 park zones; but are recommending changes to the proposed zoning for a number of individual park properties:

Fillinger Waterfront Park (North Nanaimo): Fillinger Waterfront Park is a paved boat ramp and associated parking lot with little natural green space. Staff feel it would not be appropriate to include this area within PRC-1 zone as the primary intent of the zone is for the conservation of natural spaces. The neighbouring waterfront and Rocky Point Parks are undeveloped and staff feels that they should be included within the PRC-1 zone as opposed to the PRC-2 zone originally proposed for these two parks.

Wardropper Park (Departure Bay): Staff feel the PRC-2 zoning is appropriate and that zoning it PRC-1 would be premature in advance of the Wardropper Park planning process; however, following completion of the park plan all, or portions of, the park could be considered for rezoning.

Smugglers Bay Park (Protection Island): Staff are in general agreement with residents who suggest that the park should be zoned PRC-1 but the basketball court and community garden remain within the proposed PRC-2 zone.

Beban Park (Central Nanaimo): Staff support that Beban Park be split-zoned in order to include the Participation Park within the PRC-1 zone as it conforms to the Beban Park Master Plan.

Bowen Park (Central Nanaimo): At present, Bowen Park does not have a Park Plan; however, development of a plan is a long term goal of Parks planning staff. While a Park Plan would likely identify that a significant portion of the park should remain in its natural state, staff believe it would be premature to split-zone the park in advance of the completion of the Park Plan. Following the completion of a Park Plan it may be appropriate to consider rezoning at that time.

Staff will bring a report to Council outlining the proposed park zoning and introducing the associated Zoning Bylaw Amendment Bylaw. A formal Public Hearing will be held in order to provide opportunity for additional public comments.

Commissioner Sherry confirmed that this recommendation is only related to zoning not the protection of or history of acquisition of lands. He asked if zones will be identified on future maps. Mr. Harding, Director, confirmed that park zoning is separate from park acquisition and protection.

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

(c) School Community Connections Program.

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommends that Council support moving to Step 2 of the School Community Connections Program in partnership with School District 93, Ecole Oceane (formerly Princess Anne School) and the Francophone Association of Nanaimo.

The School Community Connections Program was developed to encourage partnerships between schools and local governments to greater utilize school facilities for broader community purposes. The program is divided into three phases:

Phase 1 - meeting of potential partners to explore opportunities for collaboration;
Phase 2 - facilitate planning for potential projects identified in Phase 1; and,
Phase 3 - assist communities in moving their concept into a construction phase.

Preliminary discussions with City staff and members of the Francophone School District took place in the summer of 2007 regarding opportunities to better utilize Ecole Oceane for broader community proposes. Following these initial talks, a Steering Committee meeting was held on 2007-SEP-19 to discuss possible opportunities within the school.

Phase 2 of the program, which facilitates planning of possible projects identified in Phase 1, requires the Francophone School District to request \$40,000 in funding from the Ministry of Education. There is no funding commitment by the City of Nanaimo at this point in the program.

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

(d) Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission Policy for Naming Parks and Facilities.

Staff's Recommendation: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission adopt the following policy statement to be used as a guideline when considering naming of parks and facilities: "The Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, when reviewing requests for naming of parks and facilities and forwarding recommendations for Council's consideration, will reserve naming for individuals who have made special contributions to the community, or for clubs and organizations to recognize their contributions in the development of parks and facilities."

A naming convention report was presented to the Commission at their regular meeting of 2007-OCT-03 which provided an overview of how naming has been conducted over the years as well as an example of how the City of Vancouver deals with naming requests. Commission approved maintaining the Status Quo and requested that staff provide a policy statement and a reference list of previous naming requests.

Mr. Harding noted that this Policy will be added to the Commission Manual; and that the park naming history will be included on the parks database that will be released next year.

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

10. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (staff reports):

(a) Facility Allocations and Community Use Staff Presentation (Mary Smith).

Ms. Mary Smith, Manager of Recreation and Culture Services, advised that facility allocations includes facilities other than pools and arenas. The City has 3 major recreation centres – Beban Park, Bowen Park and Oliver Road (to be opened in February 2008); 3 Activity Centres – Departure Bay, Kin Hut and Harewood; and the Maffeo Auditorium at the Community Services Building. These facilities are used for department programs/City meetings and by community groups/individuals who rent the facilities for trade shows, birthday parties, bird shows, weddings, etc.

A computerized booking process generates a facility use agreement for each booking which is a legal document and includes the rental fee which is determined by the Fees and Rental Policy. Groups are responsible for arranging their own set up, take down, caterer, etc. but staff can do this for an extra fee if the renter wishes.

All facility décor is fairly neutral in order to accommodate a variety of uses and spaces range from 275 square feet (18 person occupancy) to 12,700 square feet (1,135 person occupancy). Beban Social Centre has 14 separate rentable spaces and in 2006 71% of total use was for rentals and 29% for programs. Bowen Complex has 9 separate rentable spaces and in 2006 36% of total use was for rentals and 64% for programs. Oliver Road will have 9 separate rentable spaces including 2 gymnasiums

(b) Relocation of Bowen Barnyard Program to Beban Park.

The summer barnyard program has been operating at Bowen Park since the late 1980s. The barnyard is operated by the Nanaimo 4H Club with an annual operating grant provided by the City of Nanaimo. Attendance at the Bowen Barnyard has been steadily decreasing over the last number of years because of reasons such as visibility of the facility to the public, access to the barnyard and the increased use of other City parks like Beban Park rather than Bowen Park.

Staff have been working with the Nanaimo 4H Club and the Vancouver Island Exhibition Society (VIEX) and it has been determined that a mutually beneficial location for the barnyard program is one of the barns at Beban Park. Some of the benefits of this move are better visibility, more drive by traffic, the ability to market the program in junction with VIEX, incorporating the barnyard with the VIEX fair and having more use of the buildings at Beban Park. Staff, as well as both organizations, are supportive of this move and understand that this is a temporary use of the existing barns. Both organizations will be assisting in the move with plans that the 2008 barnyard program will operate at Beban Park

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

Commissioner Cameron asked when a tree removal permit is required. Mr. Ritchie replied that a tree permit is required to remove specific trees such as dogwood or trees of a specific diameter from private and public lands.

Commissioner Johnstone thanked Mr. Ritchie and his staff for the prompt and thorough clean up of the stairwell adjacent to Pipers Park.

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

Ms. S. Samborski, Manager of Recreation and Culture, noted that Commissioner Avis had circulated an information report on the Enlightened Aging Forum.

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

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

- (a) Letter to Scott Flood, Head Coach, Nanaimo Riptides Swim Team, from Mr. Andrew Moss, Director of Domestic Operations, Swimming Canada, congratulating the Nanaimo Riptides Swim Team for being recognized as technical aquatic leaders in the community.
- (b) Minutes of the Bowen Park Seniors Board of Directors meeting held 2007-OCT-05.

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:

- (a) Nanaimo Christian School Request for Joint Use of Holland Road Park – referred to Parks Committee for consideration in Spring 2008.
- (b) Bowen Side Channel Interpretive Plan – staff report requested (January 2008).

16. QUESTION PERIOD:

- (a) Mr. Taylor asked if the Lion's Club, who provided the Bowen barn, been advised of the move. Mr. Harding responded that the Lion's Club have been notified of the program change and that the barn is not being moved.

17. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 8:10 p.m. that the meeting terminate, with the next Meeting of Commission to be held Wednesday, 2007-NOV-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, 2007-NOV-07, commencing at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Bowen Park Complex; and,

With the next meeting of the Athletic Commission to be held Thursday, 2007-NOV-08, commencing at 3:00 p.m. at Beban Park; and,

With the next meeting of the Recreation Committee to be held, if required, Wednesday, 2007-NOV-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-JAN-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