

**MINUTES OF THE NINTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF NANAIMO
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION, HELD IN THE
CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX,
ON WEDNESDAY, 2006-NOV-22, AT 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Members: Commissioner L. McNabb, Chair
Commissioner J. Cameron
Commissioner L. Sherry
Commissioner P. Field
Commissioner L. Fraser
Commissioner D. Johnstone
Commissioner S. Lance
Commissioner L. Murray
Commissioner D. Burnett
Commissioner B. Sperling
Commissioner M. Young
Commissioner B. Dempsey

Staff: T. Hickey
B. Meunier
R. Harding
C. Connett, Recording

Chair McNabb introduced and welcomed Commissioner Linda Murray.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission held 2006-NOV-01 be adopted as circulated.

Carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

Commissioner Sperling requested that Mr. David Murchie be permitted to speak as a late delegation.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Mr. D. Murchie be added to the agenda as a late delegation.

Carried unanimously.

RECEIVING OF LATE CORRESPONDENCE AGENDA:

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Late Correspondence Agenda be received.

Carried unanimously.

RECEIVING OF DELEGATIONS:

(1) **Mr. P. Kevin Smith, Building Director, Nanaimo Curling Club, 3016 Neyland Road, Nanaimo BC V9T 2X5** was not present.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the submission from Mr. Smith be received.

Carried unanimously.

(2) **Mr. David Murchie, 2700-102nd Street, Nanaimo, BC V9T 5A2**, advised that he is pleased with the Loudon Park Improvement Plan public process but is disappointed and concerned about the removal of the multi-purpose court because it is the only designated play area in the neighbourhood. He stated that children use the area on a daily basis and that there is no other basketball court, field or tennis court nearby on which they can

exercise safely. He asked Commission to retain the multi-purpose court. Mr. Murchie also noted that having a play area at a waterfront park is ideal.

Mr. Murchie stated that he supports:

- modifying the traffic flow.
- combining the concession and clubhouse into a single facility with indoor seating for coffee/food.
- constructing a formal, fireproof, boat storage area for the clubs using Long Lake.
- acquiring property at the end of lake in the Town Centre to build a small waterfront park/recreation centre to house the Rowing Club, and other clubs, who may be interested in using the lake or the Wellington School fields.
- construction of a public fishing dock.

Mr. Murchie advised that it would have been beneficial if the City had notified the Mt. Benson School PAC of the public meeting dates. The school is only 500 m from the park and students use the play area, especially the basketball court.

Commissioner Cameron stated that she has not seen a lot of use on the multi-purpose court and asked staff if they have monitored use. Mr. Harding replied that there is not much use of the court area.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. David Murchie, be received.

Carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chair McNabb advised that Commissioner Hamilton has resigned because of ill health and that Ms. Maureen Young, Regional District Area C Director, will be attending meetings until the Regional District appoints a representative.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. (1) **Mr. James Fleming, 5605 Muggies Way, Nanaimo BC V9V 1W2,** requesting that the Commission assign high priority in 2006/07 to rebuilding the former access and steps to the beach at the foot of Norasea Road at Breonna Drive which is currently a dedicated road allowance.

Staff advised that the City has never constructed or maintained a beach access at this location.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission direct staff to provide a report regarding costs to construct a beach access and steps at the foot of Norasea Road at Breonna Drive which is currently a dedicated road allowance.

Carried unanimously.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

2. (1) **Parks Committee.** Commissioner Field reported on the meeting held 2006-NOV-09.
 - 2.(1.1) **Loudon Park and Trail Improvement Plan.** The option being recommended reconfigures parking to the existing tennis court area, removes drive through traffic, proposes that the paddling/rowing dock, as well as a future building and public washroom, be situated to the west of park area; and that the proposed fishing pier be situated in the area that the existing rowing dock is now located.

Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that there is \$80,000 allocated for 2007 to start this project.

Commissioner Dempsey asked staff to consider the request to provide a multi-purpose or basketball court in the park if space permits. Mr. Harding replied that will be considered.

Motion

It was moved and seconded:

1. That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommends that Council adopt the Loudon Park and Trail Improvement Plan; and further,
2. That the plan be implemented as resources are allocated.

Carried unanimously.

- 2.(1.2) **Park Concessionaire (Vendors) Licenses.** Commissioner Field advised that the park vendor licenses at Maffeo Sutton Park will expire at the end of 2006.

Commissioner Sherry stated that the Parks Committee also discussed increasing the license fee and had requested a report on what other communities on Vancouver Island are charging. Mr. Harding replied that he will prepare a report for Commission's consideration in January. Because the licenses need to be in place by 2007-MAY-01, Commission agreed that the advertising for concessionaires proceed noting that fees are under review.

Commissioner Burnett asked if the park concessionaires only operate from May to September. Mr. Harding replied that they can operate all year if they wish and they are expected to be onsite for more than just special events; therefore, a minimum number of days and hours have been included to ensure continuous service to park visitors.

Motion

It was moved and seconded:

1. Vendor licences be advertised for a one year period with the option for two one year extensions dependent on the Maffeo Sutton Park redevelopment plan; and further,
2. Application guidelines specify a minimum number of days and hours of operation for vendors.

Carried unanimously.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks Committee report be received.

Carried unanimously.

2. (2) **Recreation Committee.** Commissioner Lance reported that the meeting notes from the Recreation Committee meeting held 2006-NOV-08 will be included on the 2007-JAN-24 agenda.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Recreation Committee report be received.

Carried unanimously.

2. (3) **Cultural Committee.** Commissioner Lance reported on the meeting held 2006-NOV-01 and invited Commissioners to attend the "Generations" unveiling that is scheduled for Saturday, 2006-DEC-16 at 11:00 a.m.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Cultural Committee report be adopted.

Carried unanimously.

2. (4) **Athletic Commission.** No meeting held.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

3. (1) **Special Needs and Leisure Economic Access Policy (LEAP) Services.**

Ms. M. Duerksen, Special Needs Programmer, circulated the updated LEAP application and advised that approximately 2,000 residents participated in the LEAP program in 2005 which provides a program discount of 50% up to \$40 four times a year. She stated that the City has partnered with Canadian Tire on the JumpStart program which is applied after the LEAP discount and provides an additional 25% up to \$20 per child to participate in active programs.

Ms. Duerksen advised that the Special Needs summer day camp program receives \$80,000 in Provincial Government funding which provides 71 participants aged 6 – 18 years, who have physical or mental challenges, with camp opportunities. Participants averaged 2.7 weeks of camp attendance. The children create lifelong friendships at these camps which is very difficult for them to do in the school system. Most clients are referred by their social worker or by word of mouth.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission receive the report.

Carried unanimously.

3. (2) **Park Warden Program.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that Volunteer Park Warden programs have been developed in several municipalities. Park Wardens are generally retired individuals who frequent a park on a regular basis and provide information to park users and report issues within the park to the appropriate staff person. Wardens also help to maintain a personal level of service in the parks by their presence and occasionally assist in vandalism and maintenance patrols, interpretive programs and provide input into overall park development and maintenance. While Nanaimo has an active Volunteer in Parks Program, the City does not have a formal Park Warden Program.

In Nanaimo, six parks {Colliery Dam, Neck Point, Cable Bay, Joan Point, Kin Beach, Sugarloaf and Linley Valley (Cottle Lake)} have regular volunteers who actively report vandalism and other park issues to staff. Staff inspect most parks on a monthly basis but park wardens can provide information on a much more regular basis. Development of a Park Warden program in Nanaimo will help to formalize, and expand upon, current volunteer efforts in our parks.

Commissioner Cameron asked if there are any age or location restrictions. Mr. Harding replied that anyone who is interested, and over the age of 18, is welcome to participate.

Commissioner Burnett asked if wardens will complete RCMP security checks. Mr. Harding replied that he will include that as part of the process.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission initiate a Park Warden program for City of Nanaimo parks and trails.

Carried unanimously.

3. (3) **Manager of Parks Monthly Report.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, reviewed his report.
3. (4) **Manager of Recreation and Culture Services Monthly Report.** Mr. B. Meunier, Manager of Recreation and Culture Services, reviewed his report. He advised that the Canada wide Jump Start program is funded through the Canadian Tire Foundation and Nanaimo was its first location.
3. (5) **2010 Legacies Now and Legacy Funding.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that 2010 Legacies Now is a not-for-profit society established by the Government of British Columbia and the 2010 Olympic Bid Corporation to be the primary source for Olympic Legacy Funding in BC Communities. The Society works in partnership with community organizations, not-for-profit organizations, the private sector and all levels of government in BC to further the development of sports and recreation, arts and culture, literacy and volunteerism. The funding provided is to assist BC Communities in achieving lasting legacies leading up to and extending beyond the 2010 Olympics.

To date, the City of Nanaimo, Team Nanaimo and other organizations within the community have accessed over \$95,000 of legacy funding through 2010 Legacies Now. In addition, the City of Nanaimo, with the support of Team Nanaimo, has received a Provincial infrastructure grant of \$330,000 to establish an Olympic Live Site in the Harbourfront Plaza.

These funds have assisted in Nanaimo's efforts towards the development of events, infrastructure, and new programs and initiatives to further sports, recreation, arts and culture in our community.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Director's report be received.

Carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY REPORTS:

4. (1) **Port Theatre** – the monthly activity report for October was reviewed.
4. (2) **Grants Advisory Committee** – no report.
4. (3) **Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee** – Commissioner Lance advised that a seminar was held last Saturday to hear citizen's concerns about the Plan Nanaimo ten year review. Approximately 200 people attended and three more open houses are scheduled.
4. (4) **Social Planning Advisory Committee** - no report.
4. (5) **Nanaimo 2007 BC Seniors Games Society** – Commissioner Johnstone reported that planning is progressing well and there is a strong Board of Directors; however, they are still looking for office space. The Society is anticipating attendance at the Games of 3,500. The 20 core sports have chairs in place, the rule book will be completed by the end of January and 29 activities/sports will be offered including new activities of mountain bike riding, dragon boating and disc golf.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Community reports be received.

Carried unanimously.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INFORMATION:

5. (1) Copy of Minutes of the Bowen Park Seniors Board of Directors Meeting held 2006-NOV-03.

5. (2) Copy of correspondence to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Lesley Currie, Administrator, Nanaimo Conservatory of Music, requesting that the \$1,900 Cultural Operating Grant allocated to them in June 2006 be carried forward to 2007 to assist in funding a Spring Break Music Event.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Items of General Information be received.

Carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

- (1) **Mr. P. Kevin Smith, Building Director, Nanaimo Curling Club, 3016 Neyland Road, Nanaimo BC V9T 2X5.** Information received.
- (2) **Mr. David Murchie, 2700 102nd Street, Nanaimo, BC V9T 5A2.** Delegation received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Item #2 – Loudon Park Community Input and Improvement Plan and Item #5 – Team Nanaimo – City of Nanaimo Joint Report on 2010 Legacies Now Funding Opportunities, be removed from Unfinished Business.

Carried unanimously.

CURRENT UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- (1) Community Paddling/Auxiliary Coast Guard dock at the Brechin Boat Ramp – referred to staff to work with groups to develop plans and feasibility.

Mr. T. Hickey reviewed the plans that now have the paddling dock and boathouse extending off the existing dock. This will save considerable cost and better utilize existing infrastructure. The Nanaimo Canoe and Kayak Club is submitting a BC Gaming Grant for \$60,000. The Auxiliary Coast Guard has well over \$100,000 fundraised and will be responsible for the construction of the boathouse. The 2007 Parks, Recreation and Culture Capital Budget has funding for this project. The next steps include getting Fisheries and Oceans and Coast Guard approval and preparing engineered plans. The long term water lot lease with the Provincial Government for the Brechin Boat Ramp area is near completion.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the report be received.

Carried unanimously.

- (2) Nanaimo Christian School Request for Joint Use of Holland Road Park – referred to Parks Committee for consideration in Spring 2007.
- (3) Serauxmen Field House Funding options within Current Capital Budget – currently working with Rotary to submit a BC Gaming Grant for this project, and a staff report will be prepared in January 2007.
- (4) Costs to construct a beach access and steps at the foot of Norasea Road at Breonna Drive which is currently a dedicated road allowance.– staff report in February 2007.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

Commissioner Lance noted that the VI Raiders Football Club won the Canadian Championship at Caledonia Park. She suggested that Rotary Bowl, which the City has contributed funding to, would be a more suitable location and should be considered as a community multi-use field.

Chair McNabb advised that he and Mr. Hickey met with Mr. H. Abassi, of the VI Raiders, and Mr. Abassi stated the Raiders want to continue to play at Caledonia Park. Chair McNabb advised that Mr. Abassi is willing to cost share with the City on improvements to Caledonia Park. Mr. Hickey noted that to further the concept of developing Rotary Bowl as a community multi-use field will require discussion and planning with the School District, the Nanaimo Track and Field Club, as well as other interested community sport organizations.

Commissioner Johnstone advised that on the CH News tonight, the VI Raiders were referred to as the Victoria Raiders. She requested that Chair McNabb send a letter to CH News advising that it was the VI Raiders Football Club of Nanaimo that won the Canada Bowl.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Cultural Committee Wednesday, 2006-JAN-03, 4:00 p.m.

Recreation Committee *(if required)* Wednesday, 2006-JAN-10, 4:00 p.m.

Parks Committee *(if required)* Thursday, 2006-JAN-11, 4:00 p.m.

COMMISSION **Wednesday, 2006-JAN-24; 7:00 p.m.**

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED: 8:12 p.m.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission meeting be reconvened.

Carried unanimously.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:28 p.m.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Commissioner Fraser be appointed to represent the Cultural Committee on the Grants Advisory Committee.

Carried unanimously.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED: 8:30 p.m.