

**MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH 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-01, 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 D. Burnett
Commissioner B. Dempsey

Absent: Commissioner E. Hamilton
Commissioner B. Sperling

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

PRESENTATION OF PROVINCIAL AWARDS:

Commissioners Field and Sherry presented Provincial awards to the BC Seniors Games (14); and Commissioners Johnstone and Dempsey presented awards to the Nanaimo Track and Field Club (8).

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission held 2006-SEP-27 be adopted as circulated.

Carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

Commissioner Burnett requested that Mr. Taylor be permitted to speak as a late delegation.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Mr. Taylor 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. Drew Cooper, General Manager, PacificSport, 900 – 5th Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 5S5,** spoke to their Higher Service Level Request of \$10,000 each year from 2007 to 2011. He advised that 90 athletes on the Island are serviced by PacificSport and 42 are from Nanaimo which represents 46% of the total number of athletes. Mr. Cooper reported that 10 of the 15 national and international medal winners are from Nanaimo.

Mr. Cooper advised that the City of Nanaimo's funding commitment has generated provincial funding; therefore, it is no longer necessary to spend 30 – 40% of their time fund-

raising and they are able to put almost all their energy into providing services to the athletes. He noted that Campbell River and Parksville now have representatives on their Board and these people are working to access funding from those communities. PacificSport is working to have representation and funding from southern Vancouver Island.

Mr. Cooper advised that the City's support has enabled the revival of the Annual Coaching Clinic, the recruitment of additional medical practitioners in the region, the hiring of a Volunteer Coordinator and additional sponsorship to be secured. Other projects being developed include discounted transportation partnerships, hosting of an official's development event and offering support for aboriginal programs. A volunteer data base will be developed when the Volunteer Coordinator is hired and a Chapter of Olympians is still to be developed to raise awareness of the importance of sport and fitness.

Commissioner Sherry asked what communities PacificSport includes in the "Nanaimo" area. Mr. Cooper replied they include Nanoose to Cedar.

Commissioner Johnstone asked how many dollars are allocated to athlete development and travel expenses for the medalists. Mr. Cooper replied that the sponsorship funds are used for athlete travel expenses, equipment and sport related items.

Commissioner Fraser expressed appreciation to PacificSport for their hard work.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. Drew Cooper, General Manager, PacificSport, be received.

Carried unanimously.

- (2) **Mr. Frank Moher, Artistic Producer, Western Edge Theatre, P.O. Box 2031, Nanaimo BC V9R 6X6** advised that he has already made a presentation to the Cultural Committee on this topic and informed them that he would be presenting to Commission. He noted that Western Edge Theatre was awarded, and are appreciative of, a \$1,000 grant for 2006; however, this was \$600 less than the amount received last year which equates to a 37% reduction. Mr. Moher said that the reduction was because more groups were requesting funding. However, when he looked into this, he found that not to be true and again asked for an explanation which he has not received.

Mr. Moher presented recommendations regarding the structure and function of the Cultural Committee that he believes will make its deliberations more informed, transparent and fair including that:

- the criteria for appointment to the Cultural Committee needs improvement,
- professional expertise is needed on the Committee,
- biography/background information about Committee members should be available,
- stronger conflict of interest guidelines should be implemented,
- grant criteria should be coordinated with the City's Cultural Strategy,
- the size and composition of the Cultural Committee should be reviewed,
- retention and public availability of records needs to be implemented,
- communication with client organizations needs to be transparent.

Chair McNabb confirmed with Commissioner Lance, Cultural Committee Chair, that Cultural Committee members who sit on community boards absent themselves from those grant discussions as per the Conflict of Interest Policy. She replied that they do.

Commissioner Sherry stated that Cultural Committee members are volunteers who provide a good service to the community, especially when they absent themselves from discussions about organizations they are involved with. He further noted that all grant adjudication is conducted "In Camera" and therefore the information is not available to the public.

Mr. Moher stated that he believes it is common practice at the provincial level to release grant information and perhaps the City should explore their process.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. F. Moher, Artistic Producer, Western Edge Theatre, be received.

Carried unanimously.

- (3) **Mr. Fred Taylor, 204 Emery Way, Nanaimo BC V9R 5Z8.** Mr. Taylor stated that he is concerned that if electric bikes reach speeds of 32 km/hour, or greater, that accidents may occur between cyclists and pedestrians on City trails. He asked that, because electric bikes do not have to be licenced, if an accident occurred on a City trail would the City be held responsible. Mr. Taylor then quoted from the report, "is not capable of propelling the motor assisted cycle at a speed greater than 32 km/h on level ground" which he believes to mean that the bicycle may go even faster. His concern is that the Motor Vehicle Act states that the distance for stopping at 30 km is 9 metres and he feels that is not safe on City trails or in parks.

Mr. Taylor thanked Mr. Harding for the "share the road with cyclists" signage but noted that accidents still take place and are sometimes caused by the uninsured cyclist. He stated that these uninsured "vehicles" should not be permitted on our trails.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. Fred Taylor be received.

Carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chair McNabb advised that Linda Murray has been appointed to the Commission as a member at large and she will be attending the 2006-NOV-22 meeting; and that Council approved the additional funding for the construction of the Oliver Road Community Centre.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. (1) Correspondence from Mr. Rory Rickwood, Chair, Friends of the Cat Stream, 519 Pine Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 2C6, requesting that the City immediately stop the public from using the trail constructed through SEI polygon NO157 (Jingle Pot Marsh) and to remove the trail before any further ecological damage occurs.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the request from Mr. Rory Rickwood, Chair, Friends of the Cat Stream, be received.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, circulated photographs of the trail.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

2. (1) **Parks Committee.** No meeting held.
2. (2) **Recreation Committee.** Commissioner Lance reported on the meeting held 2006-OCT-11.

2.(2.1) **Revision of Leisure Economic Access Program (LEAP) Income Qualification Levels.**

The Leisure Economic Access Program (LEAP) was established in 1993 and was last revised in 2003. Currently, just over 2% of Nanaimo and contributing electoral area residents utilize LEAP. With the increase in the low income cut-off levels a small increase in participants applying for this subsidy program is anticipated.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council approve the following Low Income Cut-Offs as qualification for the Leisure Economic Access Program:

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Income</u>
1	\$17,784
2	\$22,139
3	\$27,217
4	\$33,046
5	\$37,480
6	\$42,271

Increments of \$3,000 per each additional family member.

Carried unanimously.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that future changes in Low Income Cut-Off Levels be adjusted on an annual basis in accordance with changes to the Canadian Council on Social Development using Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-Offs.

Carried unanimously.

2.(2.2) **Nanaimo Minor Hockey Association** – Tournament and Festival Grant Application for the Initiation Christmas Tournament.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve that the Nanaimo Minor Hockey Association be allocated \$2,000 from the 2006 Tournament and Festival Fund.

Carried unanimously.

2.(2.3) **Nanaimo Youth Soccer Association** – Tournament and Festival Grant Application to help sponsor a Youth Soccer Icebreaker Tournament that was held 2006-SEP-16 to 17.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve that Nanaimo Youth Soccer be allocated \$1,500 from the 2006 Tournament and Festival Fund.

Carried unanimously.

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-OCT-04. The request to post Committee members biographies was discussed noting that no other City Committee does this.

- 2.(3.1) **Forming of a Cultural Strategy Review Project Committee.** The purpose of the review is to look at the current Cultural Strategy, critique it, hold open houses for feedback and make any necessary revisions to it.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Eveline O'Rourke, Joanne Husband and Lynda Avis be appointed to the Cultural Strategy Review Project Committee, and that three community members at large also be appointed.

Carried unanimously.

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) **Use of Electric Bicycles on City Trails.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that at the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission meeting of 2006-MAY-24, a presentation was received from Mr. G. Ludvigson, Managing Director, Nanhong Trading Co., requesting that the use of electric bikes be permitted on City trails and in parks. The Commission requested that a report be prepared recommending a policy regarding the use of electric bikes on City trails and in City parks.

In establishing a policy regarding motor assisted cycles on trails, staff:

- Reviewed what action other municipalities and districts are taking. The Greater Victoria Regional District recently passed a policy to permit motor assisted cycles on the Galloping Goose Trail.
- Investigated what a motor assisted cycle is defined as in the Motor Vehicle Act and other Provincial and/or Federal statutes.
- Reviewed the issues and obtained input from other City of Nanaimo Departments such as Bylaws and outside agencies such as the RCMP and the Greater Nanaimo Cycling Coalition.

The definition of a "Motor Assisted Cycle" will be consistent with the BC Motor Vehicle Act which is: A "motor-assisted cycle" shall mean any cycle with:

- Not more than 3 wheels, each of which is at least 350 mm in diameter.
- Pedals or hand cranks that will allow for the cycle to be propelled by human power and not more than one motor for propulsion.
- A motor which is electric has a continuous power output rating of not more than 500 watts and is not capable of propelling the motor assisted cycle at a speed greater than 32 km/h on level ground.
- A motor which turns off or disengages if the operator stops pedaling, an accelerator controller is released or a brake is applied.

Bylaw No. 5721, "A Bylaw to Regulate Parks, Recreation and Culture Services and Facilities in the Municipality" will be amended to include this permitted use if Commission and Council support the recommendation.

Mr. Harding confirmed that helmets are required when using motor assisted cycles.

Commissioner Dempsey said that the Galloping Goose trail is used for commuting and asked if its motor assisted cycle use is on a trial basis. Mr. Harding advised he will check but replied that it seems to be included within Victoria's overall transportation initiative. He also said that alternative transportation is important and serves a valuable purpose in our community.

Commissioner Lance suggested that the E&N trail would work well because it is a transportation corridor but trails such as the waterfront walkway should not be included.

Commissioner Johnstone asked for clarification about the cycle stopping distance of 30 feet. Mr. Hickey responded that the motor assist on a bicycle does not change the stopping distance; however, he was not familiar with the braking ability of the scooter style electric bicycle that Mr. Ludvigson had presented to Commission.

Commissioner Sherry asked if it is possible to permit electric cycles on only one or two trails. Mr. Harding replied that it is and perhaps a 6 – 12 month trial period on the E&N and Parkway trails would be appropriate because they are both commuter trails.

Motion

That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommends that Council permit the use of "Motor Assisted Cycles", as defined within the BC Motor Vehicle Act, on the E&N Trail and the Parkway Trail for one year on a trial basis.

Carried unanimously.

3. (2) **Facility Needs for Nanaimo and District Lacrosse Association.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that Nanaimo and District Lacrosse Association (NDLA) appeared as a delegation at the 2006-JUL-26 Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission meeting and indicated that many practices, and up to 60 games per season, are held in the outdoor lacrosse boxes and better facilities are needed to support the growth of this sport. The Commission asked staff to prepare a report assessing the facility needs of the Nanaimo and District Lacrosse Association and make recommendations for improvements to the outdoor lacrosse boxes.

In 2007, NDLA expects to have similar registration (425 players on 26 teams) as 2006 and they will play approximately 176 games (264 hours) with each team practicing twice per week (700 hours). Both the Nanaimo Ice Centre arenas, as well as the Frank Crane Arena, exceed lacrosse specifications and provide excellent playing venues. The floor time available in these arenas can accommodate all NDLA practices and games for their season.

Based on this analysis, NDLA will play all their games, and allocate one hour of practice for each team, at one of the indoor arenas; and book 26 hours per week for practice at either the Harewood or Bowen Lacrosse box. The use of the outdoor lacrosse boxes for practice is primarily a cost decision for NDLA because the City only charges for the use of lights at outdoor lacrosse boxes while arena time is charged at \$45 per hour.

The outcome of this increased arena use is that the Harewood and Bowen outdoor lacrosse boxes will not need capital improvement although some maintenance work will be undertaken to make the boxes safer and more playable. Also, the Departure Bay Lacrosse box will not be used by the NDLA. The benefit is that the indoor facilities are better utilized and much less taxpayer dollars are needed for the upgrade of the outdoor lacrosse boxes.

While the NDLA will make extensive use of the Nanaimo Ice Centre, they are concerned about the increase this will have on player registration fees and the ability of some of their members to pay. The additional indoor floor time will add about \$7 to each player's registration fee; however, the increased cost per player will actually be \$15 - \$20 per player because, in the 2006 season, NDLA booked more indoor time than they had collected fees for. Therefore, NDLA is requesting that the Commission reduce the indoor floor rate from \$45 per hour to \$35 per hour for the 2007 season; \$40 for the 2008 season and \$45 for 2009.

Commissioner Sherry asked if the Departure Bay Lacrosse Box will be dismantled. Mr. Hickey replied that is an option for Commission's consideration.

Commissioner Sherry said that the outdoor boxes are used by the community for adhoc hockey, and sports other than lacrosse, and Commission should consider keeping the Departure Bay lacrosse box. Chair McNabb said it will cost approximately \$80,000 to repair the box. Mr. Hickey advised that the Bowen and Harewood boxes receive significant use, whereas Departure Bay box does not. The Departure Bay box was built on a bog and needs extensive repair.

Motion

That the Nanaimo and District Lacrosse Association fees for indoor floor rental be reduced from \$45 to \$35 per hour for 2007, and then increased to \$40 per hour for 2008, \$45 per hour for 2009 and then to the current rate in 2010.

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 noted that the Arts Fair held in October involved over 15 arts and cultural groups and provided for great networking. He advised that the Christmas Craft Bazaar will be 2006-NOV-16 to 19 at Beban Park and ATM machines have been installed at Beban Park and the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY REPORTS:

Mr. Hickey advised that the Nanaimo Art Gallery and Nanaimo District Museum will provide monthly updates commencing in January.

4. (1) **Port Theatre** – the monthly activity report for September was reviewed.
4. (2) **Grants Advisory Committee** – Councillor Unger's Grants Advisory Review Committee has presented their recommendations to Council and one additional member from the Cultural Committee is to be appointed; and Travel Grants will be considered by the Recreation Committee. Commissioner Fraser confirmed that an appeal process has been established.
4. (3) **Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee** – Commissioner Lance advised that the Official Community Plan ten year review is underway and there is concern regarding the new building code for steep slopes.

4. (4) Social Planning Advisory Committee – no report.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INFORMATION:

- 5. (1) Copy of correspondence to Mr. B. Meunier, from Beth Walrond, President, Musicians for Musicians Society, expressing appreciation for the \$500 grant.
- 5. (2) Copy of Minutes of the Bowen Park Seniors Board of Directors Meeting held 2006-SEP-15.
- 5. (3) Copy of Minutes of the Bowen Park Seniors Board of Directors Meeting held 2006-OCT-05.
- 5. (4) Copy of Minutes of the Bowen Park Seniors General Meeting held 2006-OCT-19.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

- (1) **Mr. Drew Cooper, General Manager, PacificSport, 900 – 5th Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 5S5,**

Commissioner Sherry asked if PacificSport already had an application in the 2007 budget package. Mr. Hickey indicated no, and advised that last year the Commission recommended \$15,000 plus \$10,000 for each year following till 2011; but Council only approved the 2006 funding.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommends that Council support PacificSport's Higher Service Level request for \$10,000 for 2007.

Carried unanimously.

- (2) **Mr. Frank Moher, Artistic Producer, Western Edge Theatre, P.O. Box 2031, Nanaimo BC V9R 6X6.** Delegation received.

- (3) **Mr. Fred Taylor, 204 Emery Way, Nanaimo BC.** Delegation received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Item #3 – Use of Electric Bikes on City Trails, Item #5 - Nanaimo and District Lacrosse Association request to upgrade facilities, and Item #6 – Cost of Department Fitness Programs, 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.
- (2) Loudon Park Community Input and Improvement Plan – Parks Committee & staff.
- (3) Nanaimo Christian School Request for Joint Use of Holland Road Park – referred to Parks Committee.
- (4) Serauxmen Field House Funding options within Current Capital Budget – staff report.
- (5) Team Nanaimo – City of Nanaimo Joint Report on 2010 Legacies Now funding opportunities.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

Commissioner Cameron asked if Nanaimo is involved in the 2008 Indigenous Games because there will be a need for volunteers and accommodations. Mr. Hickey replied that staff have had some discussions regarding the use of City of Nanaimo facilities for this event and noted that the bid was submitted through the Cowichan Tribes. Commissioner Cameron advised that she had a contact she could pass along to staff for follow up.

Commissioner Field advised that VANOC has produced a guide for business opportunities in the 2010 Winter Games. There is an overall budget of \$96 million for cultural programs and ceremonies of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games - VANOC will partner with local and national artists and cultural institutions to present an unsurpassed selection of cultural activities and festivals over the 4 years of the 2006-2010 Olympiad. He asked if the City will be applying for any of this funding. Commissioner Johnstone noted that Nanaimo has already received over \$300,000 and that Ms. Camela Tang of Team Nanaimo would most likely be aware of this funding opportunity. Mr. Hickey replied that a Team Nanaimo – City of Nanaimo Joint Report on 2010 Legacies Now funding opportunities would be prepared.

Commissioner Fraser asked to have magnetic name tags prepared for the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commissioners and Cultural Committee.

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-NOV-08, 4:00 p.m.

Parks Committee Thursday, 2006-NOV-09, 4:00 p.m.

COMMISSION **Wednesday, 2006-NOV-22; 7:00 p.m.**

COMMISSION CHRISTMAS SOCIAL **Wednesday, 2006-DEC-06; 6:30 p.m.**

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED: 8:35 p.m.