

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH 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-JUN-28, AT 7:00 P.M.**

---

**PRESENT:**

**Members:** Commissioner L. McNabb, Chair  
Commissioner J. Cameron  
Commissioner L. Sherry  
Commissioner P. Field  
Commissioner D. Johnstone  
Commissioner S. Lance  
Commissioner J. Burnett  
Commissioner E. Hamilton

**Absent:** Commissioner L. Fraser  
Commissioner B. Sperling  
Commissioner K. Light  
Commissioner B. Dempsey

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

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission held 2006-MAY-24 be adopted as circulated.

**Carried unanimously.**

**INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:** Nil.

**RECEIVING OF LATE CORRESPONDENCE AGENDA:**

**Motion**

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

**Carried unanimously.**

**RECEIVING OF DELEGATIONS:**

(1) **Ms. Donna Hais, Chair, Building Committee, Nanaimo Christian School, 198 Holland Road, Nanaimo BC V9R 6W2,** spoke to Commission about the School's plans for expansion and is requesting that the City work with them to develop Holland Road Park; and that the City provide the School with a long term licence for Holland Road Park. She noted that Holland Road Park is currently undeveloped.

Ms. Hais advised that the Nanaimo Christian School is planning a large scale development on their property to accommodate their rapidly growing student population. An architect has been hired and the project will be phased over ten years and include a new facility and the demolition of the old buildings.

Ms. Hais stated that the School has identified that more fields are required and would like to develop Holland Road Park, in conjunction with their property, into a full size soccer field. She noted that an agreement was reached years ago with the Commission for this, but the project did not proceed because the School did not have the funding required.

Ms. Hais said that if approval is received, it is the School's intent to develop the field over the next two years, with phase one starting this fall. This proposal goes before the City's Review Panel on 2006-JUL-13. She also commented that in addition to community use of the field perhaps some of the school facility, such as the gymnasium, could be made available for community use. The gymnasium will have a stage appropriate for theatre productions.

Commissioner Cameron asked if the Nanaimo Christian School is seeking an agreement in principle. Ms. Hais replied they are.

Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, advised that a public input process will need to take place but, firstly, the Commission should review the City's need for an additional field at this time. If constructed, it would be a City field and allocated as such.

Commissioner Cameron asked for other similar joint use examples. Mr. Harding replied that the City has several joint funding or joint use projects though none exactly like this. At Harry Wippen Park the City constructed the field; the School District uses the field during school hours and pays an annual operating fee. At the Serauxmen Sports Fields funding was provided by Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association and Malaspina University-College and they have been allocated priority use during specific times of the year. Merle Logan Field has a similar arrangement with the Nanaimo District Youth Soccer Association. The McGirr Sports Fields are also a community partnership project.

### **Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Ms. Donna Hais, Nanaimo Christian School, be received.

**Carried unanimously.**

- (2) **Mr. Mel Huggins, Chairman of the Third Street Committee, Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association (NMBA), Box 327, Nanaimo BC V9R 5L3**, requested Commission's support for the construction of the third junior 70' baseball diamond at the Serauxmen Sports Fields.

Mr. Huggins reviewed the Serauxmen Sports Fields project which NMBA has been working on for over two years noting that significant funding has been received from local community groups and individuals. Two of the junior fields opened for play this spring and it is anticipated that the 90' senior field, Mariner's field, will be open for play later this fall.

At the opening ceremony, the Provincial Government announced that Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association would receive another \$100,000 BC Gaming Grant for further development of the Serauxmen Sports Fields. Mr. Huggins stated that the Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association is very eager to have this field constructed in 2006 so that the field can be ready for play in Spring 2007. He also noted that the BC Gaming Grant must be used by March 2007.

Mr. Huggins advised that \$75,000 of the Gaming Grant will be assigned to the field project and the other \$25,000 will be used for dugouts on Mariner Field. The Gyro Club of Nanaimo has donated \$25,000.

NMBA membership is increasing and at this time NMBA really needs this field to accommodate the youth in our community.

Mr. Huggins stated that NMBA is requesting that Commission:

1. Allocate funding for the construction of the 70' junior baseball diamond.
2. Name this field within the Serauxmen Sports Fields the "Gyro Diamond" in recognition of the Gyro Club of Nanaimo's contribution to this project.
3. Extend Ross Rivers contract to allow for seeding in early Fall 2006.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. M. Huggins, Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association, be received.

**Carried unanimously.**

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that Item 3. (2) under the Director's Report, Serauxmen Sports Fields, be brought forward for consideration.

**Carried unanimously.**

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- 3. (2) Serauxmen Sports Fields.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that the third junior (70') baseball diamond and field house are still to be developed

Substantial site preparation has already taken place for the fourth diamond as the Insight Development project has provided approximately 3,600 cubic meters of fill at no charge and the Malaspina University/College equipment operator's course rough-graded the area while they were working on the parking lot. \$231,000 is the cost estimate to complete the field.

In addition to the \$75,000 of the BC Gaming Grant that NMBA is directing to this project they have fundraised another \$21,000 for a total contribution of \$96,000. They are seeking \$135,000 in City funding.

Currently, the City has no dollars allocated to the construction of this field. If Commission wants to move ahead with this project an option is to:

1. Transfer \$65,000 from the Parking Lot Improvement account in the 2006 Capital Plan. This money was to be used for the paving of the Merle Logan field parking lot. The parking lot sub-grade is a mixture of gravel and the asphalt mulch recovered from the Grandview Bowl Track. The mixture has bonded better than expected and paving is not needed.
2. Include \$50,000 in the 2007 Parks, Recreation and Culture Capital budget for the completion of the field.
3. Direct the \$20,000 allocated in the 2007 Capital Budget for the chain link fence program to this project.

If Commission and Council agree to the allocation of these Capital funds, field construction would begin in July with the field being ready for play in April 2007.

In 2008, the Department's Five Year Capital Plan has \$250,000 allocated for Serauxmen Sports Fields for the construction of a field house. Concepts for this field house are currently being discussed with Malaspina University-College, Rotary and Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association, who are all working to be contributors to this project. These organizations will be requesting that the City consider moving this money forward to the 2007 Budget.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommends that Council transfer \$65,000 from Parking Lot Improvement in the 2006 Capital Budget for the construction of the third junior baseball diamond at the Serauxmen Sports Fields.

**Carried.**

Opposed: Commissioner Sherry.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council supports naming the 70 foot baseball diamond within the Serauxmen Sports Fields the "Gyro Diamond".

**Carried unanimously.**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Nil.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Nil.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

2. (1) **Parks Committee.** No meeting held.

2. (2) **Recreation Committee.** Commissioner Lance reported on the meeting held 2006-JUN-14.

2.(2.1) **Review of the Runners of Compassion Tournament and Festival Fund Grant Application.** The application was reviewed under the terms of the grant guidelines currently in place.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Commission approve a \$1,500 Tournament and Festival Fund grant to the Runners of Compassion.

**Carried unanimously.**

2.(2.2) **Nanaimo Area Land Trust Tournament and Festival Fund Grant Application.** The request for "Music for the Mountain" funding was reviewed. The Tournament and Festival Fund guidelines specify that organizations will not be eligible for funding if they have received other funding assistance through the City of Nanaimo for the same event.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Commission approve that the Nanaimo Area Land Trust be allocated \$1,500, contingent on this organization not receiving any funding assistance including "in-kind" from any other City sources.

Chair McNabb confirmed that \$6,000 was allocated by Council on 2006-JUN-24.

**MOTION WITHDRAWN.**

**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-JUN-07.

2.(3.1) **Mr. Daniel Cline, Sculptor** – Mr. Cline presented a maquette of the Women of History statue that will be erected at Maffeo-Sutton Park. The statue will be approximately seven feet tall (including the base), and the estimated completion date is the end of August. It was suggested that the unveiling be held 2006-SEP-09 in conjunction with the closing of the Civic Arena.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Commission approve the maquette of the Women of History Public Art project as the design for the statue.

**Carried unanimously.**

2.(3.2) **Grant Criteria** – Commissioner Lance advised that this topic will be postponed until the July Commission meeting.

2.(3.3) **“Women of History” Sculpture.**

Commissioner Sherry noted that because this topic involves a person's name, it should be discussed “In Camera”.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Commission move the “Women of History” Sculpture wording to their “In Camera” Meeting scheduled this evening.

**Carried unanimously.**

2.(3.4) **Three-Year Funding to Professional Arts/Culture Groups** – Commissioner Lance advised that this topic will be postponed until the July Commission meeting.

2.(3.5) **2006 Cultural Awards.**

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Commission approve the presentation of the 2006 Honour in Culture Award to Bea McLeod, and the Excellence in Culture Award to Fred Peters.

**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) Facility Allocation and Community Use** (B. Kuhn/M. Smith). Postponed to a future date.

3. (3) **Millstone River Side Channel.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, advised that 150 – 200 people attended the open house and there were many positive comments about the project. There is still a concern regarding low flows in the Millstone River during the summer. Therefore, before asking Commission for final approval on the project, staff will continue to work with Department of Fisheries and Ocean's staff on a method of storing water at either Westwood Lake, Witchcraft Lake or Brannen Lake to maintain summer water flows in the Millstone River.

**Motion**

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

**Carried unanimously.**

3. (4) **Neck Point Trail Naming.**

Commissioner Sherry noted that because this topic involves a person's name, it should be discussed "In Camera".

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Commission move the Neck Point Trail naming to their "In Camera" Meeting scheduled this evening.

**Carried unanimously.**

3. (5) **Manager of Parks Monthly Report.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, reviewed his report noting that the Loudon Park planning process continues. An Open House is scheduled for Thursday, 2006-JUL-06 from 2 – 7 p.m. on the multi-purpose court.

Commissioner Field asked if there has been any further input from the residents who presented their concerns to Commission. Mr. Harding advised that he has met with them on three occasions regarding implementing interim solutions. Generally they are supportive of the changes but are still very concerned about the proposed fishing pier. An update of the planning process will be presented to the Parks Committee at their meeting in July.

The Nanaimo Hornets Rugby Football Club is expanding their Clubhouse facility, at their own expense, within their lease area.

3. (6) **Manager of Recreation and Culture Services Monthly Report.** Mr. B. Meunier, Manager of Recreation and Culture Services, reviewed his report noting that the Awaken the Spirit Organization will be operating the Art in the Park program and that all summer programs commence next week. He invited Commission to attend the Canada Day celebrations and the Nanaimo Ice Centre opening ceremonies.

Mr. Meunier advised that public admission fees increase on 2006-JUL-01 and signs have been posted at all facilities for some time, as well as being included in the Spring/Summer Leisure Guide.

**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 May was reviewed.

- 4. (2) **Grants Advisory Committee** – no report.
- 4. (3) **Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee** – Commissioner Lance noted that the Departure Bay Neighbourhood Plan has a significant number of items that will impact the Parks, Recreation and Culture Budget.
- 4. (4) **Social Planning Advisory Committee** – no meeting held.

**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. L. McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Sharon Wheatley, Fundraising Chair, The Island Bel Canto Singers, expressing appreciation for the \$500 grant.
- 5. (2) Copy of correspondence to Mr. Ken Wagner, Nanaimo Clippers Owner/Governor and Mr. Hadi Abassi, Nanaimo Timbermen Owner/Director from Mr. Bill France, Arenas Supervisor, expressing appreciation for contributing the Executive Seating Area in the Frank Crane Arena.
- 5. (3) Copy of correspondence to Mr. Bill France, Arenas Supervisor, City of Nanaimo from Mr. Bill Bestwick, General Manager, Nanaimo Clippers advising that they are putting the Executive Seating Area in the Frank Crane Arena project on “hold” at this time.
- 5. (4) Copy of letter to Mrs. M. Priestly, 6246 Forest Crescent Drive, Nanaimo BC V9V 1E3, from Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, advising that playground equipment was removed from Shoreline Park because it no longer complied with the Canadian Standards Association playground safety standards.
- 5. (5) Invitation to attend Parkway / Shoreline Drive Park Volunteer In Park meeting on 2006-JUL-05 at 7:00 p.m.
- 5. (6) Copy of correspondence to Mr. L. McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Ms. Lesley Currie, Administrator, Nanaimo Conservatory of Music, expressing appreciation for the 2006 Arts and Cultural Grant.

**Motion**

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

**Carried unanimously.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:**

- (1) **Ms. Donna Hais, Chair, Building Committee, Nanaimo Christian School, 198 Holland Road, Nanaimo BC V9R 6W2**

Mr. Hickey provided background information related to sport field development. In 1997, the Commission supported the joint development of a sport field on the Holland Road Park property with the Nanaimo Christian School, to be constructed in 2003, at an estimated cost of \$150,000 with the City contributing \$50,000. In 2002, a Sport Field Improvement and Development Plan was prepared based on community user group input. The three Capital Projects prioritized in that Plan included the upgrade of May Richards Bennett Pioneer Park, the development of a Grandview Bowl (Beban) lighted synthetic turf field and the development of Third Street as a baseball multi-field complex. At that time the Holland Road project was cancelled by Nanaimo Christian School and those funds were directed to other projects.

As outlined in the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan, the priorities for field development are a second artificial turf field at Merle Logan and working with the School District #68 to improve current facilities through a Joint Use Agreement. The development of another field at Holland Road Park is not a City priority and is not included in the 5 Year Financial Plan. Commission can reprioritize Capital Projects or request additional Capital Funding if they wish to recommend this project to Council.

Commissioner Field noted that the Nanaimo Christian School is building an auditorium, as well as a field, and if the City supports their field development perhaps the community would gain access to the gymnasium.

Mr. Harding stated that public consultation will be important.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the request from Ms. Donna Hais be referred to the Parks Committee for consideration and recommendation.

**Carried unanimously.**

**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 – referred to Parks Committee and staff.
- (3) Park Zones and Identifying Parkland – staff report.
- (4) Review and revise Tournament and Festival Fund application and guidelines – referred to Recreation Committee.
- (5) Use of Electric Bike on City Trails – staff report.
- (6) Nanaimo Christian School Request for Joint Use of Holland Road Park – referred to Parks Committee.

**ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Field complimented the person responsible for arranging the painting of the electrical boxes throughout the City.

**MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD.** Nil.

**PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD.** Nil.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission be recessed and an “In Camera” meeting be held.

**Carried unanimously.**

**Regular meeting recessed at 8:00 p.m.**

**Motion**

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

**Carried unanimously.**

**Regular meeting reconvened at 8:21 p.m.**

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

3. (4) **Neck Point Trail Naming.**



**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission direct staff to name a trail in Neck Point Park "Annie Clark's Way".

**Carried unanimously.**

**NEXT MEETING DATES:**

Cultural Committee Wednesday, 2006-SEP-06, 4:15 p.m.

Recreation Committee - *If required* Wednesday, 2006-SEP-13; 4:00 p.m.

Parks Committee - *If required* Thursday, 2006-SEP-14; 5:00 p.m.

**COMMISSION Wednesday, 2006-JUL-26; 7:00 p.m.**

**COMMISSION Wednesday, 2006-SEP-27; 7:00 p.m.**

**Motion**

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

**Carried unanimously.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 8:23 P.M.