

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH 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-MAY-24, 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 K. Light
Commissioner B. Sperling
Commissioner E. Hamilton
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 Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission Linley Valley (Cottle Lake) Draft Park Plan Public Meeting held 2006-APR-20; and the minutes from the regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission held 2006-APR-26 be adopted as circulated.

Carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

Commissioner Lance asked that Mr. Fred Taylor be added to the agenda as a late delegation.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Mr. Fred Taylor be heard as a late delegation and allocated 5 minutes to speak.

Carried unanimously.

RECEIVING OF DELEGATIONS:

(1) **Mr. Gordie Ludvigson, Managing Director, Nanhong Trading Co., 6667 Jenkins Road, Nanaimo BC V9T 6J3,** distributed information about electric bikes and requested that Commission permit their use on park trails. He stated that electric bikes are governed by the same rules and regulations as other bicycles and are permitted to only reach speeds of 32km/hr. Mr. Ludvigson noted that the City of Victoria has recently passed a motion to permit the use of electric bikes on the Galloping Goose trail.

Mr. Ludvigson stated that electric bikes are environmentally friendly and should be accepted for use in Nanaimo as they are around the globe. He said that the use of electric bikes as a mode of transportation means fewer cars are used, which means less air pollution.

Commissioner Johnstone asked if electric bikes create any noise. Mr. Ludvigson replied that electric bikes make no noise.

Commissioner Light asked what the existing policy is. Mr. Harding advised motorized vehicles are not permitted on trails, except for people with disabilities.

Commissioner Sherry asked if liability insurance is required. Mr. Ludvigson replied that no insurance is required.

Commissioner Cameron asked if electric bikes are included in the motor vehicle act. Mr. Hickey stated that he did not know.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. Gordie Ludvigson, Managing Director, Nanhong Trading Co., be received.

Carried unanimously.

- (2) **Mr. Stephen Kass, President, Mr. John Bruce, Director, and Ms. Karen Streeter, Past President, Vancouver Island Exhibition, 486 Pine Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 2C4,** stated that the Vancouver Island Exhibition has, for over 100 years, brought the community together in the promotion of agriculture awareness. In addition, the Vancouver Island Exhibition is a place for the community to meet, to showcase 4-H youth groups, local businesses, service groups, and cultural societies.

Mr. Kass spoke to the concept of developing the Vancouver Island Exhibition Agricultural Community Centre. He stated that the Centre will combine education with recreation as a learning tool and create an atmosphere of academic fun that allows the community to reconnect to Nanaimo's farming heritage. The Centre will also be designed to become an integral part of the business community and make contributions to the economic and social development of Nanaimo.

Mr. Bruce advised that the VIEX is proposing a building approximately 160 ft x 200 ft x 30 ft high with four main entrances/exits that are approximately 20 ft x 16 ft with overhead doors. A retractable bleacher system will be installed on both sides of the complex that open up the entire floor, or seat 1,250 people on one side, or 2,500 people on both sides. The mezzanine level will provide additional viewing areas or provide space for offices and storage. Attached to the main structure will be four footpads, approximately 40 ft x 40 ft, that will compliment the larger structure or can be sectioned off for private functions. One footpad will be equipped with a certified food-safe kitchen and washrooms and a second footpad will have additional washrooms.

Mr. Kass advised that potential end users of the Centre have been approached and the response has been positive. The Centre could accommodate agricultural uses by providing protected indoor and outdoor perimeter animal stalls, social group meetings, private parties, multicultural events, indoor soccer, the Nanaimo Timberman Lacrosse Team, the Nanaimo Youth Soccer Club or large Recreational Vehicle/Boat trade shows. The Centre could also be involved in community projects including inter-urban 4-H programs, community garden programs, equestrian riding programs, farmer's markets, Mid-Island Vintage Tractor Club shows, vintage car shows, Halloween "scare fairs", Christmas bazaars and Nanaimo Kennel Club events.

This Centre will dramatically increase utilization of the grounds, complement other City facilities at Beban Park, and promote Nanaimo as a venue for special events.

The Vancouver Island Exhibition is prepared to take on the lead role of organizing an integrated system of scheduling and maintaining the Centre on a day-to-day basis, thereby relieving the City's need to provide additional personnel to operate the Centre.

Commissioner Lance asked what the anticipated cost is for this project, and is fundraising underway and what is expected financially from the City. Mr. Kass replied that it is important to design what is wanted, and the cost of the proposed Centre is about twice as much as the smaller building proposed by the City. He said that the VIEX will be fundraising and that the City has \$1.6 million allocated for a building the size of the Cliff McNabb Arena. He estimated that the proposed Centre is possibly a \$4 million project.

Commissioner Cameron asked if there has been long term planning considered for Beban Park. Mr. Hickey replied that the recommendation for the development of a multi-use facility at Beban Park is in the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan which was supported by Commission and Council.

Commissioner Field asked if this would be a City owned building. Mr. Hickey replied that it would be.

Commissioner Light asked if heating and cooling of the facility would be an issue during the summer/winter for office/storage and general use. Mr. Bruce replied that only the middle area would be open and an infrared heating system could be installed. He noted that the City of Abbotsford has a similar building and there is the capability to heat and cool it.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. J. Bruce, Director, Vancouver Island Exhibition, be received.

Carried unanimously.

- (3) **Mr. Fred Taylor, 204 Emery Way, Nanaimo BC V9R 5Z8** stated that the Volunteer in Park (VIP) program is a public participation program in City parks and there are many examples of successful VIPs throughout Nanaimo.

Mr. Taylor stated that each VIP application should receive careful consideration before any City funding is expended. He asked that Commission consider a policy whereby there is a sufficient number of neighbourhood residents committed to using the VIP project; and further, that the 400 metre radius for park participation be reconsidered.

Mr. Taylor advised that a new resident to his Hawthorne Hills neighbourhood wanted to develop a playground in the existing park and initiated a public process through Parks, Recreation and Culture. This is to accommodate 6 residences with children out of an area of 64 homes, which he stated is a waste of taxpayer's money. He suggested that a playground in a different area may serve the community better.

Commissioner Cameron advised that she and Commissioners Dempsey and Johnstone attended recent VIP meetings and the City does not expend any money unless the neighbourhood is committed to the project. She further stated that one of the objectives of the VIP program is to create an opportunity for community development and to create a sense of community within neighbourhoods.

Commissioner Johnstone stated that the maximum grant is \$20,000 and some groups want only small improvements such as dog waste receptacles, benches or improvements to trails within existing parks.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Business Arising from Delegations be brought forward.

Carried unanimously.

- (1) **Mr. Gordie Ludvigson, Managing Director, Nanhong Trading Co., 6667 Jenkins Road, Nanaimo BC V9T 6J3.**

Mr. Hickey advised that there are different types of electrically assisted bikes. Some have small motors that are affixed to a bike that you pedal and some are larger and heavier and are reliant on using the motor. Mr. Hickey suggested that staff undertake research on this topic and recommend a policy to Commission.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that staff prepare a report recommending a policy regarding the use of electric bikes on City trails and in City parks.

Carried unanimously.

- (2) **Mr. John Bruce, Director, Vancouver Island Exhibition, 486 Pine Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 2C4.**

Commissioner Sherry stated that the proposal needs to be finalized, including costs, before "Approval in Principle" is provided.

Commissioner Dempsey suggested that "green" heating should be included in the design.

Mr. Hickey confirmed that \$1.9 million is in the 2008 Capital Budget, with \$300,000 being community contribution, and it will take considerable time and work to develop the concept and determine its feasibility including the preparation of cost estimates.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that staff initiate a process, with VIEX, to develop the concept and determine the feasibility of constructing a multi-use facility at Beban Park.

Carried unanimously.

- (3) **Mr. Fred Taylor, 204 Emery Way, Nanaimo BC V9R 5Z8.**

Commissioner Sherry asked what is required to start a VIP program and how many people are needed for a request to be considered.

Mr. Harding advised that a few people need to indicate to staff their interest in initiating a VIP project. They are asked to put their request in writing so that staff can determine if there is enough interest to hold a neighbourhood meeting. Each neighbourhood project is considered on an individual basis. Some projects proceed and are successful and some do not advance after the neighbourhood meeting.

As to the 400 m radius, Mr. Harding said that this is only a guideline and if there is a natural boundary, such as a mountain or a major barrier to walking, the radius is different. Mr. Harding also noted that invitations to neighbourhood meetings are issued to all neighbours, making no distinction between owners or renters, single family dwellings or multi-family residences.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chair McNabb advised that Commissioner Baltzer has resigned from the Commission for personal reasons. Commissioner Baltzer served on the Recreation Committee and on the Grants Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Light volunteered to sit on the Grants Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Johnstone suggested that the 2002 BC Summer Games Legacy funds returned by PacificSport be allocated to the Sports Hall of Fame at the new museum. Commissioner Sherry asked if it was appropriate that these funds be used for the development of a facility such as the Sports Hall of Fame. Commissioner Johnstone replied that it was.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the \$32,831.93 from the 2002 BC Summer Games Legacy funds be allocated to the Nanaimo District Museum for the Sports Hall of Fame Exhibit in the New Nanaimo Museum.

Carried.

Opposed: Commissioners Cameron and Dempsey.

CORRESPONDENCE: Nil.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

2. (1) **Parks Committee.** No meeting held.
2. (2) **Recreation Committee.** No meeting held.
2. (3) **Cultural Committee.** No meeting held.
2. (4) **Athletic Commission.** No meeting held.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

3. (1) **Aquatic Staff Presentation.**

Ms. Mauyra Tatler, Aquatics Programmer, advised that program highlights include focussing on the development of leadership, dynamic fitness programming and exceptional special events.

Leadership opportunities are offered for children, teens and adults, including a Junior Lifeguard Leadership program (for children ages 8-14 years old), a Leaders In Training for Aquatics (for youth ages 14-18 years), the Red Cross Water Safety Instructor training program (for ages 16-adult) and this fall, we will be offering a Central Island Lifeguard Training Center – the first on the Island.

Aquatic based fitness programs are offered at Beban Park Pool and the Nanaimo Aquatic Center seven days per week for a total of thirty three hours per week. They range from core strengthening and postural classes to deep water aerobics classes, for all ages and abilities. We also offer opportunities for youth fitness by providing specialized instruction in the gym for youth 13-16 years old.

Aquatic special events include games, activities and special themes at both pools on a monthly basis. Examples include 'Slopstacle Family Fun', 'Top 40 Music Fest' (for teens) and An Evening At The Spa (for adults). A water safety event, 'Launch The Paddle Season', is held at Westwood Lake, as well as fun games and activities during July and August.

Ms. Helen Walker, Head Lifeguard, advised that 50 – 60 Lifeguard/Instructors are committed to offering a quality service to Nanaimo and area residents. They work a variety of shifts ranging from 0 to 40 hours a week. Aquatic staff teach swimming lessons and lead specialized aquacise classes as well as dealing with public relations issues and first aid incidents. The aquatic staff are also responsible for the cleanliness of the facility and rotate through the change rooms on a regular basis.

Ms. Walker advised that she programs the Red Cross and Pre School swim lessons at Beban Pool and the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre and there are approximately 100 lessons/week offered throughout the Fall/Winter/Spring and 45 – 50 lessons/week during the summer. Private swim lessons average 50 participants for each five week lesson set. She advised that approximately 5,500 people registered for swim lessons during 2005.

Mr. Sandy Raddysh, Aquatics Supervisor, advised that 475,700 people attended public admission sessions at City pools in 2005. The public supports the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre's open schedule and staff are working towards a more open swim schedule at the Beban Pool from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

A variety of rental groups utilize Beban Park Pool and the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre (NAC) including the Nanaimo Diamonds Synchronized Swim Team; the Nanaimo Riptides Swim Team; the Nanaimo Ebbtides Masters Swim Team; the Dive Outfitters, Sundown Diving and Ocean Explores; triathlon clubs and other miscellaneous users such as BC Ferries safety training, aircraft ditching and church youth groups.

Mr. Raddysh advised that the New Zealand National Swim Team will be holding their Pan Pacific Games pre-event training at the Aquatic Centre from August 6 to 13.

Commissioner Johnstone congratulated the aquatic staff for the amazing job that they do.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Aquatic Staff Presentation be received.

Carried unanimously.

3. (2) **Nanaimo Christian School Request to Purchase Parkland.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that staff met with representatives of the Nanaimo Christian School who are exploring options on how they can expand to offer high school grades. Based on feedback from the Commission and City staff, the Nanaimo Christian School understands that the purchase or lease of Holland Road Park would not be recommended. Working with the school, and area residents, on a park plan that could address the school's needs, as well as provide public park amenities, is possible.

When the Nanaimo Christian School has developed a concept plan, staff will forward it to the Commission and at that time a public planning process will be initiated.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

3. (3) **Park Zones and Identifying Parkland.** Two reports from the mid-90s regarding Park Zoning, Identification and Designation were circulated to Commission. Staff advised that zoning establishes the permitted use of land, buildings, and structures within the Municipality. Zoning guides the growth of the community in a systematic and orderly way, ensuring that use of land and structures develop in proper relationship to one another.

Mr. Hickey advised that staff is preparing a report that outlines the legal requirements and public process involved in establishing a park zone within the City of Nanaimo Zoning Bylaw. He noted that Commission members will be provided with a listing of all parkland.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

3. (4) **Piper Park Redevelopment Process.** Mr. Hickey, Director, advised that Piper Park will be a well utilized open space situated between the waterfront, the Vancouver Island Conference Centre and the Marriott Hotel. With the Nanaimo District Museum moving onto the Vancouver Island Conference Centre site and the existing Museum building being demolished, pedestrian traffic flow and use of this open space will change in 2008.

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Capital Budget includes \$480,000 in 2007 for the redevelopment of Piper Park and the following objectives will be considered:

- To create an attractive, safe and vibrant downtown park that interfaces well with adjacent facilities and is physically and visually linked to the waterfront walkway and downtown.
- To increase pedestrian activity through and into the park.
- To capitalize on the site's view potential and enhance the landmark features of the park.
- To incorporate historical interpretation and public art within the park.

The following programming elements will be incorporated into the design concepts:

- Stairs connecting the Harbourside Walkway from McGregor Park at Front Street to Piper Park to encourage circulation and pedestrian movement to and through Piper Park.
- Specialty gardens and horticultural display areas.
- Open green areas for gatherings or events.
- Viewing area of the Harbour.

The following timeline has been established to carry out the redevelopment process:

Fall 2006 - Meet with community stakeholders.

Fall 2006 - Staff to develop a design concept with the help of design consultant professionals.

Winter 2007 - Design concept and cost estimates forwarded to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for review and comment.

Winter 2007 -The redevelopment concept plan is presented to the public through an open house.

Spring 2007 - Parks Recreation and Culture Commission recommend the Piper Park Redevelopment Plan for City Council approval.

Summer 2007 - Detail design completed and park redevelopment begins.

Commissioner Sherry noted that the report does not mention where the Miners Cottage or the locomotive will be relocated and asked for clarification. He also noted that this is a heritage park protected by referendum and asked what will be happening to the trees.

Mr. Hickey stated that the report outlines the process and the details will be discussed when staff meets with the stakeholders.

Commissioner Sherry asked if the New Nanaimo Centre budget was funding this project. Mr. Hickey replied that there is \$480,000 in the 2007 Parks, Recreation and Culture Capital Budget for this project.

Commissioner Sherry said he was against removal of the Museum building because there are many groups looking for facilities.

Commissioner Light stated that the Nanaimo Arts Council would like to use the old Museum building.

Mr. Hickey advised that the demolition of the Museum was presented during the New Nanaimo Centre referendum process.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission endorse the planning process for the redevelopment of Piper Park.

Carried.

Opposed: Commissioner Sherry.

3. (5) **Linley Valley (Cottle Lake) Park Plan.** Mr. Hickey advised that over 250 people attended the open house to review and provide input on the draft park plan and 34 people spoke at the public meeting. Written comments submitted have been circulated to Commission.

The next steps in the planning process are:

- The Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission will recommend a Park Plan for City Council's approval.
- The City will implement the Park Plan and manage the Park as per Council's direction.

Commissioner Fraser stated that many of the people attending the Open House were against including a road in the Park Plan; however, she felt that the silent majority were not present at the Open House and Public Meeting.

Commissioner Light suggested that "green" ideas should be incorporated in the road design.

Commissioner Field stated that although some of the public are opposed to the road, it fits with the City's road network plan.

Chair McNabb stated that the road has always been part of the City's road network plan.

Commissioner Dempsey stated that the road does not impact the majority of the park and Commission should support the direction of the City's road network plan.

Commissioner Johnstone asked what the speed limit would be on the road. Mr. Harding replied that it would most likely be between 30 – 50 km/hr.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommends that Council adopt the Linley Valley (Cottle Lake) Park Plan as presented.

Carried unanimously.

3. (6) **Oliver Road Community Centre.** Mr. B. Meunier, Manager of Recreation and Culture Services, provided an update on the user group meetings held at the beginning of May, and the Open House held at Beban Park. Using feedback from these meetings the architects are updating the drawings with a second Open House scheduled at Beban Park on 2006-MAY-31, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

3. (7) **Manager of Parks Monthly Report.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, reviewed his report.

Commissioner Lance asked if the broom can be removed from the E&N trail. Mr. Harding advised that the E&N trail will be cut in the next few weeks. He also noted that there is funding in the Parks, Recreation and Culture 2007 Capital Budget to create a highway crossing by Terminal Park to connect to the E&N trail.

Commissioner Field asked about the status of the Loudon Park project. Mr. Harding advised that the Parks Committee will be meeting soon to continue working through the process.

3. (8) **Manager of Recreation and Culture Services Monthly Report.** Mr. B. Meunier, Manager of Recreation and Culture Services, reviewed his report noting that the So You Wanna Fight event was successful with about 1,400 people in attendance. He also advised that the Nanaimo Ice Centre official opening will be in mid-July and dry floor closing ceremony for the Civic Arena will be in August.

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 April was reviewed.
4. (2) **Grants Advisory Committee** – no report.
4. (3) **Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee** – members are concerned about park zones and all reports regarding zoning regarding parks to be forwarded to the committee.
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 Mayor and Council, from Mr. Bill Merilees, Past President, Nanaimo Field Naturalists, Box 125, Nanaimo BC V9R 5K4, regarding the naming and designation of the City of Nanaimo property commonly referred to as Jingle Pot Marsh.

Mr. Hickey noted that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission will need to consider the request by Mr. Bill Merrilees, Field Naturalists, regarding the naming and designation of the City of Nanaimo property commonly referred to as Jingle Pot Marsh as part of the Park Zoning process.

5. (2) Copy of correspondence to Mayor and Council, Lantzville, from Ms. Sandra Thomson, Director of Programming and Development, The Port Theatre, expressing appreciation for the \$9,000 Grant.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Unfinished Business Item #3 - Nanaimo Christian School request to purchase parkland, be removed.

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) 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.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS: Nil.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

COMMISSION Wednesday, 2006-MAY-31; 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Oliver Road Community Centre Open House Beban Park Lounge.

Cultural Committee Wednesday, 2006-JUN-07, 4:15 p.m.

Recreation Committee Wednesday, 2006-JUN-14, 4:00 p.m.

COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS Thursday, 2006-JUN-15, 1 - 7:30 p.m.
Millstone River Side Channel Open House On site at the Bowen Park Duck Pond Parking Lot

COMMISSION Wednesday, 2006-JUN-28; 7:00 p.m.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED: 8:35 p.m.