

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND 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-MAR-22, AT 7:00 P.M.**

---

**PRESENT:**

**Members:** Commissioner L. Sherry, Acting Chair  
Commissioner J. Cameron Commissioner K. Light  
Commissioner P. Field Commissioner G. Baltzer  
Commissioner L. Fraser Commissioner B. Sperling  
Commissioner D. Johnstone Commissioner E. Hamilton  
Commissioner S. Lance Commissioner B. Dempsey  
Commissioner L. McNabb (7:07 p.m.)

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

Commissioner Sherry, Acting Chair, advised that Commissioner McNabb would be attending the meeting later.

Acting Chair Sherry noted that there were several delegations on the agenda speaking to the Loudon Park fishing pier proposal. He informed Commission that the Parks Committee held a Loudon Park site visit on Monday, 2006-MAR-20, and will discuss the tour at their 2006-APR-13 meeting. Neighbourhood residents will also have an opportunity to provide public input as part of the Loudon Park review process.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Delegates speaking to the Long Lake Accessible Fishing Pier will be limited to 5 minutes.

**Carried.**

*Opposed: Commissioner Sperling.*

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Field requested that the 2006-FEB-22 minutes, on page 7, be amended to read: "Commissioner Field noted that he considers the Children's Festival as a festival, ...".

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the First Regular Meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission held 2006-FEB-22 be amended as noted and adopted as circulated.

**Carried unanimously.**

**INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:**

**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. Mel Sheng, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), 4166 Departure Bay Road, Nanaimo BC V9T 4B7,** advised that because of illness he would be unable to attend this evening and asked to be moved to the 2006-APR-26 agenda.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that Mr. M. Sheng, Fisheries and Oceans, be rescheduled to the 2006-APR-26 meeting.

**Carried unanimously.**

- (2) **Ms. T. Derksen, Country Hills Volunteer In Park (VIP) Committee, 1850 White Blossom Way, Nanaimo BC,** advised that, regretfully, Mr. D'Agnolo was unable to attend. On behalf of the Committee, Ms. Derksen is requesting a \$20,000 grant from the Volunteer In Park fund for playground development. Country Hills subdivision is located in the Cinnabar Valley/Chase River area and with the recent development of 200 new homes in the area; there is a need for a park and playground for children and youth.

In November 2005, over 30 households in the neighbourhood attended a VIP meeting to discuss the development of County Hills Park. A survey was distributed to residents in the catchment area asking for their input and responses indicated that a playground, an area for neighbourhood children that encourages physically active play, benches, trails, shade trees, picnic tables, a seating area and a garden area are wanted. The survey also indicated a need for more youth friendly amenities such as a bouldering wall, skateboard park and hard court surface.

The Country Hills VIP Committee is focussing on the development of a playground area and structure for toddlers to 12 year olds as a first phase. Trails, benches, picnic tables, trees/shurbs and a split rail fence around the park are also included in the project. The budget is estimated at \$52,050 and a fundraising plan is in place. Woodgrove Mall has expressed interest in contributing \$20,000 to the project.

Commissioner Cameron asked if the VIP Committee will continue to maintain the area after the playground is complete because she has received concerns from a few neighbours. Ms. Derksen replied that the neighbourhood will stay involved in the ongoing maintenance of the park.

Commissioner Light asked about the Woodgrove Mall's \$20,000 commitment. Mr. Harding replied that staff at the Woodgrove Mall approached the City indicating they are interested in contributing funding and volunteer service to neighbourhood parks throughout the City and potentially on an annual basis.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from the Country Hills Volunteer in Park Committee, be received.

**Carried unanimously.**

- (3) **Mr. Brad Durvin, 3201 Country Club Drive, Nanaimo BC V9T 3B3,** spoke to the history of the proposed Accessible Fishing Pier project at Long Lake noting that when fishing at that location with his father, he noticed a man in a wheelchair trying to fish and having difficulty. He provided a brief history of winning the Superpages scholarship and raising \$10,600 towards this project in 14 days which is subject to approval by the City.

Mr. Durvin stated that there is a lot of support for this project, not just in Nanaimo, but from across the province. In addition to the \$3,500 from Telus Yellow Pages, donations were received from Alliford Bay Logging, TD Friends of the Environment, Trout Unlimited Canada, Malaspina University-College, BC Fly Fishers, Rick Hanson Foundation, Knights of Columbus, Mid-Island Castaways, Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC and Mr. B. Heinrichs.

Long Lake is an excellent fishing spot because it is stocked. There is good access and the wheelchair accessible pier location chosen would be a great fishing spot. There is a wheelchair accessible dock at Diver Lake but it is located in a shallow, weedy area and the one at Westwood Lake is positioned in 2 feet of water, so neither are suitable for good fishing.

Commissioner Johnstone asked about fishing on the highway side of the lake, or on the opposite side of the lake. Mr. Durvin replied that the highway side is too shallow and has milfoil and the other side is good fishing but impossible for wheelchair access.

Commissioner Cameron applauded Mr. Durvin's initiative on this project and asked for confirmation that the structure could be moved. Mr. Durvin replied that the pier could be moved to another location on the lake or to another lake.

#### **Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. B. Durvin, be received.

**Carried unanimously.**

- (4) **Mr. Brian Durvin, 3201 Country Club Drive, Nanaimo BC V9T 3B3**, spoke to the positive community benefits of the proposed Accessible Fishing Pier at Long Lake and thanked staff for their support throughout this process.

Mr. Durvin stated that it is important for Commission to support youth who show initiative and want to improve their community. He noted that there are many young adults in our community who volunteer hundreds of hours to assist with the operation of, and fundraising for, school programs and community organizations. Brad had a vision and goal to fill a need in our community. To that end, he fundraised over \$10,000 for this project in only two weeks. Mr. Durvin reiterated that this project will not cost the City any money. He further stated that the Commission, as City leaders, need to recognize that youth in our community do care about our City and want to be involved in improving the quality of life for its residents.

Increasing recreational opportunities and facilities for our wheelchair citizens should be a priority. He circulated photographs of the wheelchair accessible dock at Westwood Lake noting that it rests in 2 feet of water so it is not suitable for fishing. Mr. Durvin advised that Long Lake is great fishing because it is stocked with fish each year. There is a drop off at the proposed wheelchair accessible pier location which creates good fish habitat; and will result in a rewarding recreational fishing opportunity. Mr. Durvin stated that this is a perfect opportunity for Nanaimo to show support for wheelchair accessible recreational opportunities.

In closing, Mr. Durvin urged the installation of proper signage, trail enhancement, Loudon Park improvements and asked that everyone work together in a cooperative manner to reach a compromise on this project. He asked adjacent residents to give it a chance.

#### **Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. B. Durvin, be received.

**Carried unanimously.**

- (5) **Mr. Bert Abbott, Rehabilitation Consultant, BC Paraplegic Association, 200A 1585 Bowen Road, Nanaimo, BC V9S 1G4**, stated that the BC Paraplegic Association (BCPA) has a rich history of growth and success in creating opportunities for people with spinal cord injuries, and other physical disabilities, to achieve independence, self-reliance and full community participation in their communities. The BCPA was instrumental in having the BC Building Code revised so that public buildings are accessible.

Mr. Abbott advised that he is a fisherman and fishermen are very quiet because they do not want to scare the fish, so they would not be creating any noise. He noted that the adjacent residents have asked about numbers of people using this pier and he has approximately 15 clients and friends with accessibility issues who are very excited about this opportunity.

Mr. Abbott stated that there has been rowdy people in the park area for over 25 years and it is hard to believe, and highly unlikely, that the wheelchair accessible fishing facility will change that. He noted that parking, too, has always been a problem in the Loudon Park area. Mr. Abbott reminded Commission that Nanaimo's population is growing and the parking issues at Loudon Park will only increase. As a person who uses a wheelchair, he stated that he obeys parking signs.

BCPA supports all efforts of the City of Nanaimo and the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission to improve access and services for the inclusion of people with disabilities. The fishing ramp will not only benefit wheelchair users but will assist Nanaimo's aging population as well as parents with strollers. With the upcoming Olympics Games, one of the goals of the City is to make Nanaimo a welcoming and accessible community and this pier will be a positive addition to our community. Mr. Abbot asked Commission to consider the installation of the accessible fishing pier separately from the ongoing Loudon Park noise and parking issues.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. B. Abbott, BC Paraplegic Association, be received.

**Carried unanimously.**

- (6) **Mr. Robin-Lee Gibson, Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion, 405 – 1632 Crescentview Drive, Nanaimo BC V9S 4N5**, told Commission that he toured with Rick Hansen for over 2 years and travelled throughout 34 countries and absolutely cannot understand the issue with the proposed Accessible Fishing Pier at Long Lake. He said that it simply does not make sense. Mr. Gibson advised that he has discussed this topic with Rick Hansen who also finds it very difficult to understand the opposition to a proposal that would enable disabled people to enjoy a recreational experience.

Mr. Gibson stated that Brad Durvin had a vision and goal to help disabled people and he has worked very hard to make his dream a reality. He asked how it is that 5 wharfs illegally positioned on Long Lake without Commission's permission remain, and yet they have difficulty approving a legal one for disabled people. Mr. Gibson stated that the installation of an accessible fishing pier at Long Lake should not be refused and asked Commission to give Brad Durvin an answer today.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. R. Gibson, be received.

**Carried unanimously.**

- (7) **Mr. Fred Taylor, 204 Emery Way, Nanaimo BC V9R 5Z8**, spoke against the proposed Accessible Fishing Pier at Long Lake because any impact on the physical habitat of the lake may be cause for concern. As well, he noted that Council is on record as opposing construction of moorage facilities within lakebeds in the community.

Mr. Taylor stated that as a former member of an ad hoc Council Committee regarding lake use, he recognizes that public activity on the lake must be protected but this must be done in harmony with the surrounding neighbourhood. He said that the accessible fishing pier project is the result of a commercial contest and has been generated with no consideration of its impact on the surrounding neighbourhood. Mr. Taylor stated that he believes a fishing pier will increase the loitering, drinking and noise problems in the neighbouring area and asked Commission what action they are prepared to take to protect the quality of life in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Taylor advised that the BC Government Freshwater Fishing Guide indicates Long Lake is wheelchair accessible. He suggested the funds be used to repair or enhance the existing wheelchair accessible facility at Diver Lake, which is also stocked with fish and prohibits powerboats.

**Motion**

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

**Carried unanimously.**

- (8) **Ms. Elizabeth Kauwell, 4134 Wellesley Avenue, Nanaimo BC V9T 2B9**, spoke against the installation of the proposed Accessible Fishing Pier at Long Lake noting that her brother-in-law is a quadriplegic so she does understand the need of accessibility. Ms. Kauwell suggested that it is important to undertake an impact study before proceeding with this project. She felt that the Rowing Club dock and the hotel dock were accessible to all citizens so the addition of another dock is unnecessary.

Ms. Kauwell stated that she does not believe that the \$10,000 raised will be sufficient to cover the cost of the pier in this location and asked for a breakdown of costs for trail improvements and pier costs before any of the funds are spent. She noted that Loudon Park and area has defined parking for residents but it is not enforced. The Westwood Lake neighbours have some protection from after hours use because the park is gated. The Loudon Park neighbours expect the same consideration.

Ms. Kauwell asked Commission to deal with the existing park problems first before approving the construction of the accessible fishing dock on Long Lake that will undoubtedly invite additional problems to the neighbourhood.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Ms. E. Kauwell, be received.

**Carried unanimously.**

- (9) **Ms. Barbara Hourston, c/o Nanaimo Area Land Trust (NALT), Suite 8-140 Wallace Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 5B1**, spoke to the Linley Valley (Cottle Lake) Draft Park Plan advising that NALT agrees with the concept in general, excluding the road, and will be meeting with staff about changes to wording in some areas. She stated that NALT is very pleased with the transparency of the plan, the full disclosure at all the open houses and how the Linley Valley (Cottle Lake) Plan fits with the recommendations of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan. She further stated that NALT is very supportive of the purchase of District Lot 56 (DL56) and the application for protection of a greenway system throughout the whole valley.

NALT is also supportive of limiting access to Cottle Lake which is a sensitive area and to limit damage incurred by bicycles, motorcycles and dogs.

Ms. Hourston stated that NALT is opposed to the inclusion of a road through the park because it will destroy the quiet ambience of the park. They feel it will not help the traffic issue because the road will be steep and winding and will not be an appropriate alternative to using Hammond Bay Road. She stated that this road will not help fire fighting needs because the steep slopes will require helicopter action. Ms. Hourston commented that most people surveyed, as well as NALT's financial supporters, disagree with the inclusion of a road. She urged Commission to read the survey comments regarding the road included in the plan.

In closing, Ms. Hourston stated that NALT looks forward to working with the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission and staff on future park development.

Commission Dempsey asked what NALT's position is on a mountain bike trail through the park. Ms. Hourston replied that most of the biking takes place on DL56 and that NALT has not announced a position on this.

Commissioner Cameron asked if the City had always planned to have a road through the park. Commissioner McNabb replied that Burma Road was in the road network plan before this property was purchased as park.

#### **Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Ms. B. Hourston, be received.

**Carried unanimously.**

- (10) **Ms. Vicky Dods, 4288 Victoria Avenue, Nanaimo BC V9T 2A9** spoke against the proposed Accessible Fishing Pier at Long Lake. She said that she was pleased to hear that City staff have proposed some possible solutions to the ongoing problems of noise and after hours use of Loudon Park, as well as the Rowing Club noise issues. Ms. Dods noted that she has been communicating with Parks staff for years in an attempt to resolve these issues and had learned that nothing but signs could be of help. Unfortunately, it appears that many park users do not read the signs and few, if any, people have been charged the \$75 fee for being in a park after hours. She stated that she has been diligent in reporting incidents to the RCMP and commended them for attending the nuisance calls but the regularity of the offences shows that simply asking people to leave does not deter them from returning. Ms. Dods asked the Commission to recommend the RCMP ticket offenders using the park and parking lot after hours. The Loudon Park neighbourhood needs the City's help to resolve these issues.

The suggestion of having Bylaw officers patrol the area for a few extra hours on weekends during the summer will not be effective, because very few offences occur during the patrols times suggested. The problems occur between 11:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. weekends and weekdays throughout the summer; and from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. and 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. when Rowing Club members block their driveway. Ms. Dods urged the issuing of fines for these offences. If residential parking only signs are to be effective, consistent enforcement and fines would be required.

Ms. Dods noted that the Rowing Club float is a magnet for after hours use and should never have been located in such a secluded, unlit spot, so close to a residential area. It creates not

only a noise issue, but a youth safety issue when drugs and alcohol are involved. She recommended that the float be relocated. Ms. Dods also advised that because of the ongoing problems, they have chosen to relocate to their second residence in Nanaimo.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Ms. V. Dods, be received.

**Carried unanimously.**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. (1) Petition initiated by Mr. Tony Parkin, 6070 Molecy Lane, Nanaimo BC V9V 1S7, and signed by 1,544 persons, requesting that the City of Nanaimo reinstate lifeguards at public beaches in Nanaimo for the summer months.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission direct staff to prepare a report identifying the cost to reinstate lifeguards at public beaches.

**Carried unanimously.**

1. (2) Letter from Mr. Drew Cooper, PacificSport, 900 Fifth Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 5S5, advising that, regretfully, \$32,831.93 of the 2002 BC Summer Games Legacy Grant is being returned because PacificSport was unable to satisfy the terms of the coaching development and mentoring proposal.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Commission requests the Recreation Committee to initiate a process to reallocate the returned 2002 BC Summer Games Legacy Grant funds.

**Carried unanimously.**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

2. (1) **Parks Committee.** Commissioner Field reported on the meeting held 2006-MAR-09; indicating that a process is being established to receive input and develop an action plan to address issues affecting Loudon Park.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the information provided to Commission, at their 2006-MAR-22 meeting, by the delegations regarding the Long Lake Accessible Fishing Pier be forwarded to the Parks Committee for inclusion in their park planning process.

**Carried unanimously.**

**Motion**

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

**Carried unanimously.**

2. (2) **Recreation Committee.** No meeting held.

2. (3) **Cultural Committee.** Commissioner Lance reported on the meeting held 2006-MAR-08.

**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) Volunteer in Park (VIP) Staff Presentation.** Ms. Kirsty MacDonald, Park and Open Space Planner, advised that the VIP program started in the early 1990s because of increased public interest in their neighbourhoods. The VIP program encourages area residents to work together to improve their park/playground area and to take ownership of the park by providing ongoing grass cutting and other maintenance. The VIP program has taken on a wider scope in the past few years and now includes invasive species removal, street tree planting as well as playground development.

Ms. MacDonald commented that the neighbours work very hard on these projects which helps develop a sense of community as well as stewardship of the park.

Ms. MacDonald advised that there are currently three VIP projects and three beautification projects underway and the Commission can look forward to more VIP meeting invitations. She said that it is very helpful when Commission members attend the VIP meetings because it demonstrates support of the VIP process to the neighbourhood.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Ms. K. MacDonald, be received.

**Carried unanimously.**

- 3. (2) Active Communities.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that ActNowBC is a Provincial program striving to make British Columbia one of the healthier jurisdictions to ever host an Olympic and Paralympic Games. A goal has been established to increase, by 20%, the proportion of the BC population who are physically active or moderately active during their leisure time. The Active Communities initiative is one of the key components of ActNowBC and is considered a cornerstone in achieving the 20% physical activity challenge.

Over the next few years, the goal is to build awareness and to increase physical presence at local events. The Move Well, Eat Well Active Communities will have two campaigns this year, 'Spring into Action' and 'Fall for Fitness and Health'.

Nanaimo is registered as an Active Community and a Council resolution aimed to gain community recognition and support is sought.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommends that Council accept the ActNowBC 20% physical activity challenge.

**Carried unanimously.**

- 3. (3) PacificSport Higher Service Level Request.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that Staff met with the PacificSport General Manager to review the financial information that was provided to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission. He noted that PacificSport is requesting \$15,000 from the City of Nanaimo in 2006. In 2007, the funding request drops to \$10,000 because PacificSport is working towards getting contributions from other municipalities in 2007. With a financial contribution from the City of Nanaimo, PacificSport is anticipating that they can leverage an additional \$15,000 from Legacies Now and up to \$10,000 from BC Gaming.

Commissioner Dempsey suggested that Commission approve the \$15,000 this year and review how it is used before recommending funding for future years.



Commissioner McNabb stated that the City should support this request because the 2010 Olympic Games are only a few years away and PacificSport is training five potential athletes from Nanaimo and area. As well, he noted that Commission just passed a motion recommending that Council accept the ActNowBC 20% physical activity challenge.

Commissioner Cameron noted that no budget was provided and in reviewing their website they appear to represent all of Vancouver Island. She asked if other Vancouver Island municipalities provide financial support. Commissioner McNabb replied that they will be applying to various municipalities for funding in 2007.

Commissioner Fraser noted that PacificSport is dependent upon City support in order to gain other funding; and further, with the 2010 Olympic Games looming, as well as encouraging the public to be active, this is not a good time to withdraw support.

Commissioner Johnstone stated that she feels Commission still does not have sufficient detailed information to fairly adjudicate this request. For example, are they a local organization or a provincial one, are they self-administered and what is their link to the College. Mr. Hickey replied that PacificSport is a provincial organization but does have to seek their own funding, he does not know the specifics of their provincial reporting process and they rent space from the College.

### **Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommends that Council support PacificSport's Higher Service Level request for \$15,000 in 2006 and \$10,000 each year from 2007 to 2010.

**Carried.**

Opposed: Commissioners Cameron and Dempsey.

3. (4) **Board Advertising in City Arenas.** Mr. B. Meunier, Manager of Recreation & Culture Services, advised that several arena user groups have expressed interest in selling board advertising at the Nanaimo Ice Centre as a way to generate additional revenue for their organizations.

The Nanaimo Clippers sell the board advertising in the Frank Crane Arena as per their agreement with the City, and the City receives a flat rate of their sales revenue. In 2004, the City hired a commissioned sales person to sell board advertising in the Cliff McNabb Arena.

For the Nanaimo Ice Centre and the Cliff McNabb Arena, staff proposes that:

1. Arena board advertising is sold at the Nanaimo Ice Centre and Cliff McNabb Arenas.
2. All arena user groups, and the City's commissioned sales person, can sell board advertising; the location of the advertisement, and sign specifications will be administered by the Arenas Supervisor.
3. The City will receive 20% of the board sale revenue and the organization will pay installation expenses. Installation expenses include labour and materials to mount the advertisements as well as printing costs.
4. A board advertising sales price will be established with input from arena user groups.
5. Arena board sales will be available to user groups on a first come, first served basis.

Commissioner Johnstone asked what the term is for the board advertising. Mr. Meunier replied that it is one year with the option to renew.

Commissioner Light asked if the boards are sold on a first come first served basis. Mr. Meunier replied that yes, boards are placed on next best location available.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission endorses the sale of board advertising in the Nanaimo Ice Centre and the Cliff McNabb Arena by arena user groups based on the City receiving 20% of the board sale revenue plus installation expenses.

**Carried unanimously.**

3. (5) **Departure Bay Lacrosse Box.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that the Departure Bay Lacrosse Box was built in 1967 by the Departure Bay Community Association. By 1995, the board structure needed replacement. After meetings with the Nanaimo Lacrosse Association, and surveying the users of the Departure Bay Lacrosse Box, it was determined that the dimensions of the lacrosse box could be decreased and the space developed as a multi-purpose court. In 1996, a multi-purpose court was built. Over the last ten years the condition of the surface has deteriorated to a point where major repair is needed.

**Options include:**

1. Remove the old asphalt and excavate to a depth of 450 mm, add pit run, crush and a new asphalt surface. All the plywood sheets would have to be removed and the rotted framing replaced. The boards would be replaced with 4' x 8' recycled plastic sheets and the asphalt and boards would be painted. The estimated cost for Option 1 is \$79,500.
2. Remove the existing boards and framing and install an overlay of asphalt on top of the old surface. The asphalt would be on top of a glass grid to bond to the old surface. This method does not deal with the problem of the subsurface which is causing the asphalt to settle. The boards would be replaced with plastic panels and the painting would be done. The estimated cost for Option 2 is \$67,000.
3. Remove the structure and asphalt and create a grassed area. This can be a site for other park amenities as needed. The estimated cost for Option 3 is \$20,000.

If Options 1 or 2 are selected, the project will be undertaken in 2007 so that the Capital Budget can be reprioritized to include the full project costs.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend the upgrade of the Departure Bay Lacrosse Box at an estimated cost of \$79,500.

**Carried unanimously.**

3. (6) **Millstone River Side Channel Proposal for Bowen Park.** Rescheduled to the 2006-APR-26 Commission meeting.
3. (7) **Maffeo Sutton Park and Civic Arena Site Planning and Redevelopment Process.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that Maffeo Sutton Park is a key downtown open space that provides a waterfront venue for special events. The demolition of 2/3 of the Foundry, the construction of a new access road, the demolition of the Civic Arena and the construction of condominiums adjacent to the Park, as part of the New Nanaimo Centre project, present opportunities to redevelop Maffeo Sutton Park and the Civic Arena site in a manner that better meets current and future community needs.

The following objectives will be considered in the preparation of design concepts for the redevelopment of Maffeo Sutton Park:

- To enhance this park for special event use.
- To improve pedestrian and multi-use circulation routes to, and through, the park and along the waterfront walkway to various areas including the Millstone Greenway, Front Street, Georgia Park, Queen Elizabeth II and Harbourfront Promenade.
- To maintain on-site parking.
- To improve public amenities in the park including washrooms and concessions.
- To add historical and industrial interpretation within the park (building, signage, artefacts, public art, etc).
- To maintain and enhance key park features such as the Lion's Pavilion, Harbourside Playdock, Newcastle Island Ferry and Swy-a-Lana Lagoon.
- To increase the area of public green space along Nanaimo's waterfront.
- To include a phasing plan to ensure that the park is accessible and usable at each stage of redevelopment.

It will also be important that the design review of the condominiums include consideration of the interface between the park and the buildings.

The design concept will be forwarded to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for review and comment in the Spring 2007, after which public Open Houses will be held and the final plan will be forwarded for Council's approval. It is anticipated that park redevelopment will begin Fall 2007.

Commissioner Johnstone asked if there will still be an amphitheatre in the design. Mr. Harding replied that enhancement for hosting of special events will be considered as part of the public review and may include this concept.

Commissioner Light commented that the placement of the Lion's Pavilion makes it very difficult for media coverage because the sun is directly in the camera lens and in the public's eyes. Mr. Harding noted that the park will be designed to incorporate those types of concerns.

### **Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission endorse the planning process for the redevelopment of Maffeo Sutton Park and Civic Arena site.

**Carried unanimously.**

3. (8) **Linley Valley (Cottle Lake) Park Draft Plan.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, advised that Linley Valley (Cottle Lake) Park is a 59 hectare parcel of land that was purchased by the City of Nanaimo in June 2003. The park plan included consultation with NALT, who organized a major fundraising campaign for the purchase of the property, as well as the receiving of public input, stakeholder interviews, mapping, site inventory and analysis of the natural features of the park. The purpose of the plan is to develop a long term vision for the park that provides clear recommendations on how it will be enjoyed and maintained now and for future generations.

Plan recommendations have been established regarding park and pedestrian access, facilities and amenities, future land acquisition, environmental management, visitor management and community partnerships.

As the next step in the park planning process the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission is to host a public meeting and open house to receive input on the plan, and based on input received, the draft plan may be revised. Following that, the Commission will recommend a Park Plan for City Council's approval.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission receives the draft Linley Valley (Cottle Lake) Park Plan and hosts an open house and public meeting on 2006-APR-20 at Beban Park to receive input.

**Carried unanimously.**

3. (9) **Pioneer Cemetery Park Site Plan.** Mr. R. Harding, advised that in April of 2005, eight large leaf maple trees and one black locust tree had to be removed at Pioneer Cemetery Park because of severe decay and rot. Over the past fifteen years, in anticipation of tree issues in this park, several red maple and sweet gum trees were planted as part of a succession planting program. These trees are now well established and will be the next generation of vegetation for this park.

In the Summer and Fall of 2005, Staff worked with members of heritage organizations such as the Nanaimo Heritage Society, the City Heritage Commission and Nanaimo Archives as well as service club members from the Kiwanis Club and a couple of family members whose ancestors were buried at the site, in developing a site plan for the park.

The plan identifies the existing trees as well as the proposed installation of three ornamental gateways, signage and lighting upgrades and planting locations for dogwood trees, shrubs and seasonal plantings. Approximately \$4,000 from the Parks Operating Budget will be directed to this project over each of the next three years.

**Motion**

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

**Carried unanimously.**

3. (10) **Conservation Planning for the Virginia Rail – Third Street Park Natural Areas and Buttertubs Marsh.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, advised that the City and the Nanaimo Field Naturalists Club have worked together on a variety of studies and management plans for the Buttertubs Marsh and the natural areas at Third Street Park (Jingle Pot Marsh), most recently commissioning a study of the resident Virginia Rail in both marshes. URSUS Environmental (a wildlife and environmental resources consulting firm) conducted a year long study of resident populations of Rail inhabiting Jingle Pot Marsh. By documenting Rail occurrence and habitat use within Jingle Pot Marsh, it was hoped that management activities could be identified to maintain and/or enhance Rail habitats in the natural areas.

The study concluded that Virginia Rail use of Jingle Pot Marsh has declined over the past decade from 27 resident birds to approximately 10 – 13. The estimated carrying capacity of Jingle Pot Marsh for Virginia Rails is in the vicinity of 28 – 34 birds.

Field observations suggest the development of playing fields in the southwest part of Jingle Pot Marsh has had little impact on the Virginia Rails, displacing only two birds. However, the upper berm, which is in close proximity to a Rail nesting area, should have no disruptive construction activities between March 1 and July 31 and should be seeded with native grasses and shrubs.

The report suggests that a pilot project should be undertaken to improve habitat on the upper berm as well as the existing willow swamp habitat north of Third Street; and that a vegetation/Rail monitoring plan should be developed involving the collection of quantitative data for at least three years. The vegetation management plan would help to determine if ongoing planting work by stewardship groups is limiting future opportunities for Virginia Rail habitat enhancement.

**Motion**

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

**Carried unanimously.**

3. (11) **Manager of Parks Monthly Report.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, reviewed his report noting that the Billy Lewis Rose Garden is being reconstructed because it has blight. This has necessitated the removal of the rose bushes and the soil..
3. (12) **Manager of Recreation and Culture Services Monthly Report.** Mr. B. Meunier, Manager of Recreation and Culture Services, reviewed his report noting that this weekend the ice will be coming out of the Civic Arena and a "Skating through the Ages" event is scheduled for Sunday. The ice closing ceremonies are Sunday at 5:30 p.m. and Commissioners are invited to attend.

**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 February was received.
4. (2) **Grants Advisory Committee** – no report.
4. (3) **Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee** – no report.
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 minutes from the Bowen Park Seniors Special Meeting held 2006-FEB-23.
5. (2) Copy of minutes from the Bowen Park Seniors Board Meeting held 2006-MAR-03.
5. (3) Copy of correspondence to Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, from Ms. Patricia Ansell, President, Morrell Sanctuary Society, 787 Nanaimo Lakes Road, Nanaimo BC V9R 3C2, advising of the proposed closure of the Nanaimo Lakes entrance road to Morrell Sanctuary effective 2006-APR-01.
5. (4) Copy of correspondence to Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, from Ian Thorpe, Secretary, Nanaimo Curling Club, expressing appreciation for the ongoing parking lot maintenance.

**Motion**

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

**Carried unanimously.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:**

- (1) **Mrs. G. Derksen, 1850 White Blossom Way, Country Hills Volunteer In Park (VIP) Committee, Nanaimo BC.**

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission allocate \$20,000 from the VIP fund to the Country Hills Volunteer in Park Committee.

**Carried unanimously.**

- (2) **Delegations Regarding the Long Lake Fishing Pier**

Commissioner Light stated that there appears to be two separate issues; one being the fishing pier and the other being the ongoing issues of noise and after hours use of Loudon Park. She said that the issue of the pier needs to be dealt with as soon as possible because the funding Brad Durvin has in place now may not be available indefinitely. Following that, the long term, ongoing concerns of the neighbourhood residents could be addressed.

Commissioner Sperling asked if the fishing pier could be moved. Mr. Harding responded that yes, it could be moved.

Commissioner Cameron asked if the Parks Committee would be forwarding recommendations regarding Loudon Park and the fishing pier to the April Commission meeting so that it could go forward to Council.

Mr. Harding indicated that the Parks Committee will be reviewing at their April meeting the Loudon Park planning process he was asked to develop. This will include a review of current site conditions and issues. Staff expect the process will take more than one month to complete.

Commissioner Hamilton stated that the Loudon Park ongoing issues and the installation of the fishing pier do meld together and, in her opinion, the neighbours need to be heard and the park issues addressed before adding another facility.

Commissioner Field noted that if one month is not sufficient time for the Parks Committee to make a complete recommendation, they will note that in their April report.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Commission approve the installation of the accessible fishing pier and continue with a full review of the park.

**Defeated.**

**Opposed:** Commissioners Cameron, Field, Fraser, Johnstone, Lance, Baltzer, Sperling, Hamilton, Dempsey and McNabb.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that Item #4 - Options and costs to repair the Departure Bay Lacrosse Box, and Item #5 - PacificSport request for annual funding 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) Vegetation Plan for the beach area on Departure Bay Road – report in Spring 2006.

- (3) "Generations" life size stone female statue – referred to Cultural Committee.
- (4) Loudon Park Community Input and Improvement Plan – Parks Committee & staff.
- (5) Nanaimo Christian School request to purchase parkland – staff report.
- (6) Park Zones and Identifying Parkland – staff report.
- (7) Cost to reinstate lifeguards at public beaches – staff report.

**ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:**

Chair McNabb advised that Mr. A. Griffiths, who is willing to donate \$25,000 for Palm Trees for Departure Bay area has advised his offer will remain for three more weeks.

Commissioner Cameron noted that through the Departure Bay neighbourhood planning process many residents commented that they are against the planting of palm trees. Chair McNabb will follow-up with Mr. Griffiths.

Commissioner Johnstone suggested that an option to disperse the returned 2002 Summer Games Legacy funds may be to include them with Disability Games legacy funding because an adjudication panel is already in place for that.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the motion that the Commission requests the Recreation Committee to initiate a process to reallocate the returned 2002 BC Summer Games Legacy Grant funds be rescinded.

**Carried unanimously.**

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommends that the 2002 Summer Games Legacy Grant funds returned by PacificSport be applied to the 2005 Disability Games Legacy for disbursement.

**Carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Lance inquired as to cleaning schedule of the change rooms at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre because she had received complaints during spring break that they were dirty. Mr. Hickey replied that the change rooms are checked on a regular schedule; but with 2000 patrons a day attending during spring break that the change rooms needed more frequent cleaning. The cleaning schedule will be increased during busy periods like spring break.

**MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD.** Nil.

**PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD.**

**Ms. Vicky Dods, 4288 Victoria Avenue, Nanaimo BC V9T 2A9** asked the Commission to deal with the issues of noise at Loudon Park and the installation of the fishing pier as one item because it is the unauthorized use of the existing Rowing Club dock that causes most of the after hours noise.

**Mr. Fred Taylor, 204 Emery Way, Nanaimo BC V9R 5Z8** asked why the Fishing Pier delegations were limited to only five minutes. Mr. Hickey replied that the 5 minute option for delegations speaking to the same issue is in the Council Procedure Bylaw; and the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission Bylaw states that *"unless otherwise stated in this bylaw, Council Procedure Bylaw 2005 No 7007"* and all amendments thereto shall apply to meetings of the Commission", therefore, the motion was in order. Acting Chair Sherry concurred.

**NEXT MEETING DATES:**

Cultural Committee – <i>note time change</i>	Wednesday, 2006-APR-05; 4:00 p.m.
Recreation Committee	Wednesday, 2006-APR-12; 4:00 p.m.
Parks Committee – <i>note time change</i>	Thursday, 2006-APR-13; 12 Noon.
<b>COMMISSION – Seminar</b>	<b>Wednesday, 2006-APR-19; 3:00 p.m. Nanaimo Aquatic Centre Room B</b>
<b>Linley Valley Open House and Public Meeting</b>	<b>Thursday, 2006-APR-20; 6:30 p.m. Beban Park Auditorium</b>
<b>COMMISSION - Facility Tour</b>	<b>Wednesday, 2006-APR-26; 5:00 p.m.</b>
<b>COMMISSION - Meeting</b>	<b>Wednesday, 2006-APR-26; 7:00 p.m.</b>

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

**Carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURNED:** 9:17 p.m.