

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST 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-FEB-22, 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 K. Light
Commissioner B. Sperling
Commissioner E. Hamilton
Commissioner B. Dempsey

Absent: Commissioner L. Fraser
Commissioner G. Baltzer

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

PRESENTATION OF PROVINCIAL AWARDS:

Commissioner Lance presented a Provincial award and certificate to a member of the Nanaimo Horseshoe Club (1).

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission held 2005-NOV-23 and 2006-FEB-08 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) **Dr. P. Ross, Malaspina University-College, 900 Fifth Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 5S5, and Ms. P. Huggins, Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association, Box 327, Nanaimo BC V9R 5L3,** requested that Commission name the 90 foot baseball diamond and adjoining soccer pitch at the Serauxmen Sports Fields the "Mariners Field". Ms. Huggins stated that the Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association executive unanimously support this request in recognition of Malaspina University-College's donation of \$275,000 towards the construction of this community multi-use field.

Speaking on behalf of the Malaspina University-College Board, faculty and staff, Dr. P. Ross expressed their excitement about being involved in the construction of this new community amenity. Dr. Ross stated that Malaspina University-College has a legacy of excellence both in academics and sports, and now having a "home field" for their Mariners Soccer Team is exciting. He noted that this field project has been a collaborative effort between the City of Nanaimo, Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association and Malaspina University-College.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Dr. Ross, Malaspina University-College, and Ms. Huggins, Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association, be received.

Carried unanimously.

(2) Mr. Drew Cooper, PacificSport Group, 900 – Fifth Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 5S5,

circulated financial statements. He advised that PacificSport delivers world class services to local athletes, coaches and sport volunteers. Of primary importance currently is having the ability to assist several Nanaimo athletes who are working to represent Nanaimo at national, international and Olympic/Paralympic events. He noted that PacificSport's assistance to these athletes can result in them qualifying for federal funding. Mr. Cooper stated that even though PacificSport is a regional centre, 90% of all activity occurs in Nanaimo.

Mr. Cooper provided a brief history of PacificSport noting that it was initiated ten years ago by representatives from the City, School District and College. At that time, the City committed funding for the first three years with the intent that Gaming and Sponsorship Funding would replace City funding. However, this funding has not materialized to anticipated levels. Mr. Cooper noted that the PacificSport mandate is to service athletes and coaches; and organizing special events for sponsors takes 30% of staff time.

Mr. Cooper noted that PacificSport is an economic generator for Nanaimo and cited the Volleyball Centre as an example. The Centre hosts 12 tournaments per year, with a total of 2,400 participants, of which 75% are from out of town. Tourism Nanaimo advises that each out of town tournament visitor spends approximately \$150 per day.

To help PacificSport maintain and improve services, Mr. Cooper requested that the City provide \$15,000/year in 2006 and \$10,000/year from 2007 to 2011. This funding will allow PacificSport to obtain additional gaming and provincial funding up to \$25,000.

Commissioner Johnstone asked if federal funding is received. Mr. Cooper replied only provincial funding is received. Commissioner Johnstone asked if aboriginal sport funding is available. Mr. Cooper replied that it is.

Commissioner Field asked if PacificSport will be seeking funding from other communities. Mr. Cooper replied that they will be starting in 2007.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

(3) Ms. Elizabeth Kauwell, 4134 Wellesley Avenue, Nanaimo BC V9T 2B9,

advised that she is very concerned about the proposed Long Lake Fishing Pier location and several neighbours are also concerned. She stated that during her nine years living on Long Lake, she has been awakened to the loud noise of teens and young adults engaging in inappropriate behaviour in her yard and in the park. Ms. Kauwell stated that RCMP Staff Sergeant M. Pearce confirmed that there have been many calls regarding disturbances at Loudon Park.

Ms. Kauwell asked Commission to deal with the existing park problems first before building another dock on Long Lake that will invite further problems. She stated that she does not believe the proposed location is a good one for catching fish because no one fishes there.

Ms. Kauwell stated that in addition to the noise, garbage, drug and alcohol problems in and around the park, there is also a significant lack of parking, resulting in park users parking on residential streets and blocking driveways. She stated that area residents are concerned that:

- the public will use the park outside of park hours;
- residential parking will be impacted because the parking lot is some distance away for a person with accessibility issues;
- washroom facilities are also some distance away;
- the pier will attract boaters and youth who will party and cause a disturbance.

In closing, Ms. Kauwell asked Commission to work with the local area residents to develop a long term solution to the existing problems and to not move forward with the installation of the fishing pier.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

- (4) **Ms. Karin Parakin, (4200 Victoria Avenue), 2715-105th Street, Nanaimo BC V9T 3X7,** stated that she has been a lakeside resident for over ten years and believes the proposed fishing pier will result in more detrimental effects on the neighbourhood than good it will provide. She stated that although a fishing pier for disabled persons is well meaning, she believes that it will have a very negative impact on the neighbourhood.

Ms. Parakin stated that City officials did not communicate appropriately, or in a timely manner, with the neighbourhood residents about the proposed fishing pier. The City also failed to address the neighbours existing concerns related to late night and early morning noise, unwelcome “guests” on their property, theft, and inappropriate and unsafe activities taking place in the park. She advised that the lakeside neighbours on Ferntree Place and Woodhaven Drive are also upset about the pier being built across from their homes without them having the opportunity to be involved in a public consultation process.

As to the location of the pier, Ms. Parakin stated that she has fished on Long Lake for many years and has never seen a fish caught at the proposed pier location. She also expressed concern about the stability of a float for use by wheelchairs. Ms. Parakin suggested that a better location for the accessible fishing pier would be adjacent to the public boat launch area along the highway.

In closing, Ms. Parakin, stated that City officials have not provided adequate communication with the Long Lake community regarding this project and the community should be granted the opportunity to express their concerns at a public meeting.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

- (5) **Ms. Donna Hais, Chair, Building Committee, Nanaimo Christian School, 198 Holland Road, Nanaimo BC V9R 6W2,** spoke to their request to purchase park property adjacent to the Nanaimo Christian School. She stated that when the Cathers Lake subdivision was developed, this property, approximately 1 acre, was given to the City as 5% parkland. The Christian School has developed a full size sports field and a playground that the public use; however, the City owned park area remains undeveloped.

Ms. Hais advised that the school is planning to expand and hopes to purchase the undeveloped park area to use for parking, building and green space.

Chair McNabb congratulated Ms. Hais on the construction of the playground and agreed that it does get significant community use. He noted that the City has never sold parkland and suggested that City staff work with the Nanaimo Christian School to develop an alternative option.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

- (6) **Mr. Jim Kemp, Present, Nanaimo Gyro Club, 3399 Edgewood Drive, Nanaimo BC V9T 5V2,** introduced Mr. Jim Thompson, Project Committee Chair. He stated that the Gyro Club has been active in Nanaimo since 1922 and their mandate is to fund activities and facilities for children and youth. Mr. Kemp noted that over the years, the Gyro Club has participated in many projects in Nanaimo, including the building of the Civic Arena, Georgia Park, and the many Gyro Parks throughout Nanaimo. This past year, the Club donated over \$70,000 to local projects including \$20,000 to the Merle Logan Artificial Turf field.

Mr. Kemp stated that the Club wants to recognize their long serving members and are proposing to erect a small monument in Georgia Park. This project would enhance a public park area and provide citizens with a brief history of what the Club has done for their community. He suggested that Georgia Park is an ideal location because there is a 1940 Gyro fountain in the park and the monument can be erected on the concrete base formerly holding the totem poles. Mr. Kemp presented a concept design showing that the monument will be approximately 4 to 5 feet high, be made of polished granite, have bronze plaques stating what the Club stands for and what the Gyro Club has done for the City, and individual plaques with names. Mr. Kemp stated that the monument will be paid for and maintained by the Gyro Club and there will be no cost to the City.

Commissioner Cameron asked if the monument will be vandal proof. Mr. Kemp replied that it will be.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- (A) Council, at their meeting of 2005-DEC-19, referred to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for review and consideration, the motions by Councillor Sherry regarding: New "Parks" Zones and Identifying Parkland.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Staff prepare a report for Commission's consideration regarding the creation of a "Parks" zone within the City of Nanaimo Zoning Bylaw; and that Staff include in the report all current lands within the City that have been identified as parkland.

Carried unanimously.

- (B) Council, at their meeting of 2006-JAN-30, referred to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for review, the request by Mr. Drew Cooper, PacificSport, for \$15,000 funding from the City.

Chair McNabb advised that PacificSport's request will be dealt with under Business arising from Delegations.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. (1) Memorandum from P.F. Wipper, Manager, Regulation and Risk Management, requesting Commission's review and recommendation of the request by Mr. Bob Kuhn, Recreation and Culture Supervisor, for increased licenced seating capacity at the Frank Crane Arena.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommends that Council endorse the proposal to increase the license capacity of the Frank Crane Arena from 267 seats to 4,116 in order to permit the consumption of alcohol in the general seating area.

Carried unanimously.

1. (2) Copy of correspondence addressed to Mayor and Council from Mr. Johann Van Rensburg, Board Chair, Nanaimo Christian School, expressing interest in purchasing the City park property to the north of the Nanaimo Christian School on Holland Road.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that a staff report be prepared for Commission's consideration.

Carried unanimously.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

2. (1) **Parks Committee.** No meeting held
2. (2) **Recreation Committee.** Commissioner Lance reported on the meeting held 2005-NOV-23.
- 2.(2.1) **Tournament and Festival Fund Grants.** Commissioner Lance advised that only three (3) applications were received.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Commission approve a \$1,500 Tournament and Festival Fund grant to each of the Nanaimo Blues Festival Society and the Vancouver Island Volleyball Association to assist in the staging of their events.

Carried unanimously.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Commission not approve the request from the Shima Karate School because of an incomplete application.

Carried unanimously.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that because \$17,000 of unallocated Tournament and Festival Funds remain, that staff continue to accept applications for a future review in the Spring of 2006.

Carried unanimously.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

- 2. (3) Cultural Committee.** Commissioner Field reported on the meetings held 2005-NOV-30 and 2006-JAN-04.

- 2.(3.1) Arts and Cultural Event Fund Grants. Eleven (11) applications were reviewed.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve the 2006 Arts and Cultural Event Fund Grants as listed.

	2005 Approved	2006 Requested	2006 Approved
Arts Council - Short Film Fest \$	800	-	-
Art Gallery - Arts Fest 2005	2,800	5,000	2,360
Art Gallery - "Momentum"	-	5,000	2,140
Ballroom Dance Island Fantasy Ball	900	2,500	920
Bloomin' Art 2005	450	-	-
Blues Festival	1,350	-	-
Canada Day	1,500	2,000	1,500
Children's Festival	2,200	2,400	1,850
Conservatory of Music Piano Recital	-	4,000	1,290
Crimson Coast Dance Fest	2,000	5,000	2,360
Metis Ass. Arts and Craft Market	700	-	-
Harbour City Jazz	-	1,500	1,090
Island Showcase	900	-	-
TheatreOne	-	4,000	1,910
Theatre BC Arts Fair	3,600	3,000	1,980
V.I. Symphony in the Harbour	6,800	6,800	6,600
TOTAL: \$	24,000	41,200	24,000

Funds available: \$ 24,000

Funds remaining: \$ 0

Carried unanimously.

- 2.(3.2) Cultural Operating Fund Grants. Sixteen applications were reviewed. The African Heritage Society application was turned down because financial information was not provided.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council approve the 2006 Cultural Operating Fund Grants as listed.

	2005 Approved	2006 Requested	2006 Recommended
African Heritage Society \$		3,000	-
Arts Alive	750	2,000	1,200
Arts Council	7,500	15,000	8,500
BelCanto Singers	500	1,000	500
Blues Festival Society		15,000	5,000
Camerata Singers	350	-	-
Centre for the Arts	5,500	6,000	5,000
Chamber Orchestra	950	6,000	2,000
Children's Festival	9,500	15,000	11,000
Conservatory of Music	1,700	2,500	1,900
Crimson Coast Dance	14,000	20,000	14,000
Empire Days Society	4,000	-	-
Francophone Association	6,000	12,000	7,000

Harewood Art for All	300	-	-
Musicians for Musicians	350	1,500	500
Symphony	57,500	57,000	57,000
TheatreOne	37,250	38,000	37,500
Tidesmen Barbershop Chorus		10,000	750
Tozan	4,000	-	-
Western Edge Theatre	1,600	5,000	1,000
TOTAL: \$	151,750	209,000	\$ 152,850
Art In The Park:			\$ 3,500
Funds Remaining for Cultural Committee Initiatives / Workshops:			\$ 5,756
TOTAL:			\$ 162,106
Total Funds Available for 2006:			\$ 162,106
Total Funds Remaining:			\$ 0

Carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lance suggested that to know in advance that City funding will be consistent for a 3 year period would benefit the large organizations, such as the VI Symphony, TheatreOne and the Children's Festival, with their long term planning. She explained that when the Art Gallery became a line item in the City budget, these other groups expected that they would have the same opportunity in future years; however instead, the Cultural Grant Fund was increased from \$1/person to \$2/person.

Commissioner Light noted that the suggested groups are all professional organizations and, therefore, Crimson Coast and Western Edge should also be included.

Commissioner Field noted that he considers the Children's Festival as a festival; and further, that if groups were guaranteed a set amount for three years, they would not benefit from the annual increase based on population growth. *(Amended as per 2006-MAR-22 meeting motion.)*

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council approve funding, providing adequate financial statements are supplied each year, to the VI Symphony and TheatreOne at the same level for the three years of this Commission's term.

Motion Defeated.

Opposed: Commissioners Field, Cameron, Light, Sperling, Dempsey.

- 2.(3.3) Art in Public Places Selection Panel for the "Pacifica" Project. Commissioner Field advised that Cape Developments, as part of the Development Approval Process, made a contribution of \$100,000 towards the installation of a work of Public Art to be installed on the waterfront walkway in front of the "Pacifica" project. The Art in Public Places Guidelines and Procedures establishes a commissioning process by a selection panel.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission appoint George McGladrey, Cultural Committee; Phil Field, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission; Ian Niamath, Architect; Jan Smart, Artist; Anne Gilroyed, Arts Administrator; Bill Wright and Edward Calb, Cape Developments; Mike Davidson, Nanaimo Port Authority; and Paulette McCarthy, Community Representative at Large, to the Selection Panel for the purpose of selecting the artist and the artwork that will be installed on the waterfront walkway at the Cape Developments "Pacifica" Project.

Carried unanimously.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

2. (4) **Athletic Commission.** Commissioner McNabb reported on the meetings held 2005-DEC-15 and 2006-FEB-09 noting that Mr. Don Arnott will be promoting a So You Wanna Fight event at the Frank Crane Arena on 2006-MAY-13.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Athletic Commission report be received.

Carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Item 3.5, Long Lake Wheelchair Accessible Fishing Pier, be brought forward.

Carried unanimously.

3. (5) **Construction of a Wheelchair Accessible Fishing Pier at Long Lake.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, stated that at its 2005-OCT-26 meeting, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission received a delegation from Mr. Brad Durvin regarding the installation of a wheelchair accessible fishing pier at Long Lake. Mr. Durvin advised that the total project budget is approximately \$7,500 and that he had raised over \$9,000 and had commitments for an additional \$1,600 to fund the project.

Mr. Hickey advised that this project has the support of the Nanaimo Fish and Game Club, Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, Trout Unlimited Canada (Nanaimo Chapter), Rick Hanson Wheels in Motion Foundation and Malaspina University-College Fisheries and Aquaculture Program. The proposed location will enable the fishing pier to be close to shore and yet have good depth for fishing, and will result in more use of an underutilized part of the park. Mr. Durvin also believes the fishing pier will reduce some of the conflicts that occur when fishing takes place off the rowing dock.

At the 2005-OCT-26 meeting, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission made the following motions:

1. That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission endorse Mr. Brad Durvin's proposal to construct an accessible fishing pier at Long Lake, subject to public consultation.
2. That a letter of commendation be sent to Mr. Durvin for his outstanding effort.

The wheelchair accessible fishing pier will increase community access to the waterfront and staff anticipates that the pier will be used by only a small number of people fishing at any one time. The fishing pier will have a railing so that it will not be appropriate for swimming or diving off. Based on other park operations, and fishing pier installations, staff expect that area residents will not be greatly impacted by the installation of the fishing pier.

The adjacent property owners have expressed concern that the fishing pier will increase after hours park use involving loitering, drinking, noise and vandalism; and will increase the lack of parking during the summer months.

Commissioner Lance asked where the people using the accessible pier would park. Mr. Hickey advised that the closest parking is roadside along Wellesley Avenue, at Loudon Park and at other entrances to the walkway.

Commissioner Sperling asked what public consultation has taken place. Mr. Hickey advised that letters were sent to the adjoining walkway residents and noted that a copy of the correspondence was included on the agenda. He also noted that the recommendation states that pier use will be monitored and a review will take place after 6 months.

Commissioner Sperling asked if a review of the neighbour's issues could take place first. Mr. Hickey indicated that staff are recommending installation of the fishing pier while working to address park issues because the installation of the fishing pier will have limited impact on park use.

Commissioner Field noted that this project is a floating dock rather than a pier. He said that residents feel strongly that they have not been included in a public process regarding this change to the park area.

Commissioner Sherry asked what the City has done to eliminate the residential concerns regarding parking and after hours problems. Mr. Hickey replied that residents can call Bylaws and/or the RCMP for after hour problems and staff will install signs indicating park hours at all trailheads. To best address parking at Loudon Park a redesign of the parking lot should be considered by Commission.

Commissioner Sherry stated that if Commission wants neighbourhood support for this project, a resolution to past problems needs to take place first. He noted that there is a steep embankment at the proposed pier site that would make it difficult for wheelchair access and asked if the trail will be paved. Mr. Hickey responded that the trail will be of a fine limestone crush that works well for wheelchair accessibility.

Commissioner Sherry noted that the Rowing Club has a large trailer, with nothing on it, that is taking up several parking spaces along the side of the road and the Club should be encouraged to find a space off site to park it.

Commissioner Cameron asked what the maintenance costs of the pier will be annually. Mr. Harding, Manager of Parks, said that little maintenance would be required unless there was vandalism.

Commissioner Johnstone asked if Loudon Park and walkway could be gated and locked at night, similar to Westwood Lake parking lot. Mr. Hickey replied that gating is effective for controlling vehicle access to parks but not for controlling pedestrian access to parks and walkways.

Commissioner Lance asked if the RCMP supports the accessible fishing pier project. Mr. Hickey advised that staff have consulted with City Bylaw and the RCMP and because there is already a rowing dock, plus 4 private docks on park property, they believe there would be minimal impact on park use.

Commissioner Dempsey commented that it seems that the neighbour's concerns are not necessarily the issue of the pier, but of the problems already taking place in the park. Therefore, the City should address the existing problems before installing the fishing pier.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks Committee and staff work with neighbourhood residents on the issues affecting Loudon Park and monitor use through the summer.

Carried unanimously.

3. (1) **Serauxmen Sports Field Naming.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that the City reserves the naming rights of parks and facilities for individuals who have made a special contribution to the community; or for clubs and organizations to recognize their contributions in the development of the facility. Malaspina University-College, in cooperation with Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association, is requesting that the City name the 90 foot baseball diamond and adjoining soccer pitch within the Serauxmen Sports Field Complex, the "Mariner Field" in recognition of the \$275,000 contribution made by the Malaspina University-College.

Commissioner Sherry asked if these fields will be used 12 months of the year and if that will impact wildlife. Mr. Hickey replied that the Land Use Plan adopted by Council supports year round use. He noted that any time land is developed, there is an impact to wildlife. However, studies indicate the wildlife within the natural areas will be minimally impacted.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommends that Council supports naming the 90 foot baseball diamond and adjoining soccer pitch within the Serauxmen Sports Fields the "Mariner Field".

Carried unanimously.

3. (2) **Neighbours of Nob Hill requesting trees on sections of Victoria Road.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that at their 2005-JUN-22 regular meeting, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission received a letter from the Neighbourhood Association of Nob Hill requesting that street trees be planted along Old Victoria Road. The Commission directed Parks Staff to work with the group to develop a concept plan to implement and maintain street trees in this area, including costs.

Staff reviewed the areas identified by the Neighbours of Nob Hill along Victoria Road and determined there were no feasible locations at this time. Instead, Staff suggested planting trees at specific locations along Selby, Prideaux, Hecate and Finlayson Streets. Approximately 10 locations have been identified and trees have already been purchased through a BC Hydro Street Tree Grant. Planting will be completed by Parks Staff and tree maintenance will be carried out by area residents. Tree planting is planned for this Spring after all residents have agreed to the locations and have committed to watering the trees.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the report be received.

Carried unanimously.

3. (3) **Cultural Capitals of Canada 2008 Application.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that, as requested by the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, an application has been prepared for submission to the Government of Canada, Department of Canadian Heritage, for Nanaimo to become a Cultural Capital of Canada in 2008. The program awards cities whose previous achievements demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the arts and culture; and provides funds to enable cities to host special events that highlight the importance of arts and cultural activities in their communities. The theme of the 2008 application is "Nanaimo...Living Our Culture" and it includes 5 celebratory events and 4 legacy projects involving over 20 of Nanaimo's cultural organizations.

The City, if designated as a Cultural Capital in the 50,000 and 125,000 population category, will receive up to 75% of project funding to a maximum of \$750,000 to celebrate arts and cultural achievements and to provide for future cultural development. By becoming a Cultural Capital, Nanaimo will enhance its ability to attract residents and visitors to our City as a desirable place to live, work and play.

The application requires a resolution of support from Council and the application deadline is 2006-MAR-08.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that:

1. The Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommends that Council authorizes the submission of a Cultural Capitals of Canada 2008 Grant Application to the Government of Canada, Department of Canadian Heritage; and further;
2. The Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommends that Council commits \$104,315, plus \$31,950 in-kind, for the Cultural Capital Celebratory Event Program in 2008, themed "Nanaimo...Living Our Culture".

Carried unanimously.

3. (4) **Request to Expand Crown Land (DL 56) Lease Area to Facilitate a Playground in the Nottingham Park Area.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that Nottingham Park is in a residential neighbourhood in the Departure Bay area adjacent to District Lot 56 (DL 56). The park is half an acre in size and is very steep.

In December 2004, Nottingham Park neighbours contacted the City about constructing a playground through the Volunteer in Parks (VIP) Program because there is none within walking distance. A neighborhood meeting was held on 2006-JAN-22 to review options but because Nottingham Park is very steep it is not suitable for the construction of a playground.

The neighbourhood group approached the Province requesting the use of a portion of DL 56, adjacent to the DL 56 lease area that the City has for a water pump station, as an alternate site to build the playground. The area immediately behind the water pump house structure is flat, would facilitate the development of a playground site and is easily accessible by trail for Nottingham residents. Crown Lands advised that application to expand the current DL 56 leased area from 0.3 acres (1176 m²) to 0.4 acres (1670 m²) in order to facilitate playground development must come from the City.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommends Council submit an application to the Province to enlarge the existing lease area within DL 56 from 0.3 acres (1176 m²) to 0.4 acres (1670 m²) to permit the development of a neighbourhood playground.

Carried unanimously.

3. (6) **Pearson Park Improvements.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that Pearson Park is located along Terminal Avenue at the Stewart Avenue intersection. The City of Nanaimo Parks, Recreation and Culture Horticultural Strategy identified Pearson Park as a location requiring upgrading to improve the overall look and function of the park.

The objectives include adding spring and summer annuals and a variety of fountain grasses at the base of the palm trees; creating a curved block planter that mimics the City's wave logo and provides improved visual appeal and interest to the site; and to reshape the flower bed featuring a Magnolia tree. In addition, most of the asphalt will be removed and replaced with lawn.

The Pearson Park improvement project is scheduled for this spring at a cost of \$23,000 and will be funded from the 2006 Horticultural Strategy Capital Budget.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the report be received.

Carried unanimously.

3. (7) **Manager of Parks Monthly Report.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, briefly reviewed his report. He advised that the draft Linley Valley (Cottle Lake) Park plan will be provided to Commission at their March meeting, after which Commission will host a public meeting.

Commissioner Sherry asked if there is signage at the trailheads of Richards Marsh boardwalk. Mr. Harding advised that signage is in the process of being posted.

Commissioner Johnstone asked about the Tree Protection Bylaw regarding what developers provide and if residents can remove trees. Mr. Harding replied that developers have to maintain 20% of the trees which is often part of the public land; but that residents of single family lots can remove trees.

Commissioner Lance asked if it was possible to publish the cost of vandalism in our parks either on the City Page or on the City website thereby encouraging residents to keep a watchful eye. Commissioner Sperling suggested Shaw Cable video taping. Mr. Harding advised that the vandalism costs this month are a result of organized crime not neighbourhood kids.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that staff undertakes a public awareness program regarding the impact and cost of vandalism in our parks.

Carried unanimously.

3. (8) **Manager of Recreation and Culture Services Monthly Report.** Mr. B. Kuhn, Acting Manager of Recreation and Culture Services, reviewed his report.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE AND COMMUNITY REPORTS:

4. (1) **Port Theatre** – the monthly activity reports for November, December and January were reviewed.
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 Commission Representative and Community Reports be received.

Carried unanimously.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INFORMATION:

- 5. (1) Copy of correspondence to Mr. Bob Kuhn, from Kim McMillan, 6018 Wardun Drive, Nanaimo BC V9T 6H6 expressing appreciation for offering the Full Figure Exercise Class on a drop in basis.
- 5. (2) Copy of minutes from the Bowen Park Seniors Board Meeting held Friday, 2006-JAN-06.
- 5. (3) Copy of minutes from the Bowen Park Seniors Board Meeting held Friday, 2006-FEB-03.
- 5. (4) Copy of correspondence to Mr. Ken Epps, Island Timberlands Limited Partnership, Nanoose Bay, from Mr. Jim Plasteras, Supervisor of Parks Operations, expressing appreciation for the donation of "cinder" material to be used on City baseball infields.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

- (1) **Dr. P. Ross, Malaspina University-College, 900 Fifth Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 5S5, Ms. P. Huggins and Ms. L. Domino, Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association, Box 327, Nanaimo BC V9R 5L3,**
Dealt with previously.
- (3) **Ms. Elizabeth Kauwell, 4134 Wellesley Avenue, Nanaimo BC V9T 2B9.**
Dealt with previously.
- (4) **Ms. Karin Parakin, (4200 Victoria Avenue), 2715-105th Street, Nanaimo BC V9T 3X7,**
Dealt with previously.
- (5) **Ms. Donna Hais, Chair, Building Committee, Nanaimo Christian School, 198 Holland Road, Nanaimo BC V9R 6W2.**
Dealt with previously.
- (6) **Mr. Jim Kemp, Nanaimo Gyro Club,**

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission support the installation of the Gyro Club Monument at Georgia Park.

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) 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) Options and costs to repair the Departure Bay Lacrosse Box – staff report.
- (5) PacificSport request for annual funding – staff report.
- (6) Issues affecting Loudon Park – referred to Parks Committee & staff.
- (7) Nanaimo Christian School request to purchase park land – staff report.
- (8) Park Zones and Identifying Parkland – staff report.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

Commissioners Light and Johnstone advised that they are interested in attending the BCRPA Annual Symposium "Connections", 2006-APR-27 to 29 in Vancouver.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD.

1. Mr. Fred Taylor, 204 Emery Way, Nanaimo BC V9R 5Z8, asked if the Commission would be showing leadership to the Long Lake residents by asking the Bylaw Department to enforce the parking regulations. Mr. Taylor asked who would hold the water lease if the pier is installed. Chair McNabb replied that the City would.

Mr. Taylor noted that Council is on record stating that the City is to maintain as much area for public use as possible, and to discourage leasing City property. He asked what the City is doing about the several illegal docks on public land at Long Lake. Chair McNabb noted that encroachment issues are being addressed.

2. Mr. Rory Rickwood, Friends of the Cat Stream, 519 Pine Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 2C6, said that 5 years ago the Third Street Steering Committee forwarded a series of 9 recommendations to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission that were adopted and forwarded to Council. Mr. Rickwood said that Recommendation #3 stated there was to be no organized use from November to February. Mr. Rickwood asked if there is to be year round use of the Serauxmen Sports Fields.

Mr. Hickey replied that Recommendation #3 was amended by Council to permit year round use.

Mr. Rickwood stated that Recommendation #5 indicated the fields would be for single use and now it appears there will be multi-use on these fields. Was that recommendation amended? Mr. Hickey stated that he will forward a copy of the Third Street Land Use Plan as adopted by Council 2001-JUN-18 to Mr. Rickwood.

Mr. Rickwood stated that Recommendation #7 indicated that the wildlife habitat was to be left as is and yet the City has encroached on the habitat by permitting 800 Douglas Fir trees to be planted. He asked about construction of the field house noting that Recommendation #8 was for single use for baseball. Mr. Hickey replied that year round use was adopted by Council and, therefore, the field house will be for multi-use. Mr. Harding noted that the field house will be situated close to Third Street, at the furthest point away from the marsh area.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED: 9:25 p.m.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the meeting reconvene.

Carried unanimously.

MEETING RECONVENED: 9:45 p.m.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

- (2) **Mr. Drew Cooper, PacificSport Group, 900 – Fifth Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 5S5.**
Mr. Hickey confirmed that this delegation presented directly to Council who referred them to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission.

Commissioners noted that PacificSport does collect significant gaming and lottery funds and does pay some rent to the College.

Commissioner Lance commented that when PacificSport commenced operations, they were to become self sufficient within three years.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission directs staff to review the financial information provided by PacificSport this evening, and report back at the 2006-MAR-22 Commission meeting.

Carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Cultural Committee –***note date and time change for this meeting only.*** Wednesday, 2006-MAR-08, 7:00 p.m.

Recreation Committee (*if required*) Wednesday, 2006-MAR-08, 4:00 p.m.

Parks Committee Thursday, 2006-MAR-09, 5:00 p.m.

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

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED: 9:58 p.m.