

**MINUTES OF THE NINTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF NANAIMO
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION, HELD IN THE
CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX,
ON WEDNESDAY, 2005-OCT-26, AT 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Members: Commissioner L. McNabb, Chair
Commissioner B. Holdom
Commissioner D. Tyndall
Commissioner S. Lance
Commissioner D. Johnstone
Commissioner B. Lane
Commissioner A. Young
Commissioner J. Whiteaker

Absent: Commissioner C. Tang
Commissioner P. Field
Commissioner G. Baltzer
Commissioner B. Sperling

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

PRESENTATION OF PROVINCIAL AWARDS:

Commissioners Holdom, Lance, Lane and Whiteaker presented Provincial awards and certificates to the 12 Year Old and under All Star Pirates Baseball Team (17); 13 Year Old All Star Palladian Pirates Baseball Team (15) and the BC Seniors Games Zone 2 (47) champions.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Budget and Eighth Regular Meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission held 2005-OCT-05 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) **Mr. Brad Durvin, 3201 Country Club Drive, Nanaimo BC V9T 3B3.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks introduced Mr. Brad Durvin and provided a brief background about the accessible fishing pier project.

Mr. Durvin advised that as a Wellington Secondary School Grade 12 student last spring he won the SuperPages "Make it Real" competition. The community project he presented was the construction of a wheelchair accessible fishing pier at Long Lake because he had seen people with mobility challenges having difficulty fishing at that location. He noted that, in his opinion, Long Lake has the best trout fishing in Nanaimo and a fishing pier there would be well used.

Mr. Durvin stated that this project has the support of the Nanaimo Fish and Game Protective Association who have provided fishing pier construction plans. He stated that the proposed

location at Long Lake will enable the fishing pier to be close to shore and yet have good depth for fishing. It will also result in more use of an underutilized part of the park. Material prices have been obtained and the project budget is approximately \$7,500. He informed Commission that he has raised over \$9,000 for this project and has commitments for an additional \$1,600.

Mr. Durvin noted that this project also fits with the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan recommendations regarding creating a new public facility. He also believes the fishing pier will reduce some of the conflicts that occur when fishermen use the rowing dock. He asked for Commission's support and endorsement of this project.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

- (2) **Ms. Janice Paquette, Crystal Brook Way Volunteer In Park (VIP) Committee, 2464 Crystal Brook Way, Nanaimo BC V9T 6L5,** requested a \$20,000 grant from the Volunteer In Park fund for playground equipment and development. Currently, the park property is not maintained and there is no play area in the neighbourhood for the approximately 25 to 30 young children. She advised that the primary goals of the project are to provide areas for the neighbourhood children that encourage physically active play, imaginative play, fitness development, organized group play and solitary play; and to provide adults with a seating area from which to supervise their children. This park improvement would also enhance the appearance of the neighbourhood and provide a location for neighbourhood get-togethers.

Ms. Paquette stated that the proposed plan includes a play structure for toddlers through to age 12; a hard surface play area for a range of activities such as basketball, hockey and hopscotch; benches for seating; some fencing; a small grass area; trees and shrubs and a berm to separate the parkway and the park area. She suggested that work would commence in the Spring of 2006 with completion anticipated for September 2006.

The VIP Committee has raised donations of cash, supplies, materials and labour; and is continuing to fundraise and solicit donations. A neighbour is a landscaper and has offered his services.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Ms. Janice Paquette, Crystal Brook Way VIP, be received.

Carried unanimously.

- (3) **Ms. Leeanne Cutmore, Brackenwood Park Volunteer In Park (VIP) Committee, 2304 Briarwood Place, Nanaimo BC V9T 4J4,** requested a \$20,000 grant from the Volunteer In Park fund for playground development and noted that this large older park is not only in need of a facelift but the existing equipment no longer meets CSA standards and has been removed.

Ms. Cutmore advised that the primary goals of the project are to provide a safe, visible area for the neighbourhood children that will encourage physical activity by having a variety of equipment available to promote an active lifestyle; and to provide adults with a pleasant area to interact and to supervise their children. Another goal is to provide an area to host get-togethers thereby establishing community bonds. There are a lot of children in the area between the ages of 2 and 12 and the existing area is not safe.

Ms. Cutmore stated that the proposed plan includes a play structure for toddlers through to age 12; benches and picnic tables; street signs to make motorists aware that children are playing; some tree removal for better sightlines; hardening of trails to create a tricycle path around the park; removal of non-compliant CSA equipment and installation of new playground equipment; fencing on the York Avenue side of the park; installation of intermittent lighting and the addition of large rocks as a multi-purpose seating space. She advised that site preparation work would commence in the Spring of 2006.

The VIP Committee noted that many residents and several local businesses have made contributions to date and will provide labour for site clearing and installation of equipment. A neighbour is a landscaper and another has experience trimming trees and both have volunteered their time. Ms. Cutmore advised that a neighbourhood bottle drive and garage sale is being organized to raise additional funds. The Committee wants to change the name of the park because Brackenwood is only one of the three streets that lead into it but a new name has not been chosen at this time.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Ms. Leeanne Cutmore, Brackenwood Park VIP, be received.

Carried unanimously.

- (4) **Ms. Sandra Thomson, General Manager, Port Theatre, 125 Front Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 6Z4**, advised that the Port Theatre Society President and Vice-President were both unable to attend this evening. She distributed financial information regarding the Port Theatre's Higher Service Level request of a 2% cost of living increase to both the Management Fee and the Capital Fund allocation.

Ms. Thomson reviewed the budget comparison document regarding revenues and expenditures noting that even though the request is for a 2% increase to the management fee, the annual budget reflects that the percentage of the City subsidy is actually decreasing. She stated that the City management fee is used for facility operating costs and administrative operations such as wages/benefits.

Commissioner Holdom noted that the increased rental income reflected on the budget document would indicate that there is no need for additional City funding.

Ms. Thomson reviewed the facility operating costs for the period 2003 to 2005 identifying where funds have been saved and where costs have increased. She stated that the Society and staff have worked diligently to keep costs down but expenses keep increasing. The Society does not want to raise rental rates for community groups.

Ms. Thomson reviewed the 2006 projected operating revenues, expenditures and capital projects noting that the 7 Year Capital Plan continues to be implemented. She stated that \$50,000 will be earned from the \$1/ticket charge and \$32,525 will be realized if the Municipality of Lantzville, Electoral Area D – Pleasant Valley and Electoral Area E – Nanoose, vote in favour of funding the Port Theatre. This money will be allocated to projects that are not currently in the 7 Year Capital Plan such as building a storage unit in the parkade and financing an exterior marquee. She noted that the Endowment Fund currently has a balance of \$105,274 and none of that revenue will be directed to the Operating Budget until it reaches \$1 million.

Commissioner Holdom asked if Ms. Thomson means that the City management fee would continue to increase annually so that rental rates and ticket fees could remain the same. Ms. Thomson replied that rental fees are based on a minimum rental fee plus % of ticket sales and each person who purchases a ticket is contributing to the capital development fund. This is felt to be a very fair system and is used by many organizations across Canada similar to Port Theatre.

Commissioner Holdom asked if it is expected that revenues will increase as much as the management fee. Ms. Thomson replied that increased rental revenue of 17% was realized this year; but the economic climate made it very difficult to increase costs to patrons.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Ms. Sandra Thomson, General Manager, Port Theatre, be received.

Carried unanimously.

- (5) **Mr. Ron Walker, Nanaimo Lions Club,** advised that he is representing the Nanaimo Lions Club, the Hub City Lions Club and the Harbour Lites Lioness Club, who all represent the BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities.

Mr. Walker stated that last year the Society held a very successful fundraising project in Vancouver and Victoria called *Orcas in the City* which involved local artists painting large fibreglass orcas that were placed around the downtown area of both cities. The sculptures were a significant tourist attraction and were on display for five months before being auctioned off in two gala events that raised approximately \$800,000. The Society has embarked on a follow-up project for Summer 2006 entitled *Spirit Bears in the City*, based on the white Kermode Bear of the North Coast Rain Forest. These bears would be approximately 7 feet in height which would be the approximate size of an actual bear.

Mr. Walker stated that because the project was so successful in Victoria and Vancouver last year, the Cities of Prince George, Prince Rupert and the Municipality of Whistler have also committed to partner with the Lions Clubs in the 2006 fundraising initiative. He advised that there are already 2 sponsorship agreements for bears in Nanaimo and negotiations for more are underway. The Lions Club would like to have a minimum of 6 bears and possibly as many as a dozen.

Mr. Walker asked the Commission to endorse this project and commit to providing safe display areas to protect them from vandalism. He also requested that the City sponsor the installation of a *Spirit Bear* to be located at either City Hall or Beban Park at a cost of \$4,500. The bear would be painted to a design approved by the City and auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Commissioner Holdom asked why the project is called *Bears in the City* as opposed to *Kermode Bears in the City*? Mr. Walker replied that it was a tag line to provide an image.

Commissioner Lane asked if the local native groups have been contacted because the Kermode Bear may have significance to them. Mr. Walker advised that native artists are involved and he will ensure that the Snuneymuxw First Nations are advised of the project.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. Ron Walker, Nanaimo Lions Club, be received.

Carried unanimously.

- (6) **Mr. Mel Sheng, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 4166B Departure Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC V9T 4B7,** provided an update on the Millstone River Diversion Channel project. He advised that Fisheries and Oceans staff completed test holes in Bowen Park this summer and found bedrock below the soil in all of them. He noted that this will make the project more challenging but, he believes, it is still achievable. The bypass channels will allow the fish to move past the two sets of falls in Bowen Park and travel as far as Brannen Lake and Diver Lake.

Mr. Sheng advised that Fisheries and Oceans Canada staff are working on a more detailed plan to present to Commission in Spring 2006. Public meetings will be scheduled following the presentation. Mr. Sheng added that he would like to showcase this project at the fundraising dinner auction scheduled for Saturday, 2005-NOV-12.

Mr. Sheng noted that on Commission's Late Correspondence, the letter from Mr. Don Brattly, President, Nanaimo and District Fish and Game Protective Association regarding enhancing the pink salmon population is an attempt to improve the spawning cycle in the Nanaimo River. This project has, he believes, the potential to revitalize the sport fishing industry in the Nanaimo area but will require the full support of the First Nations people and the Port Authority.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. Mel Sheng, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, be received.

Carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chair McNabb advised that Council, at their meeting of 2005-OCT-03, referred to the Parks Recreation and Culture Commission the request by Mr. Ron Walker, Nanaimo Lions Club, regarding the installation of "Spirit Bears" at various locations throughout the City; and that the City consider funding the installation of one "Spirit Bear".

Commissioners supported the fundraising project and said that it will be important to ensure that the spirit bear creations are respected and placed in well lit areas to prevent vandalism. Commissioners commented that "Spirit Bear" donations should be on a personal level and that it is not the City's business to fund a charitable organization.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission endorse the *Spirit Bears in the City* project.

Carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lance asked if the Cultural Committee could, as an Art in Public Places project, consider bidding on one of the Spirit Bears when they are auctioned.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. (1) Correspondence from Mr. Don Brattly, President, Nanaimo and District Fish and Game Protective Association, Box 211, Nanaimo BC V9R 5K9 requesting that Commission endorse their project of placing 500,000 Pink Salmon Fry in Swy-a-Lana Lagoon during March/April 2006; and provide a letter of support for their funding application to the Pacific Salmon Foundation.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission provide a letter of support for the Nanaimo and District Fish and Game Protective Association's funding application to the Pacific Salmon Foundation pending endorsement of the project by the Nanaimo Port Authority and other Provincial and Federal Regulatory Agencies.

Carried unanimously.

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) **Youth Programs and Services Staff Presentation.** Ms. Michele Duerksen advised that there are youth who are involved in leadership and extra curricular activities; are in school and enjoy being with their friends; and those who are at risk. The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department offer programs for the first two groups and the youth at risk are serviced by specialized organizations such as ADAPT, NADAC, Nanaimo Youth Services Association, One Stop and Neutral Zone.

The Youth Leadership Program (LIT/Quest) has been operating successfully since 1982. This program involves the:

- Junior LIT program for ages 11 to 14 youth, which had 44 youth participate in 2005, volunteering 1350 hours during the summer.
- LIT program for youth aged 14 to 18 including LIT Aquatics and LIT Arenas, which had 62 youth participate this year, volunteering 5500 hours.
- Quest program for youth ages 15 to 18, which had 14 youth who helped with planning special events, activities and also mentoring the LITs.

Ms. Duerksen noted that only the very best participants are hired as seasonal leaders and this fall, there are 40 youth involved in the LIT / Quest program.

The Youth Drop In program commenced in 2002 and was made possible by partnering with the Government of Canada (HRDC-JCP), Boys and Girls Club and the Harewood Family of Community Schools (SD68). This free drop in program for youth aged 12 to 17 is held 3 times per week at John Barsby, NDSS and the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre and provides youth options to participate in supervised activities in a safe environment. The program averages attendance of approximately 30 participants per week. Future plans include operating two additional drop-in programs in central and north Nanaimo.

Ms. Duerksen stated that some of her other responsibilities include operating teen dances, offering programs such as CSI, Restaurant Readiness, Girls Get Active Camp, facilitating summer staff training and building partnerships with other agencies focused on youth.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Ms. M. Duerksen, Recreation Programmer, be received.

Carried unanimously.

3. (2) **Horticultural Society's 60th Anniversary Monument.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, advised that staff met with the Nanaimo Horticultural Society and discussed the redevelopment of Piper Park with respect to its suitability for placing a monument recognizing the Society's 60th anniversary. Society members felt that Piper Park would be an ideal location for their anniversary project and that they would be interested in being involved in maintaining the park.

The Horticultural Society members are interested in placing "The Gardener" figure, by Nathan Scott, in a horticultural bed at Piper Park. Upon review of the brochure and discussions with the artist, it was concluded that it is possible to construct a version of the gardener figure without sharp or fragile objects (such as shears or a rake) that will also withstand vandalism.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission support the Nanaimo Horticultural Society establishing a monument within Piper Park to mark their 60th anniversary.

Carried unanimously.

3. (3) **Manager of Parks Monthly Report.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, reviewed his report noting that there has been a lot of Volunteer in Parks (VIP) projects completed in the past few years.

Commissioner Holdom asked how VIP projects are chosen. Mr. Harding replied that it is a neighbourhood participation program, designed to bring the efforts of the neighbourhood together with the support of the City via the Commission. If enough neighbours contact the Department, a neighbourhood meeting is held. Then, if there is a good turn out at the meeting and enough interest expressed, a Neighbourhood Committee is formed. Then, with Parks staff help, a proposal is prepared for Commission's consideration.

Commissioner Johnstone commented that Colliery Dam Park is receiving lots of use and some of the youth are riding BMX bikes off the trail and over a cliff. She asked if the City could be held responsible if an injury occurred. Mr. Harding stated that the City would not be held accountable because the trails and bridges are safe. He added that because Colliery Dam Park is being so well used, staff are looking into the possibility of initiating a Park Warden program in that location.

Commissioner Lance stated that the cost of vandalism is enormous and the public should be made aware of it. Mr. Harding replied that lights and video surveillance cameras will be installed at the new artificial turf field to prevent vandalism; and he is participating in a meeting with Bylaw staff, the Security Company and the RCMP Bike Patrol to discuss options to discourage vandalism.

3. (4) **Manager of Recreation and Culture Services Monthly Report.** Mr. B. Meunier, Manager of Recreation and Culture Services, reviewed his report.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

4. (1) **Port Theatre** – Commissioner Whiteaker reviewed the monthly activity report.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Port Theatre report be received.

Carried unanimously.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INFORMATION:

5. (1) Copy of Correspondence from the Upper Island Music Festival expressing appreciation for honouring their three Provincial Winners.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

- (1) **Mr. Brad Durvin, 3201 Country Club Drive, Nanaimo BC V9T 3B3.**

Chair McNabb confirmed that Mr. Durvin, on his own initiative, raised all the necessary funding to complete this project.

Motion

It was moved and seconded 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.

Carried unanimously.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that a letter of commendation be sent to Mr. Durvin for his outstanding effort.

Carried unanimously.

- (2) **Ms. Janice Paquette, Crystal Brook Way VIP, 2464 Crystal Brook Way, Nanaimo BC V9T 6L5.**

Commissioner Lance asked about the statement made by the delegation that some of the funds would be used for site clearing, noting that City funding is for the purchase of the play equipment. She asked Mr. Harding to check on this.

Commissioner Johnstone said that it seems like a significant expense for only 25 neighbourhood children. Mr. Harding stated that there is no other neighbourhood play area for their children and they are an active group trying to improve their neighbourhood.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission allocate \$20,000 from the 2006 VIP fund to the Crystal Brook Way VIP Group providing that the funds are not used for site clearing.

Carried unanimously.

- (3) **Ms. Lianne Cutmore, Brackenwood Park VIP, 2304 Briarwood Place, Nanaimo BC V9T 4J4.**

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission allocate \$20,000 from the 2006 VIP fund to the Brackenwood Park VIP Group.

Carried unanimously.

(4) Ms Sandra Thomson, General Manager, Port Theatre, 125 Front Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 6Z4.

Commissioner Whiteaker stated that a management fee was established at \$375,000 five years ago and was increased to \$400,000 in 2004; however, costs have continually increased during this time. The Port Theatre Society is an extremely efficient operation and is requesting only a 2% increase to help offset costs. Commissioner Whiteaker noted that the Port Theatre appears to be very closely scrutinized and asked if all other City facilities are scrutinized to the same degree. He stated that the Port Theatre is a very tightly controlled operation and perhaps City staff should make a recommendation as to whether the Port Theatre Society is handling its affairs well, or identify what areas are deficient.

Commissioner Holdom asked for a staff recommendation. Mr. Hickey noted that the City has an agreement with the Port Theatre Society for their management and operation of the Port Theatre. The Higher Service Level Request is for Commission and Council consideration based on community need, and taxpayer value related to theatre operating costs.

Commissioner Holdom asked how the 2% management fee increase compares to the operations for the City managed facilities such as the pools with regard to cost of living. Mr. Hickey replied that the cost of living increase is approximately 1.5% – 2% and that operating costs have increased in City facilities for wages, benefits, contract services, electricity and gas.

Commissioner Lane noted that the request for a 2% increase is also on their Capital Fund allocation and from reading the agreement, he believes, that is not permitted.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommends that Council supports the Port Theatre Society's Higher Service Level request for a 2% cost of living increase for the operating management component of the fee for \$8,000.

Carried unanimously.

(5) Mr. Ron Walker, Nanaimo Lions Club.
Dealt with previously.

(6) Mr. Mel Sheng, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 4166B Departure Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC V9T 4B7.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission supports the Millstone River Diversion Channel project.

Carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Unfinished Business Item #3, Location for Horticultural Society's 60th Anniversary Monument, and Item #7, Port Theatre Higher Service level Request, 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) Memorial Bench Program – staff report.
- (3) Vegetation Plan for the beach area on Departure Bay Road – report in Spring 2006.
- (4) "Generations" life size stone female statue – referred to Cultural Committee.
- (5) Options and costs to repair the Departure Bay Lacrosse Box – staff report.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

Commissioner Tyndall noted that the Cultural Forum was excellent.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Cultural Committee Wednesday, 2005-NOV-02; 4:15 p.m.

Recreation Committee Tuesday, 2005-NOV-15; 5:00 p.m.

Parks Committee (*if required*) Thursday, 2005-NOV-10; 5:00 p.m.

COMMISSION **Wednesday, 2005-NOV-23; 7:00 p.m.**

COMMISSION CHRISTMAS SOCIAL **Wednesday, 2005-DEC-07; 6:30 p.m.**

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED: 9:25 p.m.