

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTH 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-JUN-22, AT 7:00 P.M.**

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**PRESENT:**

**Members:** Commissioner L. McNabb, Chair  
Commissioner G. Baltzer  
Commissioner P. Field  
Commissioner S. Lance  
Commissioner D. Johnstone  
Commissioner C. Tang  
Commissioner A. Young  
Commissioner J. Whiteaker

**Absent:** Commissioner B. Lane  
Commissioner D. Tyndall  
Commissioner B. Holdom  
Commissioner B. Sperling

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

**PRESENTATION OF PROVINCIAL AWARDS:**

Commissioners Lance and Tang presented Provincial awards and certificates to the Nanaimo Diamonds Synchronized Swim Team (15).

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission held 2005-MAY-25 be adopted as circulated.

**Carried unanimously.**

**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. Gavin Halkett, Past Commander, Nanaimo Power and Sail Squadron, #401-145 Newcastle Avenue, Nanaimo BC V9S 4H7,** requested permission to place a pedestal table with a nautical harbour map and commemorative plaque in Maffeo Sutton Park to honour the many squadron volunteers who, since 1956, have taught safe-boating in Nanaimo. He noted that this is part of the Lion's Club Maffeo Sutton project that will be presented to Commission at their July meeting.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. Gavin Halkett, Past Commander, Nanaimo Power and Sail Squadron, be received.

**Carried unanimously.**

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the request from Mr. Gavin Halkett, Past Commander, Nanaimo Power and Sail Squadron, be referred to the Parks Committee for consideration and recommendation.

**Carried unanimously.**

- (2) **Mr. Fred Taylor, 204 Emery Way, Nanaimo BC V9R 5Z8**, spoke to the ongoing construction of play fields at the Third Street Park property and stated that he remains of the opinion that there is lead contamination on the site. He provided a 1942 Department of National Defence map on which he marked the shotgun discharge area. Mr. Taylor stated that lead contamination poses a health issue for the public and also a danger to the Cat Stream.

Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, advised that all environmental studies have been completed and show no contamination. He stated that after Mr. Taylor expressed concerns about lead contamination on the site, additional random testing was done and again, no contamination identified.

Commissioner Whiteaker acknowledged the findings of the EBA Engineering Consultants report but noted that the lead shot must be on the ground somewhere and asked what the City's responsibility is and should further testing be undertaken.

Mr. Harding circulated to Commission the conclusions from the latest EBA Engineering Consultants report of June 2005 and quoted from the report that; *"Based on the test results obtained to date it is apparent that there is no significant impairment to either soil or groundwater on the property from the past shooting range operations. Furthermore, the area is considered suitable for the planned recreational development and EBA does not recommend any further environmental investigation of soil and/or groundwater within the former shooting range areas on the property."*

Mr. T. Hickey, Director, suggested that if Commission wished, Mr. Martin Jarman, Senior Environmental Scientist, EBA Engineering Consultants, could be invited to attend the July Commission meeting to review the report in detail.

**Motion**

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

**Carried unanimously.**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

**2005 BC Disability Games Committee.** Mr. Mike Donnelly, President, 2005 BC Disability Games Committee, advised that the Games are only three weeks away and preparation is going well with 600 volunteers and 429 athletes/assistants registered to date. The Transportation Directorate has been filled. The final budget has been adopted and it appears that there will be a legacy fund. There has been great sponsorship and co-operation within the community.

Commission is invited to attend the Opening Ceremony on 2005-JUL-14 at 7:00 p.m. and to enjoy the downtown entertainment being provided throughout the Games.

Mr. Donnelly and Commissioner Johnstone expressed appreciation to Bill France, City Liaison to the Games, for his excellent leadership and assistance.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. Mike Donnelly, President, 2005 BC Disability Games Committee, be received.

**Carried unanimously.**

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**2. (1) Parks Committee.** Commissioner Whiteaker reported on the meeting held 2005-JUN-09.

**2.(1.1) Community Gardens at Beaufort Park.**

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that Parks staff work with the proponents of a Community Garden at Beaufort Park through the VIP process to develop a community input plan with costs and operating principles to be brought back to the Commission for consideration.

**Carried unanimously.**

**2.(1.2) Neighbours of Nob Hill requesting trees on Victoria Road.**

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that Parks Staff work with the Neighbours of Nob Hill to develop a concept plan with proposed costs associated to implement and maintain street trees in this area and refer back to the Commission for consideration.

**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 Field reported on the meeting held 2005-JUN-01.

**Motion**

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

**Carried unanimously.**

**2. (4) Athletic Commission.** Commissioner McNabb advised that approximately 1,000 patrons attended the So You Wanna Fight event held at Beban Park on Friday, 2005-MAY-27.

Commissioner Whiteaker asked what the concerns were regarding the event at the Ecumenical Centre. Chair McNabb replied that all professional boxing, wrestling, kickboxing and like activities, contests and exhibitions have to be sanctioned by the Athletic Commission and the promoter of that event did not seek Athletic Commission approval.

**Motion**

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

**Carried unanimously.**

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**3. (1) Community Recreation and Culture Teen and Adult Programs Staff Presentation.**

Ms. T. Harwood and Ms. T. Fedosoff discussed teen and adult programs noting that trends over the past year indicate that adults:

- are shopping for the program and instructor, not the location;
- prefer short duration programs;
- find one day workshops very appealing;
- enjoy the all inclusive program idea where everything (i.e. supplies) is included.

Some of the most popular classes are dancing, fitness, language and hobby programs such as photography, eBay and home entertaining such as baking and sushi making. Kayaking, hiking and cycling also remain very popular. In some cases, participants are travelling from Parksville and Duncan to attend department programs.

Ms. Harwood discussed the co-ordinated program and facility approach adopted by programmers during the past year that involved identifying which facility is the most appropriate for specific programs; i.e. all cooking classes are now held in the commercial kitchen at Bowen Complex and all fitness programs are held in the Beban Auditorium. As well, all teen/adult programs now have consistent pricing based on the number of program hours. Total program offerings were reviewed and those that had not been meeting attendance requirements were eliminated. This resulted in a decrease to the number of programs offered; however, program registration increased which resulted in approximately \$10,000 more revenue.

Ms. Fedosoff advised that all adult programs are open to teens aged 15 and older. There has been lots of teen participation in programs, especially in language classes. She noted that the Department has a dedicated youth programmer, Ms. Michele Duerksen.

### **Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Ms. T. Harwood and Ms. T. Fedosoff, Recreation Programmers, be received.

**Carried unanimously.**

3. (2) **Feasibility of Planting Palm Trees along Departure Bay Road.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that staff have reviewed Mr. Skipper's proposal, and the feasibility of a palm tree lined drive, as well as other options that would create a similar effect.

Mr. Harding noted that upon review of the area, and in consultation with other City Departments, it was determined that an ocean side nodal approach to plantings is the most feasible and cost effective. The Engineering Department has identified this section of road as an area requiring road improvements and traffic calming work in 2006. The planned work includes the construction of three planting nodes that can be used to create the desired visual planting effect.

Mr. Plasteras, Supervisor of Parks Operations, advised that the botanical name for the species of palm tree hardy to Nanaimo's climate zone is '*Trachycarpus fortunei*' and that it is also known as Windmill Palm, Chinese Fan Palm, and Chusan Palm. "Windmill Palms" have been successfully used for many decades throughout south-western BC including Nanaimo, and are currently being used by several municipalities on the lower mainland as street trees and as group plantings. One of the reasons they are used is ease of care and tolerance to pests. This species would do well in the proposed planting locations and would also fit well with the goal of traffic calming and making the area more pedestrian friendly.

Mr. Plasteras noted that the palms are an excellent choice with respect to sight lines, scale and the "evergreen" value. Clear sight lines, which palms would provide, are essential in a high traffic area. If Commission wants to consider native trees, the best option for this site would be a variety of low growing maple or dogwood, although they would not be evergreen, or native evergreen shrubs instead of trees.

Since the road works and planting areas are planned for in the 2006 Capital Budget the only increased cost would be the purchase of the mature palm trees at approximately \$1,500/tree. Each planting area would have 5 palms for a total of 15 trees at a cost of \$22,500 with a yearly maintenance cost of \$1,200.

Commissioner Baltzer asked if palm trees are considered an invasive species. Mr. Plasteras replied that invasive species reproduce rapidly, take over large areas and are not native to the area; examples are blackberry, laurel and broom. Although the palm tree is not native to British Columbia, it is most definitely not an invasive species.

Commissioner Field asked if it is normal for the palm trunks to appear narrower at the bottom because that is not necessarily an attractive feature. Mr. Plasteras advised that the narrow base is a characteristic of a healthy palm. Planting low growing ornamental grasses at the base would conceal the narrow base.

Commissioner Whiteaker expressed concern about the reduction of 5 or 6 parking stalls because there is limited parking available in the Departure Bay area and asked if the plantings could be installed in such a way that no parking stalls are lost. Mr. Harding replied that the plantings are to slow the traffic down and make the roadway safer. Commissioner Whiteaker suggested that Engineering be asked what can be done to calm the traffic without losing parking stalls.

Commissioner Lance commented that she drives by that area often and the parking stalls are rarely full.

Commissioner Young noted that parking is also available at the Departure Bay Activity Centre, which is only one-half block away.

Commissioner McNabb advised that he will discuss additional parking with Engineering.

Mr. T. Hickey indicated that the preparation of the report did not include a public input process.

### **Motion**

It was moved and seconded that palm trees be included in the proposed plantings along Departure Bay Road as part of 2006 planned road works and that \$25,000 be included in the 2006 Parks, Recreation and Culture capital plan to be used to purchase palm trees and materials for this project.

**Carried unanimously.**

- 3. (3) Parks Horticultural Strategy.** The 'draft' Parks Horticultural Strategy document was circulated to Commission. Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, noted that the planning, co-ordination, development and maintenance of horticulture on all municipally owned and managed lands (including boulevards, medians and gateways) is the responsibility of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department. The Parks Horticultural Strategy was developed following the 2005 update to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan.

Mr. Harding noted that the strategy discusses current practices, priorities and improvements being recommended for various park locations.

Mr. Plasteras stated that parks employees are very current with the latest horticulture techniques and issues.

Commissioner Field asked if there are any plans for improvements to Terminal Avenue from the Bastion Street bridge to Commercial Street. Mr. Harding replied that Terminal Avenue is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Highways; however, when road redevelopment takes place City staff work with Ministry staff to implement improvements.

Mr. Harding asked the Commission to review the strategy over the next month so that it may be considered for adoption at the July 2005 meeting.

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the report be received.

**Carried unanimously.**

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

He advised that the Linley Valley Open House was well attended and a draft plan will be presented to Commission in late Fall. The synthetic turf field work at Grandview Bowl will commence 2005-JUL-04.

Mr. Hickey updated the Commission on the upgrades to Caledonia Park. The VI Raiders Junior Football Club has been allocated Caledonia Field. The VI Raiders play in a league that uses Canadian Football field dimensions and to meet this dimension the field is being extended in the corners onto portions of the track. After the modification the track will be a continuous 3 lane width through the corners and staff will be lining the inside lane of the track and posting a lap distance. The walkers and runners who use the track will continue to be able to do so. He noted that school sports days can still be hosted at Caledonia but that School track meets moved to Rotary Bowl several years ago.

The VI Raiders have purchased and installed a score clock, as well as goal posts, for Caledonia valued at about \$15,000. Area residents can expect music, game announcements and hopefully, cheering for home town scoring at the games. These games are played on Saturdays starting in the late afternoon. The Raiders will play 8 or 9 home games this year depending on playoffs.

Commissioner Field asked about the Fishing Pier at Long Lake. Mr. Harding replied that a location needs to be selected and a plan developed.

Commissioner Tang asked about the tree cutting at Sealand Park. Mr. Harding replied that it is in litigation.

Commissioner Johnstone asked if Calder Hill to the Westwood Lake trail could be designated off leash. Mr. Harding replied that this area was considered for off leash; however, because of other neighbourhood issues, the Commission did not consider it an appropriate location.

Commissioner Whiteaker suggested that rather than enforcing dog off leash bylaws, Commission should consider creating more dog off leash areas. Mr. Harding replied that there is mixed community opinion about dog off leash areas and dogs in parks. He stated that calls are frequently received requesting more dog off leash areas and an equal number of, or more, calls are received asking staff to deal with dogs that are running off leash in parks where a leash is required.

Commissioner Field noted that the vandalism costs are staggering and asked if we could request the public's assistance in monitoring parks and facilities. Mr. Hickey replied that staff are closely tracking vandalism expenses and that the Commission may want to discuss a strategy for getting more public assistance. Mr. Harding advised that some of the issues have been taken to Crime Stoppers.

3. (5) **Manager of Recreation and Culture Services Monthly Report.** Mr. B. Meunier, Manager of Recreation and Culture Services, reviewed his report noting that registration is up over last year. He invited Commission to attend the Canada Day celebrations at Maffeo-Sutton Park.

Commissioner Johnstone asked about the pseudomonas outbreak and what can be done differently to prevent another outbreak. Mr. Meunier replied that the public need to shower before entering the pool and guards are monitoring the public entering the pool from the change rooms. All Swim Clubs have also been asked to ensure that their members shower before entering the pool. Guards are also enforcing the 'no shoes on deck' policy and the public can purchase paper booties from the cashier if they do not want to remove their shoes. Staff have been working closely with the Vancouver Island Health Authority and every precaution is being taken. Other Island pools are also experiencing similar outbreaks and that may indicate that the pseudomonas bacterium is becoming resistant to the standard chemical treatment.

**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 noting that air conditioning has been installed in the Harmac Pacific Room, the stereo sound system has been upgraded and the long awaited sound shell will be installed in September, which will enable sound recording.

**Motion**

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

**Carried unanimously.**

4. (2) **BC Disability Games Committee** – dealt with previously

**ITEMS OF GENERAL INFORMATION:**

5. (1) Copy of correspondence to Mr. L. McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Mr. Bill Brayshaw, Nanaimo Empire Days' Celebration Society, expressing appreciation for the cultural grant.
5. (2) Copy of correspondence to Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Ms. Jane Templeman, Executive Director, Haven Society, in appreciation of the "Bloomin' Art 2005" arts and cultural events grant.
5. (3) Copy of News Release from Canadian Heritage, regarding "Government of Canada more than doubles funding for Cultural Capitals of Canada Award".
5. (4) Copy of News Release from RCMP, "Police Investigate Motor Vehicle Collision with Multiple Injuries (Louden Park).

**Motion**

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

**Carried unanimously.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:**

- (1) **Mr. Gavin Halkett, Nanaimo Power and Sail Squadron, #401-145 Newcastle Avenue, Nanaimo BC V9S 4H7.**

Commissioner Field asked if the complete plan for improvements to Maffeo-Sutton Park will be presented to Commission. Mr. Harding replied that the Lions Club will be presenting a concept plan to Commission at their July meeting and it will include the Power and Sail Squadron's request.

Commissioner Whiteaker asked if there is a Commission policy regarding commemorative plaques being installed in parks, and if not, he suggested Commission should set one. Chair McNabb suggested that each request needs to be adjudicated on its own merit.

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

Mr. Harding stated that all environmental studies have been completed with no concerns identified; and EBA Engineering Consultants recommend that no further environmental investigation of soil and/or groundwater is required.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that Unfinished Business Item (3) Palm Tree Lined Drive Along Departure Bay Road, Item (4) Community Gardens in Beaufort Park and Item (5) Neighbours of Nob Hill requesting trees on Victoria Road, 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) Location for Horticultural Society's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Monument – referred to staff to work with group to identify suitable location.
- (4) Parks Horticultural Strategy.

**ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:** Nil.

**MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD.** Nil.

**PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD.**

Mr. Taylor asked that canopy vegetation in parks not be removed unless complaints are received. He noted that the canopy in the park across from his property serves to stop balls from leaving the park without the need of a fence, thereby saving taxpayer's dollars.

Mr. Harding replied that the reason canopies are raised is to provide better sight lines which creates a safer environment for the public.

Mr. Taylor suggested that staff make use of the City's vandalism policy and pursue the people who do the vandalism rather than simply spending taxpayer's dollars in repairing it.



Mr. Harding advised that staff do work with the RCMP and the John Howard Society using restorative justice; and fines are sometimes levied in addition to community work. However, not everyone accepts restorative justice. He added that staff works with ICBC when applicable.

**NEXT MEETING DATES:**

Cultural Committee Wednesday, 2005-JUL-27; 4:00 p.m.

Recreation Committee *(if required)* Wednesday, 2005-JUL-13; 4:45 p.m.

Parks Committee Thursday, 2005-JUL-14; 5:00 p.m.

**COMMISSION** **Wednesday, 2005-JUL-27; 7:00 p.m.**

**Motion**

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

**Carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURNED:** 9:05 p.m.