

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF NANAIMO
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION, HELD IN THE
CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX,
ON WEDNESDAY, 2005-APR-27, AT 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Members: Commissioner L. McNabb, Chair
Commissioner B. Holdom
Commissioner D. Tyndall
Commissioner P. Field
Commissioner S. Lance
Commissioner C. Tang
Commissioner D. Johnstone
Commissioner A. Young

Absent: Commissioner J. Whiteaker
Commissioner G. Baltzer
Commissioner B. Lane
Commissioner B. Sperling

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

PRESENTATION OF PROVINCIAL AWARDS:

Commissioner Lance presented Provincial awards and certificates to the Nanaimo U 11 Raiders Field Lacrosse Team (23).

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Third Regular Meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission held 2005-MAR-23 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. Peter Skipper, 105 Prince John Way, Nanaimo BC V9T 1K1,** requested that Commission consider creating a palm tree lined drive along Departure Bay Road from the Hammond Bay/Departure Bay intersection to the Kin Park on Departure Bay Beach. He stated this well travelled area would make an ideal location to showcase Nanaimo's mild climate with a highly visible grove of palms, such as windmill palms.

Mr. Skipper noted that as a proposed terminus for the seawall walkway, the Departure Bay beach area, referred to as the "sun porch of BC" by former Mayor Frank Ney, would be an ideal area in which to create a tourist attraction using the palm trees. He stated that this area is used extensively and, in his opinion, currently resembles a parking lot. Mr. Skipper believes that there are plans to upgrade the area and suggested planting a few palms on a trial basis could be considered.

Commissioner Holdom asked Mr. Skipper that if palm trees are not recommended or determined to be difficult to maintain, what would his second choice of tree be? Mr. Skipper replied that Gary Oak is an attractive tree but may grow too large and impact sight lines.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

- (2) **Mr. Gary Bowen, Colinwood Park VIP Group, 5524 Avro Way, Nanaimo BC V9T 4Z3,** noted that there is no play area in the neighbourhood which is comprised of a diverse group of residents, many with young families. Mr. Bowen advised that since the summer of 2003 the VIP group have been working with staff clearing and developing the park area.

Mr. Bowen stated that the neighbourhood wishes to provide various play areas for children and an area in which adults can supervise their children playing or simply relax. The proposed plan includes a play structure for toddlers through to age twelve, a hard surface play area, benches, picnic tables, a pergola to shade the seating area, a fence around the east and south sides of the park, a small garden feature and ornamental flowering trees and shrubs. These projects would be constructed in four phases.

Phase 1, completed in the summer of 2003, consisted of site clearing and clean up. Phase 2, scheduled for Spring and Summer 2005, will include site preparation, surveying, excavating, grading, levelling, installation of play equipment, fencing, benches and picnic tables. Phase 3 will involve planting trees and shrubs; and Phase 4 will include paving of the hard play court, building and installation of the pergola and planting of the garden area.

The Committee has raised approximately \$11,000 to date including cash donations, in-kind services and volunteer time. Mr. Bowen requested a \$20,000 grant from the Volunteer In Park fund for the purchase of playground equipment.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. Bowen, Colinwood VIP, be received.

Carried unanimously.

- (3) **Mr. H. Godau, c/o Nanaimo Horticulture Society, Box 27, Nanaimo BC V9R 5K4** spoke to Commission regarding erecting a monument to honour the Society's 60th Anniversary in 2007. He stated that if the City donated an area of land, the Horticulture Society will provide a granite monument with a gardener sculpted on it. The same artist who created the Frank Ney statue in Maffeo-Sutton Park has agreed to create the sculpture.

Mr. Godau suggested that Parks, Recreation and Culture staff consider where best to locate the monument with input from long term members of the Horticultural Society.

Mr. Harding noted that Piper's Park is being redeveloped into a horticultural area and that this might be a site for the monument.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. H. Godau, Nanaimo Horticulture Society, be received.

Carried unanimously.

- (4) **Ms. Anne Smith, President, Bowen Park Seniors, 500 Bowen Road, Nanaimo BC V9R 1Z7**, noted that according to the master plan, additional space is to be constructed at Bowen Park. On behalf of the Bowen Seniors, she requested that consideration be given to the construction of a second auditorium at Bowen Park with active participation in the design process by the Bowen Seniors Board including a financial contribution. She requested that an approximate building cost be provided to her prior to 2005-MAY-19 so that she can present this fundraising project at the Bowen Seniors Annual General meeting.

Mr. T. Hickey, Director, replied that because this project is several years away, the design process will not be initiated for a couple of years. Staff will be able to provide the approximate square foot cost as listed in the Master Plan.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Ms. Anne Smith, President, Bowen Park Seniors, be received.

Carried unanimously.

- (5) **Ms. Shalema Gantt and Ms. Jill Finnegan c/o Black Heritage Society, Apt #3 - 452 Milton Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 2L1**, informed Commission that during the past four years the African Heritage Society has hosted a Black Heritage Month Celebration in February. She noted that the celebration has been very successful and because it draws tourists to the City, it has been an economic generator for the community. These celebrations embrace the entire community and are of a diverse nature including arts, crafts, history, book readings, etc.

Ms. Gantt advised that Nanaimo had many black pioneers who helped clear and establish farmland and homesteads. Their determination and effort helped establish our City and it is important to recognize and honour them.

Ms. Gantt advised that, in the past, Black Heritage Month Celebrations were funded by private contributions that she secured. However, this year a loan was required to host the event and insufficient profits were generated to pay back the loan. She requested funding assistance in the amount of \$5,600 from the Tournament and Festival, or Arts and Cultural, Event Grants for the Black Heritage Month Celebrations.

Commissioner Holdom asked Chair McNabb for confirmation about the grant process and timeline. Chair McNabb replied that both grants were advertised in the local press and both deadlines had passed a few months ago.

Ms. Gantt acknowledged that staff had advised her of both grant application deadline dates but that she had very limited time to apply and found the application process more daunting than she had expected.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Ms. Shalema Gantt and Ms. Jill Finnegan, be received.

Carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

2005 BC Disability Games Committee. Mr. Mike Donnelly stated that the Games will take place 2005-JUL-13 to 17 at various venues throughout the City. He provided an overview of the status of the games noting that 14 Directorates are in place with only the Transportation Director's position vacant.

Ms. Carolyn Tatton was hired as Games Operations Manager and the grand opening of the BC Disability Games Office at the ARC Building took place Thursday, 2005-APR-07, commencing with the Torch Light Ceremony at Maffeo-Sutton Park. Volunteers are now beginning to register, the website is in place, and thanks to an HRDC grant, 6 staff have started work. Bill France, the City's representative, has been very helpful.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

Invitation. Commission is invited to attend the Official Opening of the McGregor Park Harbourfront Walkway Extension on Tuesday, 2005-MAY-10 at noon.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Chairman's Report be received.

Carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: Nil.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

2. (1) **Parks Committee.** No meeting held.

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

2. (3) **Cultural Committee.** Meeting held 2005-APR-06. Commissioner Tyndall thanked the Cultural Committee and staff for the wonderful Cultural Awards Ceremony.

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) **Preschool and Children Activities Staff Presentation.** Ms. Cheryl Krytor, City South Preschool Programmer, advised that Department preschool programming provides social interaction, physical activities, practice in fine motor skills and verbal skills. Programs include teaching practical life skills, cooking demonstrations, music and movement, arts and crafts, puppet play, story reading, morals and manners, tours of local stores and preparation for kindergarten.

Monthly preschool programs are available at Beban Park, Bowen Complex, Harewood Activity Centre, Kin Hut and Nanaimo Full Gospel Church. The Department also offers one time per week programs such as music, dance, arts and culture programs and one day special events. Currently, 200 children are registered in monthly preschool programs and 987 preschoolers are registered in spring programs.

Ms. Krytor thanked Richard Harding for the new playground by the Kin Pool and noted that children are already using it extensively.

Children's programs are offered for 6 – 12 year olds to develop self esteem, fine and gross motor skills, encourage physical activity, eat healthy and meet new friends. A wide variety of activities are offered ranging from Spring Break and Pro-D day activities, French, painting, cartooning, theatre programs, a variety of sport programs such as Karate, Tai-Kwon-Do, floor hockey, T-ball and basketball. 'Home Alone' has been a popular course for 9 – 12 year olds that teaches them how to manage at home on their own. Recent one day special events included Harry Potter and Sponge Bob Square Pants. 462 children are registered in spring programs.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Ms. C. Krytor be received.

Carried unanimously.

3. (2) **2007 or 2008 BC Seniors Games.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that the BC Seniors Games Society (BCSGS) has invited the City of Nanaimo to bid to host the 2007 or 2008 BC Seniors Games. These Games provide an opportunity for BC Seniors age 55 and over to compete in an organized sport, recreation and cultural event. The Games can involve up to 3,500 participants with athletes competing in one or more of 23 different events over a three-day period in mid-September. Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from the Games, their own accommodation expenses and some of their own meal expenses.

It is estimated that the host community could anticipate an economic impact of approximately \$1.7 million. A bid to host these games will require a formal application to be submitted prior to 2005-SEP-30.

Motion

1. It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council support a Nanaimo bid to host either the 2007 or 2008 BC Seniors Games and that an expenditure of \$45,000 cash and \$50,000 in-kind services and facilities be committed if the Games are awarded; and further,
2. That Council request the District 68 School Board resolve to support the Seniors Games bid and to state a willingness to provide, free of charge, the necessary school facilities and other resources that are required for competition.

Carried unanimously.

3. (3) **Manager of Parks Monthly Report.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, reviewed his report and noted that the newspaper article regarding the Millstone River diversion project was inaccurate. The project is still at the concept stage and will not proceed until the Department of Fisheries presents a plan to the Commission. He also provided a brief visual presentation regarding the tree removal in Pioneer Cemetery Park.
3. (4) **Manager of Recreation and Culture Services Monthly Report.** Mr. B. Meunier, Manager of Recreation and Culture Services, reviewed his report noting that Healthamongus is underway this week at Beban fields with 4,500 children participating. He distributed a brochure thanking Pepsi for providing \$8,000 annually to help with special events.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

4. (1) **Port Theatre** – 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 to Mr. L. McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Lawrie Raymer, Vancouver Island Exhibition, expressing appreciation for the Tournament and Festival grant.
- 5. (2) Copy of minutes from the Bowen Park Seniors Board Meeting held Friday, 2005-APR-01.
- 5. (3) Copy of correspondence to Mayor Korpan, from Kelly Mann, President and CEO, BC Games, advising that the 2008 BC Winter Games have been awarded to Kimberley and Cranbrook.
- 5. (4) Copy of correspondence from Sport BC requesting Community Sport Hero Nominations – submission deadline is 2005-MAY-20 and presentations will be made in Nanaimo on 200-JUN-09.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

- (1) **Mr. Peter Skipper, 105 Prince John Way, Nanaimo BC V9T 1K1**

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the request from Mr. Peter Skipper, to create a palm tree lined drive along Departure Bay Road from the Hammond Bay/Departure Bay intersection to Kin Park on Departure Bay Beach be referred to staff to prepare a report regarding feasibility and costs.

Carried unanimously.

- (2) **Mr. Gary Bowen, Colinwood Park VIP Group, 5524 Avro Way, Nanaimo BC V9T 4Z3.**

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Commission award \$20,000 from the VIP fund to the Colinwood Park VIP Group.

Carried unanimously.

- (3) **Mr. H. Godau, c/o Nanaimo Horticulture Society, Box 27, Nanaimo BC V9R 5K4**

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the request from Mr. H. Godau, Nanaimo Horticultural Society, to create a 60th Anniversary monument, be referred to staff to work with the group to identify a suitable location.

Carried unanimously.

- (4) **Ms. Shalema Gantt and Ms. Jill Finnegan c/o Black Heritage Society, Apt #3 - 452 Milton Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 2L1,**

Commissioner Tang noted that grant criteria does not include repayment of loans. Commissioner Holdom verified that the group can apply for 2006 funding.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission deny the funding request of \$5,600 from Ms. Shalema Gantt and Ms. Jill Finnegan, for Black History Month, because the grant application deadline has passed; and further, that they be invited to apply for these grants in the future.

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) Memorial Bench Program – staff report (May).
- (3) Saroya Subdivision Sign Removal – staff to seek legal opinion.
- (4) **Notice of Motion by Commissioner Field:** That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission initiate the development of action plans to support “The City of Nanaimo’s Cultural Policy Statement” and “The Community Vision for Nanaimo’s Cultural Development” – to be considered at the 2005-APR-27 meeting.

Commissioner Field stated that he believes that a roadmap is needed that states:

- What we have achieved to date including all arts and cultural programs that take place, including through the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department.
- What is being done currently.
- What we plan to do in the future.

He also noted that there is a significant amount of duplication of service and that there is not good communication between groups. For example, the Cultural Committee was working on establishing a way to market cultural events, not knowing that Tourism Nanaimo was working to market all local events. Another example is that the Assembly of BC Arts Councils receive and distribute a variety of information but do not represent all local groups. In addition, the Commission and Cultural Committee are not always aware of developing issues.

Commissioner Field stated that the Commission should use the Cultural Strategy and initiate guidelines and action plans for the Cultural Committee to work within and implement.

Commissioner Lance stated that the Cultural Committee should be undertaking this and presenting recommendations to the Commission.

Commissioner Field noted that the Parks Committee and the Recreation Committees deal with specific topics on a regular basis, such as the VIP Program, and both Committees work very well being comprised of only Commission members. The Cultural Committee, however, deals with a multitude of various issues and groups and includes both Commission members and community representatives.

Commissioner Holdom said he was not clear about the intent of the Notice of Motion and how it related to implementing the Cultural Strategy goals and objectives.

Commissioner Tyndall suggested that the Cultural Committee should be making recommendations.

Commissioner Field replied that the Cultural Committee does not support the Notice of Motion. Chair McNabb confirmed this noting that he had received phone calls from some of the Cultural Committee members.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Notice of Motion by Commissioner Field: That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission initiate the development of action plans to support “The City of Nanaimo’s Cultural Policy Statement” and “The Community Vision for Nanaimo’s Cultural Development” be referred to the Cultural Committee for consideration and recommendation.

Carried unanimously.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Item # 4 – Notice of Motion by Commissioner Field, 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) Memorial Bench Program – staff report.
- (3) Saroya Subdivision Sign Removal – referred to Council.
- (4) Palm Tree Lined Drive Along Departure Bay Road – staff report requested (June).
- (5) Horticultural Society's 60th Anniversary Monument – referred to staff to work with group to identify suitable location.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

Commissioner Tang advised that she wished to discuss the Cultural Capitals of Canada application. She noted that because most local groups have already planned their 2006 events, and considering that the guidelines and application form are still not available, that it would be in the best interest of the City to wait and apply for the 2007 Cultural Capitals of Canada Award.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that an application be submitted for the 2007 Cultural Capitals of Canada Award and that the \$64,500 allocated for use with the 2005 proposal be carried forward for use in 2007.

Carried unanimously.

Chair McNabb stated that the date for the proposed Commission Seminar would be determined at their May meeting.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Cultural Committee - *cancelled* Wednesday, 2005-MAY-04, 4:15 p.m.

Recreation Committee (*only if required*) Wednesday, 2005-MAY-12, 4:45 p.m.

Parks Committee (*only if required*) Thursday, 2005-MAY-13, 5:00 p.m.

COMMISSION Wednesday, 2005-MAY-26; 7:00 p.m.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED: 8:39 p.m.