

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD 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-MAR-23, 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 C. Tang
Commissioner A. Young

Absent: Commissioner P. Field
Commissioner G. Baltzer
Commissioner J. Whiteaker
Commissioner B. Sperling

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the second Regular Meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission held 2005-FEB-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. Charles Thirkill, Field Coordinator, Fire in the Stream, 611 Shaughnessy Place, Nanaimo BC V9T 4V1,** requested the use of Miner's Cottage at no charge for the duration of this year in conjunction with a tree planting project in Jingle Pot Marsh.

Mr. Thirkill informed Commission that 250 high school students from School District 68 would like to plant Douglas fir trees of significant size in Jingle Pot Marsh and Woodstream Park during 2005. In addition, the students would like to undertake a program of gradual, selective and controlled vegetation management in the Jingle Pot Marsh area. Mr. Thirkill indicated that the Fire in the Stream project provides high school students with an educational workplace experience.

Mr. Thirkill proposed that the Commission waive the fees on the use of the Miner's Cottage for teaching purposes for the duration of 2005.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

- (2) **Mr. Normon Thibault, Owner, Frontrunners, 2800 Fairbanks Street, Nanaimo BC V9S 3T1**, requested that Commission retain the Grandview Bowl track.

Mr. Thibault provided optional field layouts for consideration that might help keep the track. He noted that the changing demographics of the City make the Grandview Bowl track useable and safe for older citizens and young families. Mr. Thibault indicated that he does not want to delay soccer field construction but asked that the second field be built in another location. He noted that there had been no consultation with the general public regarding the removal of the Grandview Bowl track.

Mr. Thibault indicated that the Grandview Bowl track has several different user groups including kids learning to ride bikes, people rollerblading and walking, all the way up to national champions doing specific bike or run workouts.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

- (3) **Nanaimo & District Youth Soccer, Mr. Jack Stephens, Treasurer, 1906 Evergreen Way, Nanaimo BC V9S 2V2**, informed Commission that he was representing 200 soccer teams and 3,500 children participating in youth soccer in the District who, over the last two years, have fundraised \$300,000 to date for the plan to construct lighted synthetic turf fields at Grandview Bowl.

Mr. Stephens advised that the Grandview Bowl site was chosen because there was sufficient space to add a second field, which would provide an excellent sport field complex both for community use and tournaments. This field site is also relatively close to the Beban Gyro fields, additional parking, the pool, arenas and social centre. He noted that two fields placed side by side saves between \$400,000 to \$600,000 in the construction costs of the second field. He also stated that the field lighting will not impact any residential areas.

Mr. Stephens asked the Commission to maintain it's support of the current plan to construct a synthetic turf field at Grandview Bowl in partnership with the Nanaimo and District Youth Soccer Association.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Master Plan. Council adopted the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan at their meeting of 2005-MAR-21.

CORRESPONDENCE: Nil.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

2. (1) **Parks Committee.** Commissioner Lane reported on the meeting held 2005-MAR-08.
2.(1.1) **Nanaimo Blues Festival Society.** Mr. Lucas's request to Commission to fence off Maffeo Sutton Park Lion's Pavilion, and surrounding area, to host a ticketed event on Saturday, 2005-JUL-16 from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. was referred to the Parks Committee. Mr. Lucas did not attend the meeting.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Commission not grant the exclusive use of Maffeo-Sutton Park so as not to impede general public access to the site; and further, if the Nanaimo Blues Festival Society requires a fenced ticketed venue that they consider Pioneer Plaza, Harbourfront Plaza or Caledonia Park

Carried unanimously.

- 2.(1.2) Mobile Coffee Kiosk. Ms. Michelle Barkay, (Mermaid's Mug), 214 Kennedy Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 2H8, presented the concept of a mobile coffee kiosk using the "art car concept" for a concession van at Maffeo Sutton Park.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Ms. Michelle Barkay (Mermaid's Mug) be granted a two year concession license at Maffeo Sutton Park subject to meeting all requirements stipulated in the Park Concessionaire license.

Carried unanimously.

- 2.(1.3) Hot Dog Concession. Application from Ms. Shari Gignac, 404 Stewart Avenue, Nanaimo BC V9S 4C6 for a hot dog concession at either the Queen Elizabeth II promenade by the Nanaimo Yacht Club or Pipers Lagoon Park. (Note: There is currently a vacancy at Pipers Lagoon Park. At this time Commission has not identified Queen Elizabeth II Promenade as a concession location.)

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Staff meet with Ms. Gignac to establish a suitable location, that the applicant obtain a letter of no objection from the Nanaimo Yacht Club, that the fee be set at \$730.00; and that when these issues are addressed, the application be sent 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 Tang reported on the meeting held 2005-MAR-02.

- 2.(3.1) Art in Public Places Project – Mural on Washroom Building at Maffeo-Sutton Park. A local artist will be sought for the repainting of the washroom facility at Maffeo-Sutton Park. A selection panel will be created for this process and the themes for the mural will be landscape, heritage and waterscape. Painting of the washroom is planned to commence in late April 2005.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Cultural Committee participate on a selection panel to choose an artist and artwork for the repainting of the washroom building at Maffeo-Sutton Park.

Carried unanimously.

- 2.(3.2) Art in Public Places Project – Cape Developments, Old Malaspina Hotel Site. Staff outlined an Art In Public Places project, to be placed on the pilings in front of the old Malaspina Hotel building, which is on Port Authority property. A budget of \$100,000 for the project was made available through negotiations from the developer, Cape Developments. A selection panel will need to be created for this process: this panel will include members from the Cultural Committee, Port Authority, Cape Developments, with staff from Parks, Recreation and Culture and Development Services assisting.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that a selection panel be commissioned for an Art In Public Places feature, to be erected on the pilings in front of the old Malaspina Hotel site.

Carried unanimously.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that J. McGladrey be appointed Chair, and that P. Field be appointed as a committee member of the selection panel for the Art in Public Places Project in front of the old Malaspina Hotel site.

Carried unanimously.

- 2.(3.3) Cultural Capitals of Canada.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that based on beneficial feedback from Heritage Canada, an application be submitted for the 2006 Cultural Capitals of Canada Award and that the \$64,500 allocated for use with the 2005 award be carried forward for use in 2006.

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 meeting held 2005-MAR-03.

- 2.(4.1) Proposed So You Wanna Fight event at Frank Crane Arena scheduled for 2005-MAY-27. Mr. Don Arnott's proposal, which did not include using RCMP in the security plan, was reviewed.

The Nanaimo Athletic Commission approved Mr. Don Arnott's proposal to hold the "So You Wanna Fight" event on 2005-MAY-27 at the Frank Crane Arena with the Nanaimo Hornets Rugby Club acting as security for the event. They also carried motions that the RCMP would be invited to attend the event at no cost to the promoter; and that any contestants over 36 years of age would be required to submit a medical certificate from their doctor confirming that they are "fit to fight".

It was also confirmed with Mr. Arnott that the event must commence precisely at 7:00 p.m. and be completed before or at 11:00 p.m.

- 4.(1.2) Professional Wrestling Event Promoted by Mr. LaFleur scheduled for 2005-MAR-05 at the Nanaimo Ecumenical Centre. This event was promoted as a professional wrestling event and therefore required approval by the Athletic Commission; however, the promoter did not seek this approval. A motion was carried that a letter be forwarded to Mr. LaFleur outlining the Athletic Commission's concern and clarifying the information required from him regarding his event held on 2005-MAR-05 at the Nanaimo Ecumenical Centre.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

3. (1) Horticultural Displays Staff Presentation. Mr. A. Kemp, Horticulture Foreman, advised that he is responsible for general horticultural maintenance of floral and shrub beds, park and boulevard trees and passive turf areas with a permanent staff of six people. Mr. A. Kemp also noted that he is responsible for facilitating work done by contractors. Between city and contracted staff they maintain over 50 acres of passive grass areas and 15.5 acres of flower and shrub beds.

The City of Nanaimo's annual cost for bedding plants including summer annuals, fall and spring pansies, primulas and chrysanthemums is approximately \$20,000.

Over the past 15 years City of Nanaimo gardeners have been very pro-active both in pesticide reduction and in the use of perennials and native plantings. Each year the gardeners come up with floral designs conscious of upcoming events reflecting the colour and design theme. One of the projects this year is a dragon for the Dragon Boat Festival.

Commissioner Johnstone asked if it would be possible to have name labels by plants and flowers used in the city gardens. Mr. A. Kemp replied that has been tried previously and the plants and/or signs disappeared.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

3. (2) Marketing and Promotion. Ms. Darcie Osborne, Marketing Programmer, and Ms. Tammy Toor, Graphics Specialist, advised that the Parks, Recreation and Culture marketing team is made up of two staff members that produce all Department promotions in-house. The marketing philosophy is to market how we want you to feel. It is a benefits based approach with a large emphasis on community images. A multi-media method is utilized to spread the message. Each division of the Department uses a variety of tools depending on the variable factors of each item being marketed. The number one marketing tool for the Department is the leisure guide. Advertising in the leisure guide helps cover the cost of producing the leisure guide.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Ms. D. Osborne and Ms. T. Toor, be received.

Carried unanimously.

3. (3) **Combating Security Concerns at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre.** Mr. B. Meunier, Manager of Recreation and Culture Services, informed Commission that since the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre opened in 2001, over one-half million people have utilized this facility on an annual basis. The vast majority have enjoyed a positive experience. However, there has consistently been a small number of patrons who have displayed unacceptable behaviours towards other users, staff and the facility.

A staff team from the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre has worked with leaseholder representatives, Bylaw Enforcement, Westguard Security, the RCMP and the NDSS School Liaison Officer to combat this problem by identifying security improvements measures needed. The objective is to provide a more enjoyable environment for all clientele at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre and to remove those individuals unwilling to change their unsatisfactory behaviour.

A Code of Conduct for everyone using the facility has now been implemented and staff have been issued a handbook of standardized security procedures to follow. In-service training outlining the changes, along with methods of dealing with problem customers has taken place. Mr. B. Meunier advised that the Code of Conduct has received a positive response from staff and the public.

Commissioner Tyndall advised that she has received complaints about the cleanliness of the gym at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre. Mr. B. Meunier stated that a checklist has been developed and is followed up every morning.

Commissioner Young asked if there is something that can be done for repeat offenders at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre. Mr. B. Meunier informed Commission that supervisors can implement day suspensions with longer suspensions from the aquatic supervisor.

Commissioner Johnstone asked if there has been unacceptable behaviour at other recreation facilities. Mr. B. Meunier noted that the majority of unacceptable behaviour is occurring at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Harding informed Commission that Mr. Richard White, Superintendent of Horticulture, has retired and Mr. Jim Plasteras is the new Supervisor of Parks Operations. The Nanaimo Ice Centre property has been cleared. Altrusa playground at Beban Park has been renovated and updated, and playgrounds throughout the City are very busy.

Commissioner Holdom asked why this year's trail capital plan was reprioritized. Mr. R. Harding advised Commission that Westwood Lake receives so much year round use it needed to be resurfaced. The Department will be updating the trail plan now that the Master Plan has been adopted.

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

Mr. Meunier advised that he has been working with Mr. Al Abbott, Nanaimo Canadian Tire, in implementing the Canadian Tire JumpStart program. This program enables LEAP candidates to receive an additional 25% discount for one sport and physical program per season until the end of 2005. Mr. B. Meunier thanked Commissioner Lance for providing the contact with Canadian Tire.

Mr. Meunier noted that internet registration has had an impact. Revenues are up \$38,000 as compared to last year and internet registration makes up about 24% of all registration.

Commissioner Lane asked if the marketing printing is done in-house. Mr. B. Meunier replied that the layouts are done in-house with printing done outside.

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.

4. (2) **BC Disability Games Committee** – March monthly report reviewed.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the BC Disability Games Committee 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 Daurel Neve, TheatreOne, expressing appreciation for the Cultural Grant.
5. (2) Copy of correspondence to Mr. L. McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Mr. Rory Rickwood, Chair, Friends of the Cat Stream, regarding Third Street Field Development; and the reply from Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks.
5. (3) Copy of correspondence to Mr. L. McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Mr. S. Ricketts, Provincial Meet Manager, Nanaimo Ebttides Master Swim Club, inviting Commission to attend the opening ceremonies of the 2005 Long Course Provincial Championships on April 9 at 9:00 a.m. at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre.
5. (4) Copy of correspondence to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission from Ms. C. Blain, President, Camerata Singers, expressing appreciation for the Cultural Grant.
5. (5) Copy of correspondence to Mr. Shawn LaFleur, 631 Sixth Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 1J7, from Mr. Brent Meunier, Manager of Recreation and Culture Services regarding the 200-MAR-05 professional wrestling event held at the Nanaimo Eccumenical Centre.
5. (6) Invitation to attend the Saxer Park Grand Opening on Thursday, 2005-APR-14 at 1:30 p.m. (6400 Dover Road).
5. (7) Copy of correspondence to Nanaimo Aquatic Centre staff from Sandy Raddysh, Aquatic Supervisor, expressing appreciation to staff involved in a water rescue on 2005-MAR-22.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

- (1) **Mr. Charles Thirkill, Field Coordinator, Fire in the Stream.** Commissioner Holdom asked what kind of trees will be planted in the park. Mr. R. Harding proposed that staff work with stakeholders for a long term vegetation plan for the whole area.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Mr. C. Thirkill be permitted to use the Miner's Cottage at no charge for the remainder of 2005.

Motion defeated.

Opposed: Commissioners Tyndall, Lance, Johnstone, Lane, Tang, Young and McNabb.

Commissioner Tyndall asked if staff could reach an in-kind agreement with Mr. Thirkill for the use of the Miner's Cottage. Commissioner Lance asked if the Miner's Cottage is rented very often. Mr. R. Harding responded that the Miner's cottage has minimal use.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Commission direct staff to develop a planting plan for the Third Street Park natural areas so that plantings by volunteers are appropriate for the site.

Carried unanimously.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Fire in the Stream project team work with staff to develop a service in-kind agreement for the use of Miner's Cottage for this project in 2005.

Carried.

Opposed: Commissioners Lane and Holdom.

- (2) **Mr. Normon Thibault.** Commissioner Lance asked what the official size of a soccer field is and if a smaller field was built would the soccer playing area be impacted.

Mr. T. Hickey advised that soccer teams will play on a 110 x 65 metre field. The rational for a larger playing field is to have soccer and football together at Grandview Bowl for long term use.

Commissioner Holdom felt the presentation was excellent and he would support one synthetic field with a track around the playing field.

Commissioner Tyndall proposed that retention of the track be contingent on receipt of a donation from the triathletes.

Commissioner Johnstone noted that she has some concern with children crossing the track. Commissioner Young also indicated that there would be a safety issue with children crossing the track while bikes are racing.

Commissioner Tang noted that the timeline for the second field would be 5 plus years. She sees the benefit of one field with no track because of the safety issue.

Mr. T. Hickey advised Commission that it will cost the City \$400,00 - \$600,000 more to build the second synthetic turf field at another location and it makes good sense to pool amenities together at one location. He noted that all users of the Grandview Bowl track have other alternatives except the triathletes.

Commissioner Tyndall stated that Commission should not go back on their promise to Nanaimo and District Youth Soccer Association and should pursue building a 3 metre wide track around Caledonia Park. She noted that it would cost \$55,000 to install an asphalt track at Caledonia Park.

Commissioner Lane asked what was the nature of the agreement made to Nanaimo and District Youth Soccer Association. Mr. T. Hickey advised that the Nanaimo District Youth Soccer Association was fundraising for a synthetic turf soccer field at Beban with the understanding that a second field would be built there in the future.

Commissioner Johnstone advised that Rotary Bowl is a much better facility for wheelchair athletes and runners.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Commission maintain it's support of the plan to construct a synthetic turf field at Grandview Bowl in partnership with the Nanaimo and District Youth Soccer Association.

Carried.

Opposed: Commissioner Bill Holdom.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Commission direct staff to work with the triathlon group to find an alternate location for an asphalt track.

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 (Apr).
- (3) Nanaimo Blues Festival Society request to fence off Maffeo-Sutton Park (Mar).
- (4) Saroya Subdivision Sign Removal – staff to seek legal opinion (Mar).
- (5) Harbourfront Walkway/Cape Development–Art in Public Places – referred to Cultural Committee (Mar).
- (6) 2006 Cultural Capitals of Canada application – referred to Cultural Committee (Mar).
- (7) Notice of Motion (Commissioner Field) – to be considered at the 2005-APR-27 meeting.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Item # 3 - Nanaimo Blues Festival Society request to fence off Maffeo-Sutton Park, Item #5 - Harbourfront Walkway/Cape Development–Art in Public Places, Item #6 - 2006 Cultural Capitals of Canada application, 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 (Apr).
- (3) Saroya Subdivision Sign Removal – staff to seek legal opinion (Apr).
- (4) Notice of Motion (Commissioner Field) – to be considered at the 2005-APR-27 meeting.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

Commissioner Lance inquired if more Parks and Trails brochures could be printed.
Mr. R. Harding advised that staff will monitor the demand for the Explore our Parks brochure.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Cultural Committee Wednesday, 2005-APR-06; 4:15 p.m.

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

Parks Committee *(if required)* Thursday, 2005-APR-14; 5:00 p.m.

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

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED: 9:00 p.m.