

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

PRESENT:

Members: Commissioner L. McNabb, Chair
Commissioner B. Holdom
Commissioner P. Field
Commissioner D. Johnstone
Commissioner B. Lane
Commissioner G. Baltzer
Commissioner A. Young
Commissioner J. Whiteaker

Absent: Commissioner S. Lance
Commissioner D. Tyndall
Commissioner C. Tang
Commissioner B. Sperling

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission held 2004-NOV-24, and the Special Meeting held 2005-JAN-12, be adopted as circulated.

Carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

Commissioner Whiteaker requested that Mr. F. Taylor be permitted to address the Commission as a late delegation.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Mr. F. Taylor be permitted to address the Commission as a late delegation.

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. Kevin Smith, Keighley Park VIP Committee, 3016 Neyland Road, Nanaimo BC V9T 2X5** advised that the neighbourhood has worked hard over the past 4 months in cleaning the park and developing a plan to make the park more usable for the public. Committee members have met with Parks Department staff and developed a concept plan and budget of \$42,000, which includes retaining walls, chain link fencing, pathway and benches. Mr. Smith reported that the Committee has raised \$12,405 in cash and materials in-kind to date and requested that Commission approve a \$20,000 grant from the Volunteer In Park fund for park development and playground equipment for Keighley Park.

Commissioner Whiteaker asked how many children are in the neighbourhood. Mr. Smith replied that he did not have an exact number, but that there were lots of families and 2 day care centres in the catchment area.

Commissioner Johnstone commended the Committee on raising \$12,000. She asked Mr. Smith what plans the group has to raise the remaining \$10,000 if they are successful in obtaining a \$20,000 VIP grant. Mr. Smith replied that fundraising proposals have been submitted to local banks, service clubs and private businesses; and the Committee is confident that they will be able to raise another \$10,000.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. Kevin Smith, Keighley Park VIP Committee, be received.

Carried unanimously.

- (2) **Mr. Chris Sholberg, Community and Heritage Planner, 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 5J6** spoke to the proposed Wellington No. 5 Colliery Plaque at Diver Lake commemorating the 59 miners who died in the 1888-JAN-24 explosion. He noted that Mr. Norm Godfrey submitted this proposal to the Heritage Commission. Mr. Sholberg reviewed a concept drawing showing the location of the park and a sample of what the kiosk may look like.

Mr. Sholberg introduced Mr. Norm Godfrey. Mr. Godfrey said that some of his relatives perished in the mine explosion and he would like to honour their memory, as well as the memory of the other miners killed, by erecting a kiosk with commemorative plaque at Diver Lake Park. He noted that this plaque would also serve to honour Nanaimo's mining history. Mr. Godfrey advised that he has a complete list of names of the persons killed in the mine explosion and all of these names would be inscribed on the plaque.

Chair McNabb asked if vandalism would be a concern. Mr. Harding replied that he did not believe it would be and that the design shown has been used in several locations throughout the City. He added that the total cost of this project is approximately \$2,000.

Commissioner Whiteaker suggested a rock cairn would be more durable than a wooden kiosk. Mr. Godfrey and Mr. Sholberg indicated that either a kiosk or cairn would be acceptable.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. Chris Sholberg, Community and Heritage Planner, and Mr. N. Godfrey, be received.

Carried unanimously.

- (3) **Mr. Fred Taylor, 204 Emery Way, Nanaimo BC V9R 5Z8** circulated a letter from Mr. Richard Brunning, Land and Water British Columbia Inc., regarding Crown land covered by water identified as Plan 051 and Plan 021, commonly referred to as the public market lands. Mr. Taylor stated that the paddling groups are still not situated and the Master Plan survey identified that the community wants more waterfront access; therefore, the City may wish to reclaim its upland rights to this large waterfront area at the Sealand Market.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Master Plan. Mr. D. Reid, Lanarc, noted that the draft Master Plan was received by the Commission in November 2004 and an Open House was held in 2005-JAN-19 to provide another public input opportunity.

He noted that the draft Master Plan has received good overall support from the general public but rehearsal space and low-cost theatre space are a major concern for the theatre groups. Therefore, the Consultants are suggesting that a seminar be held with Commission on Wednesday, 2005-FEB-16 to primarily focus on this issue. Mr. Brian Johnston, who met with the cultural groups, will be in attendance to discuss the basis for the Master Plan recommendations.

Mr. Reid then presented the Capital Projects List related to the Master Plan report for Commission's consideration.

Commissioner Whiteaker stated that Commission should pursue a separate and more detailed plan for cultural facilities and organization. Mr. Reid agreed that the culture component is complex because there has been strong demand expressed for dedicated space by user groups; however, the public survey prioritized multi-use space. He commented that the cultural groups may not be of one mind on the need for dedicated space.

Chair McNabb stated that the master plan is the result of what the citizens of Nanaimo have identified as items they wish to see in the City.

Commissioner Lane asked what the benefit is of holding a seminar because there will always be lobby groups who are not satisfied. Chair McNabb replied that a seminar will allow Commission to discuss the plan in more depth, especially related to the cultural component.

Commissioner Holdom suggested the workshop will clarify the cultural aspects of the report and allow Commission to perhaps further emphasize the cultural component of the plan.

Commissioner Johnstone noted that the cultural community representatives attending the Open House expressed dismay at the lack of cultural facilities recommended in the draft Master Plan. She asked for confirmation that they had been consulted. Mr. Reid replied that the cultural groups were consulted and had already provided feedback. The draft Master Plan does support extra space for the arts but in a multi-purpose format, whereas the cultural groups want dedicated space.

Commissioner Lane stated that the Commission Master Plan Committee included several Commissioners who sit on the Cultural Committee and they, as well as the groups, had ample opportunity to provide input. He commented that the consultants were paid to conduct a survey to determine what the public wanted, which they did. They also met with individual focus groups and the combined results are reflected in the draft report. Commissioner Lane said that the report should not be influenced by individual lobby groups.

Commissioner Field agreed that the public had spoken via the survey, but Commission may not know how they interpreted the questions related to the need for additional facilities.

Motion

It was moved and seconded, that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission hold a Master Plan seminar on Wednesday, 2005-FEB-16.

Carried.

Opposed: Commissioner Lane.

CORRESPONDENCE: Nil.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

2. (1) Parks Committee. Commissioner Holdom reported on the meeting held 2005-JAN-04.

2.(1.1) Catherine Gisborne Garden. Mr. C. Sholberg, Ms. A. Habkirk and Ms. E. Lowe spoke to their request of recognizing the significant civic contribution made by Ms. Catherine Gisborne.

Motion

It was moved and seconded, that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend to Council that Anchor Way Park be renamed "Catherine Gisborne Garden"; and further, that a plaque be installed commemorating the life and civic contribution of Catherine Gisborne.

Carried unanimously.

2.(1.2) Permanent Coffee Kiosk at Maffeo Sutton Park. Ms. Michelle Barkey (Mermaid's Mug) requested permission to establish a permanent coffee kiosk at Harbourfront Plaza or Maffeo-Sutton Park.

Motion

It was moved and seconded, that the Commission deny the application of Ms. Michelle Barkey for a permanent kiosk at Maffeo-Sutton Park and invite her to resubmit an application for a mobile coffee unit.

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-JAN-05.

2.(3.1) S.P.A.C. Awards. The Social Planning Advisory Committee recommended that Council host an award ceremony encompassing all City awards including the Social Contribution awards and the Cultural awards.

Motion

It was moved and seconded, that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approves holding the Cultural Awards presentation as a stand-alone event.

Carried.

Opposed: Commissioner Lane and Holdom

- 2.(3.2) Art in Public Places – Miner's Memorial Project. The Cultural Committee is recommending that the Miner's Memorial be situated along the new waterfront walkway across from Museum Way. Phase One would be a mosaic on the ground with a mining theme. Phase Two would include a stand-up design feature. The mosaic would be completed this summer.

Because construction work is currently underway on the McGregor walkway, the Cultural Committee felt it would be best to include public art at the waterfront walkway gateway and undertake the water feature at the Harbourfront Plaza at a later date.

Commissioner Johnstone stated that the water feature in the Harbourfront Plaza is needed to bring some animation to the plaza; whereas the mosaic in the walkway is not as crucial because the walkway is already busy with activity.

Motion

It was moved and seconded, that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend to Council that the Miner's Memorial at the McGregor Park Walkway be the City's first priority for public art and that the Harbourfront Plaza Art project be the second priority.

Defeated.

Opposed: Commissioner Holdom, Lane, Whiteaker, Baltzer, Johnstone

- 2.(3.3) Art in the Park Program and Funding. The City of Nanaimo, Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and the Nanaimo Art Gallery jointly sponsored an Art in the Park pilot project during the summer of 2004. The program was co-ordinated by the Nanaimo Art Gallery and was well received; however, the City does not have staff resources to administer this program. The Art in the Park program has the ability to become self-sustaining but will need financial assistance during the first five years. After three years, financial subsidization could be reduced until the program is financially independent. The Cultural Committee is recommending that, if funding is approved, the Nanaimo Art Gallery be contracted to administer the Art in the Park/Plaza program.

Commissioner Lane asked what the costs were to administer the program last year. Mr. Meunier replied that the Nanaimo Art Gallery co-ordinated the program free of charge last year but there were only 4 events. The 2005 program will be held on twelve weekends and utilize a student to co-ordinate the artists. Commissioner Lane suggested a budget submitted for Commission's review would be beneficial. Mr. Meunier noted that a budget was provided to the Cultural Committee.

Commissioner Field stated that the Cultural Committee fully supports the Art in the Park/Plaza program and is recommending \$3,300 be expended from the Cultural Grant Fund to enable this program to operate. He also noted that this program promotes local artists and will provide control over what is displayed in the park.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Council allocate \$3,300 from the Cultural Grant Fund for the operation of the Art in the Park/Plaza project for 12 weeks during the summer of 2005.

Carried unanimously.

- 2.(3.4) 2005 Cultural Fund Grant. Twenty-two (22) Cultural Fund Grant applications were received and reviewed.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend the following Cultural Fund Grants to Council:

Group	2004 Approved	2005 Requested	Recommended
A Cappella Plus	0	2,000	0
The Nanaimo Arts Alive Summer School of the Fine Arts Society	900	900	750
Nanaimo Arts Council	8,000	14,000	7,500
The Island Bel Canto Singers	600	1,000	500
Brigadoon Highland Dance Society	0	15,000	0
Camerata Singers	0	600	350
C.V.I. Centre for the Arts – Nanaimo Society	5,300	6,000	5,500
Nanaimo Chamber Orchestra	0	2,000	950
Vancouver Island Arts Festivals Society (Children's Festival)	8,000	15,000	9,500
Nanaimo Community Gardens Society	0	13,000	0
Nanaimo Conservatory of Music	1,800	2,000	1,700
Crimson Coast Dance Society	15,000	25,000	14,000
Nanaimo Empire Days Society	0	12,000	4,000
Francophone Association	4,200	20,000	6,000
Harewood Neighbourhood Association (Art for All)	0	500	300
Mid-Island Metis Nation Association	0	3,200	0
Musicians for Musicians	0	750	350
Heart of the Island Chorus of Sweet Adelines International	0	5,000	0
Vancouver Island Symphony	57,000	60,000	57,500
Nanaimo Festival Heritage Theatre Society (TheatreOne)	36,000	40,000	37,250
Tozan Cultural Society	1,300	13,475	4,000
Upper Island Music Festival	2,400	0	0
Western Edge Theatre	1,300	4,000	1,600
TOTAL:	\$141,800	\$255,425	\$151,750
Nanaimo Art Gallery (Art In The Park / Plaza Project)			\$ 3,300
FUNDS REMAINING (for Cultural Committee Initiatives/workshops):			\$ 7,056

Total Funds Available for 2005:

\$162,106

Carried unanimously.

- 2.(3.5) 2004 Excellence in Cultural Award. The "Excellence in Culture" Award is given to an individual or group for outstanding achievement in a cultural or arts field. Joelle Rabu is being recommended for the 2004 "Excellence in Culture" Award because of her reputation as a Canadian "Chanteuse Extraordinaire" and for her generosity with her time and talent.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that Joelle Rabu be awarded the 2004 Excellence in Culture Award.

Carried unanimously.

- 2.(3.6) 2004 Honour in Cultural Award. The Coastal Community Credit Union is being recommended as the recipient of the 2004 "Honour in Culture" Award on the basis of the many years that they have financially supported arts and cultural organizations and events in Nanaimo.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommend that the Coastal Community Credit Union be awarded the 2004 Honour in Culture Award.

Carried unanimously.

- 2.(3.7) ArtsNow Funding Program. The ArtsNow Program (2010 Legacies Now Program) recently announced that it includes grant funds for the Creative Communities Program. One of the categories available for funding under this program is a "Cultural Scan or Cultural Mapping". Eligible costs under this category include hiring consultants and / or artists with cultural mapping skills, compiling an inventory of cultural assets and needs, public meetings and communication. The program will fund up to \$10,000 of matching funds.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission direct staff to proceed with an application to the ArtsNow Creative Communities program for matching funds (up to \$10,000) to complete the Art and Culture Inventory Project (pending budget approval of the higher service level request).

Carried unanimously.

- 2.(3.8) Spirit of BC Funding. Commissioner Field advised that the Spirit of BC Funding program is to assist arts and cultural organizations with creative projects that will contribute to the development of arts and culture in BC. The program is open to organizations but not to municipalities.

Commissioner Lane noted that there is a significant amount of grant funding available for cultural activity, in all disciplines, and if the City had a Grants Officer perhaps that person could assist the Cultural community with preparing grant applications. Commissioner Holdom replied that the City does not have this type of position. Commissioner Field said that he thought a Grants Officer position would be very beneficial to the cultural community.

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) Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan. Dealt with previously.

3. (2) Horticultural Displays Staff Presentation. Mr. Harding, Manager of Parks, advised that Mr. Kemp was unable to attend tonight and his presentation will be rescheduled to Commission's 2005-MAR-23 meeting.

3. (3) **Oliver Road Community Centre Presentation.** Mr. B. Meunier, Manager of Recreation and Culture Services, reviewed the proposed design noting that a few years ago staff met with the local residents and businesses to receive their input. The current design concept for this facility includes multi-purpose rooms and gymnasium, a small fitness studio, a wellness room, a children's program space, a community police station and an outdoor play area with trail linkages to the site. The City has \$7,250,000 budgeted for the construction of this facility including a \$2 million contribution from Insight Holdings.

To initiate the design and construction stages, a request for proposals will be released for architect services. When initial site design has been prepared the architect, and staff, will meet with the community organizations that are expected to use the facility, and neighbourhood residents, to receive comment and input before the design is finalized and construction begins. It is anticipated that construction will begin in the fall of this year.

Commissioner Holdom suggested that confirmation should be received from the RCMP that a community policing station will be located at the facility. He also asked if any of this space could be used for small theatre performances. Mr. Hickey replied that the gymnasium and multi-purpose space is not ideal for theatre use and it is difficult to book these spaces for extended periods to one user group. Commissioner Holdom noted that the construction of this facility may free up other potential theatre space.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission receive the report.

Carried unanimously.

3. (4) **Harbourfront Walkway Extension / McGregor Park Presentation.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, advised that the waterfront walkway extension through to McGregor Park is underway and will be constructed to compliment the Port Authority's causeway area. The plan is to create a gateway entrance, perhaps honouring the City's mining history. It also includes nautical lights on the walkway, minimal vegetation, the creation of a quiet green space with benches and clear sight lines to the harbour. Hanging baskets could also be added as a beautification feature.

Because the Art in Public Places proposal for the gateway was not approved, staff will work to include a basic level of decoration at the gateway as part of the project.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission receive the report.

Carried unanimously.

3. (5) **Manager of Parks Monthly Report.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, reviewed his report and noted that the Department is pursuing an Urban Forest Plan grant, which requires a letter of support from Commission. The preparation of an Urban Forest Plan is one of the recommendations in the draft Master Plan.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission write a letter of support for the Urban Forest Plan Grant application.

Carried unanimously.

3. (6) **Manager of Recreation and Culture Services Monthly Report.** Mr. B. Meunier, Manager of Recreation and Culture Services, reviewed his report and circulated an I-Reg poster noting that internet registration (I-Reg) will commence with the Spring/Summer registration.

Commissioner Young asked about LEAP program usage. Mr. Meunier replied that statistics are holding steady but when the new arena opens, program use may increase.

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 reports for November and December noting that local groups made up 45% of November's bookings and 33% of December's.

Commissioner Johnstone noted that over 3,000 children attended the Symphony in the School program.

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. B. Kuhn, Supervisor, Recreation and Culture, from Mr. F. Geater, Mid Island Scrollers Club, expressing appreciation to staff for their assistance in arranging for Club members to operate Mike & Claire Lenton's Craft Fair booth.
5. (2) Copy of correspondence to Ms. L. Clarkson, Arena Programmer, from Ms. Barbara Kirkpatrick, Kindergarten Teacher, Mountain View Elementary School, expressing appreciation for the outstanding level of skating instruction that the students received.
5. (3) Copy of minutes from the Bowen Park Seniors Board Meeting held Friday, 2004-DEC-03.
5. (4) Copy of correspondence to Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Ms. Donna Hais, Nanaimo Christian School, expressing appreciation for the City contribution to their playground.
5. (5) Copy of correspondence to Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, from Mr. Dave Connolly, Past President, Environmental Committee, Island Waters Flyfishers, expressing appreciation for participating in the construction of the Jingle Pot Marsh viewing platform.
5. (6) Copy of correspondence to Ms. M. Turley, President, Vancouver Island Symphony, from Mr. Larry McNabb, Chair, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, advising that Commission will be awarding Cultural Grants at their meeting of 2005-JAN-26.
5. (7) Copy of minutes from the Bowen Park Seniors Board Meeting held Friday, 2005-JAN-14.
5. (8) Copy of correspondence to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission, from Ms. Shirley Lance, 14 Cilaire Drive, Nanaimo BC V9S 5H7, advising that she cannot support the Cultural Committee's Cultural Grant recommendation to the Francophone Association for the Maple Sugar Festival based on restrictions for local school district children to attend the event.
5. (9) Copy of correspondence to Mr. Sandy Raddysh, Aquatic Supervisor, from Ms. C. Tourout, Riptides Swim Club, expressing appreciation for staff assistance in the operation of the Vancouver Island Short Course Championship held 2005-JAN-21 to 23.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

- (1) **Mr. Kevin Smith, Keighley Park VIP Committee.**

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approves \$20,000 funding from the Volunteer In Parks program for the Keighley Park VIP project.

Carried unanimously.

- (2) **Mr. Chris Sholberg, Community and Heritage Planner.**

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission endorses the proposal as presented for the Wellington No. 5 Colliery Plaque at Diver Lake.

Carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- (1) Proposal for Annual Bike Rack Competition – referred to Staff to work with Cultural Committee and Downtown Nanaimo Partnership (Feb).
- (2) Recommendation from Ms. C. Meutzner, Community Heritage Commission, regarding the creation of a Miner's Memorial Public Art Project – referred to Cultural Committee.
- (3) Community Paddling/Auxiliary Coast Guard dock at the Brechin Boat Ramp – referred to staff to work with groups to develop plans and feasibility. *The Port Authority has approved the plans in principle* (Feb).
- (4) Sunset Ceremony Flag Pole at Maffeo Sutton Park – staff report (Feb).
- (5) Memorial Bench Program – staff report (Feb).

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

Association des francophones de Nanaimo. Letter of Support requested by L'Association des francophones de Nanaimo who propose that the City of Nanaimo embrace our two national languages and declare itself a bilingual city regarding tourists in anticipation of the many Canadian and international tourists who will be visiting our beautiful city before and during this time.

Commission, at their 2004-NOV-24 meeting, deferred this request until L'Association des francophones de Nanaimo met with the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber carried a motion of support for the Association des francophones de Nanaimo's bilingual project at their 2004-DEC-08 meeting.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission respectfully decline the request for a letter of support.

Carried unanimously.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

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

Recreation Committee Wednesday, 2005-FEB-09, 4:45 p.m.

Parks Committee Thursday, 2005-FEB-10, 5:00 p.m.

COMMISSION MASTER PLAN SEMINAR Wednesday, 2005-FEB-16; 4:00 p.m.
BEBAN PARK ROOM #19

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

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED: 8:31 p.m.

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