

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF NANAIMO,
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION, HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM OF
THE NANAIMO AQUATIC CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY, 2004-JUL-28 AT 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

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

Absent: Commissioner G. Baltzer

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Lance asked about cost sharing of fencing between residences at 2231 Fern Road and 2162 Lang Crescent and parkland at 2235 Fern Road. Staff advised that Commission will receive a report prior to any action being taken.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission held 2004-JUL-07 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. Frank Weaver, Director, Model Aeronautics Association of Canada (MAAC), 951 Oakley Street, Nanaimo, BC V9S 2A4,** requested that Club Members be permitted to use Grandview Bowl to fly small, quiet, electric powered model planes. He explained that the two local Clubs have over 100 members but only about 12 fly the electric powered "park flyers". Members currently use property near Nanoose and Nanaimo Lakes Road but those areas are about a 1 hour drive away. Mr. Weaver advised that Club members must belong to the governing body of modeling activities in Canada (MAAC), which provides 5 million dollars insurance for both the individual modeler and the property owner. For this insurance to be in effect, the model pilot must have permission to fly from the property owner, be registered with the MAAC, and adhere to the safety recommendations as defined by the MAAC.

Mr. Weaver advised that if permission is granted, the area over the racetrack will be used on a periodic and spontaneous basis but not when the fields are in use. To confirm members are insured, they will carry their MAAC membership card and can be asked to show it.

Mr. Weaver demonstrated the noise level of an electric model plane engine.

Mr. T. Hickey, Director, noted that the Model Plane members have been advised that organized bookings such as Nanaimo Minor Baseball will have priority; and that the area is only available until construction of the synthetic turf field begins at Grandview Bowl at which time staff will work with the group to find another suitable site.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. Frank Weaver, Director, Model Aeronautics Association of Canada, be received.

Carried unanimously.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission supports flying electric powered planes over the Grandview Bowl racetrack by Nanaimo members of the Model Aeronautics Association of Canada (MAAC):

- (a) when no other organized group is using the area,
- (b) until construction of the synthetic turf field begins; at which time staff will look for an alternate location.

Carried unanimously.

- (2) **Mr. Pat Giroday, Chair, Field Development Committee and Ms. Patricia Hanna-Huggins, Secretary, Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association (NMBA), P.O. Box 327, Nanaimo BC V9R 5L3** introduced their President, Don Miller. Mr. Giroday asked Commission for their support in the development of two 60 foot baseball diamonds on the Third Street property. He stated that the development of these fields is critical because when the synthetic turf field work commences, the two fields at Grandview Bowl will be eliminated and they are booked to capacity all season. Mr. Giroday stated that NMBA supports a multi-use facility at Third Street and noted that Malaspina University-College may also be a partner in this project.

The fields at Third Street will be in a central area of the City and will enable hosting provincial, national and international tournaments. Nanaimo hosts a couple of major tournaments each year and these are great economic generators for the City because each team brings up to 16 players plus family members.

Nanaimo's baseball teams have been very successful which has raised the profile of baseball in the community. Because of this success, the Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association wants to capitalize on hosting more clinics, camps and tournaments and the Third Street fields are in an advantageous location adjacent to the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre, Malaspina University-College and the downtown core.

Mr. Giroday stated that NMBA will commit \$5,000 - \$6,000 towards the design of the first phase of the field project. He added that local businesses have expressed interest in donating materials and supplies, NMBA has a very large volunteer contingent to assist with labour and a local service club is also interested in helping with this project.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. Pat Giroday, Chair, Field Development Committee and Ms. Patricia Hanna-Huggins, Secretary, Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association, be received.

Carried unanimously.

Motion

It was moved and seconded to bring forward the Director's Report 3. (5) Third Street Property Field Development Proposal.

Carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- 3. (5) Third Street Property Field Development Proposal.** Mr. T. Hickey advised that on 2001-NOV-28, the Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association (NMBA) presented a proposal for the Third Street Baseball Park and Multi-Use Field Development to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission. Based on staff's assessment of this proposal, and Commission's recommendations to Council, a letter was sent to NMBA from Council advising of their resolutions regarding funding for this project.

The construction timeline, and the City's funding commitment, was established so that the first phase of the project could be completed in 2004. This was because NMBA needs to move two baseball fields to Third Street from Grandview Bowl, where the lighted synthetic turf field will be built in the Fall of 2005.

The Third Street field development has not proceeded at this time because NMBA has found it very difficult to raise 2/3 (\$1.5 million) of the \$2.25 million project funding. There are no Provincial Capital Grant programs available and many organizations are competing for fundraising dollars within our community. To enable the City of Nanaimo to meet the community's need for sports fields, the method of funding and developing the Third Street property needs to be reconsidered.

City staff met with Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association and Malaspina University-College representatives to discuss development concepts and funding opportunities to move this project forward. The concept for this field development is now much more multi-purpose in scope and will maximize use, as well as community investment. NMBA remains committed to making a contribution to the project. Malaspina University-College is motivated to be a partner and is conceptually very supportive of the project. Further assessment is needed to determine if a partnership with all three organizations is feasible and if the value of contribution fairly benefits all partners.

The steps in making this assessment are as follows:

1. Prepare a construction design and project cost estimate quantifying equipment, material and labour needs (complete by mid-September at an estimated cost of \$ 25,000).
2. Do an environmental impact study on the design (complete by late November at an estimated cost of \$ 7,000).
3. Based on project design, determine what funding or service-in-kind Malaspina University-College and Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association can provide, and what funding may be expected from the City (complete by mid-October).
4. Determine if the value of contribution fairly benefits all partners.
5. Staff report to Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission in October presenting terms of the partnership, as well as a request for Capital and Operating funding to be contributed by the City to this project.
6. If the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission supports the project partnership and funding request, a recommendation will be forwarded to City Council for their consideration and approval.

For these playfields to be ready for use in the Spring of 2006, construction will need to start in March 2005. The City has \$200,000 of the \$750,000 committed to the project allocated in the 2004 Capital Budget with more Capital funding budgeted in 2005. To complete the project assessment, and meet the construction timeline, the design work and environmental impact study need to be done immediately.

The City's portion of the project design and environmental impact study costs can be drawn from the 2004 Capital Budget for this project and Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association is contributing \$5,000 - \$6,000 towards the design costs.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission support funding the design of Phase One of the Third Street Field Development, as well as the environmental impact study, from the City's 2004 Capital Budget.

Carried unanimously.

- (3) **Mr. Ted Olynyk, BC Hydro, 400 Madsen, Nanaimo BC V9R 5M3** introduced Mr. Bill Coutts, BC Hydro, and Mr. Irv Penner, Arborist. He provided information regarding the tree abatement program at Westwood Lake noting that BC Transmission Corporation operates the transmission lines throughout BC; whereas BC Hydro is responsible for providing electricity to customers. BCTC's mandate is to ensure public safety and provide reliable cost-effective services. Because fallen trees account for more than half of all power interruptions it is important to monitor trees along the power lines and remove any damaged or rotting trees.

As forests age, trees become taller and are subject to root rot disease. This is what has occurred along the Westwood Lake power lines. Mr. Olynyk advised that about 200 trees will be removed along the lines and the shoreline trail in order to prevent future power interruptions and/or fire.

Mr. Olynyk advised that they are working with the Field Naturalists, Nature's Trust and Morrell Sanctuary representatives on a public awareness program that will commence shortly and will include contacting the user groups who frequent the trail. Signage will be posted in the next few weeks advising of the reasons this work needs to be done. Mr. Olynyk confirmed that there will be no interrupted trail use, but there will be detours and work zones, and only the necessary trees will be removed. The work will be done in October when the bird-nesting season is over. There will be remedial plantings using Western Red Cedar and wildlife trees will be created.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the presentation from Mr. Ted Olynyk, BC Hydro, be received; and that staff continue to work with BC Hydro on the tree abatement program at Westwood Lake.

Carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Master Plan Update. The Consultants are now completing the information from community meetings and the public survey and will be providing a summary to the Commission and the community in the Fall.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. (1) Letter from Mr. Dick Copland, President, Mid-Vancouver Island Marine Modelers, requesting that some form of water level control be implemented at Long Lake to restore water levels to their original average state.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the request from Mr. Dick Copland, President, Mid-Vancouver Island Marine Modelers, be forwarded to staff to prepare a report.

Carried unanimously.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

2. (1) **Parks Committee.** No meeting held.
2. (2) **Recreation Committee.** No meeting held.
2. (3) **Cultural Committee.** Commissioner Field reported on the meeting held 2004-JUL-07. He advised that a Higher Service Level request may be required to enable the Committee to create a data base and inventory to market Nanaimo to the world. In the mean time, he has spoken to the Malaspina University-College Business Department regarding assisting with this project.

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) **Ms. Tara Fedosoff and Ms. Carleen McDowell, Recreation Programmers reporting on Concerts in the Park, Arts Alive, Camp Sunsation.** Ms. Fedosoff advised she is responsible for the Bowen Barnyard, Concerts in the Park and Arts Alive. She stated that in order to maintain the Barnyard program the City has partnered with the 4H Club. The Club provides animals and feed and the City provides a \$6,000 budget. The Barnyard operates 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from June 28 – August 21 and attracts 80 to 100 visitors per day.

Concerts in the Park began as an intimate jam session in Bowen Park with 100 people in attendance and has evolved into mini-special events at Maffeo-Sutton Park with approximately 500 people attending. The Sunday concerts are offered during July and August from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. and are funded by Pepsi.

The Arts Alive program was developed in conjunction with School District 68 as a method of promoting the arts throughout the summer. The success of this program has resulted in the formation of the Arts Alive Society who offer high quality, unique arts programs. Parks, Recreation and Culture staff liaise with the Society and a new method of marketing this year has resulted in a most successful summer season.

Ms. McDowell advised that she is responsible for the management of Camp Sunsation. This camp is the product of Ministry of Children and Families funding combined with the creativity and expertise of Parks, Recreation and Culture Staff. This year the Ministry provided \$80,000 and 115 children between the ages of 6 to 18 years are participating. These children require a higher staff to participant ratio because of their mental and physical needs resulting in a maximum of 20 children with 7 senior leaders, 3 junior leaders and a couple of Quest/Leaders In Training volunteers. Camp schedules are similar to other Department camps but venues are wheelchair accessible and the camp has access to wheelchair accessible transportation. Ms. McDowell noted that many of the children are long term Camp Sunsation participants and the camp is designed for them to succeed and have a good time.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

Commissioner Whiteaker left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

- 3. (2) Nanaimo Christian School Volunteer in Park Funding Request.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that at the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission meeting held 2004-JUL-07 a request was received from the Nanaimo Christian School asking the City for a \$12,000 Volunteer In Park (VIP) grant to complete their school playground, which is located on private property but used by the neighbourhood.

Commission considered the following options:

1. If Commission believes this VIP project provides considerable public benefit, especially for the neighbourhood; and, if the Commission anticipates this as a once only request. Then, provide the Nanaimo Christian School with VIP funding as variance to the policy. Part of the agreement as suggested by Commission would be:
 - (a) To ensure the Nanaimo Christian School maintains the playground to CSA Standards;
 - (b) That the playground can be accessed by the public at all times; and,
 - (c) That trails can be established from the neighbourhood to the playground.
2. If Commission believes this VIP project provides considerable public benefit, especially for the neighbourhood; and, if Commission anticipates there may be other projects on private lands that will provide public benefit. Then, provide the Nanaimo Christian School with VIP funding and update the VIP policy to fit new criteria based on public benefit.
3. Decline the Nanaimo Christian School request as it does not meet the current VIP allocation policy. The current policy is that Volunteer in Parks projects are constructed on municipal parkland and some non-parkland (i.e. boulevards or greenbelts).

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approves \$12,000 funding from the Volunteer In Park program to the Nanaimo Christian School providing that:

- (a) The Nanaimo Christian School maintains the playground to CSA Standards;
- (b) The playground can be accessed by the public at all times; and,
- (c) Trails can be established from the neighbourhood to the playground.

Carried unanimously.

- 3. (3) Commission Assignments to Community Boards.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that at the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission Seminar of 2004-MAR-15, Commission requested that staff prepare a report regarding options for why and when Commission members are assigned to sit on community boards and what their responsibility should be.

Some options were presented for Commission's consideration. Commission requested staff to send a letter to the President of each Board currently having Commission representation, and to groups now receiving \$20,000 or more in funding, advising them of what options Commission may be considering and ask for their input.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission will consider Commission Assignments to Community Boards at their 2004-SEP-29 meeting.

Carried unanimously.

3. (4) **Sport and Cultural Tourism.** Mr. T. Hickey advised that many City organizations, including Tourism Nanaimo and the City of Nanaimo, have been involved in various sport and cultural tourism initiatives. If our City is committed to increasing its sport and cultural tourism impact, the initiatives of community organizations need to be better co-ordinated and match with our community's capabilities and capacities. The goals of the Sport and Cultural Tourism Strategy are to develop Nanaimo as a sport and cultural tourism destination, to reduce barriers to hosting tournaments, events or festivals, and to help organizations to help themselves.

Based on discussions between Tourism Nanaimo and the City's Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, a strategy has been developed that includes several tactics that will help to incrementally develop sport and cultural tourism. Tourism Nanaimo and the City of Nanaimo, through its Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, will work together and involve other community agencies to implement this Sport and Cultural Tourism Strategy.

Commissioner Tang thanked staff for their work on this project and believes this will be a very useful tool to help groups move forward.

Commissioner Lane asked if the first goal, "to develop Nanaimo as a sport and cultural tourism destination", is in conflict with Commission's goal, "to market our services, facilities, parks and open space to Nanaimo residents and then to visitors." Mr. Hickey replied that we do market to residents first, and this strategy is to better utilize the shoulder season co-operatively with Tourism Nanaimo on an incremental basis.

Mr. Hickey replied that both of these goals can be achieved through a co-ordinated approach that matches our community's capabilities and capacity. Resident needs are met first and excess capacity during shoulder seasons can be used to develop sport and cultural tourism initiatives.

Commissioner Tyndall suggested this is a co-ordination role, and volunteering adds to the quality of life in our community, which is a mandate of this Commission. Having the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture partnering up with Tourism Nanaimo will be very beneficial to the community and local organizations.

Commissioner Field noted that the Cultural Committee is initiating a project with Malaspina University-College to inventory cultural groups/organizations and what services they provide so these services can be marketed. He suggested that it is important to find out if this inventory will provide tourism opportunities and if the inventory needs to include sport as well as recreation and culture. He will be discussing this further with staff.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission supports the Sport and Cultural Tourism Strategy and its implementation.

Carried unanimously.

3. (6) **Manager of Parks Monthly Report.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, introduced Ms. Kirsty MacDonald, the new Park Planner. She will be leading the Linley Valley (Cottle Lake) Park Planning process and taking on co-ordination of the VIP program.

Mr. Harding noted that a severe fire hazard remains throughout the City and he is working with the Fire Department, RCMP and the Bylaw Department regarding fire patrols.

3. (7) **Manager of Recreation and Culture Services Monthly Report.** Mr. B. Meunier, Manager of Recreation and Culture Services, circulated a letter regarding SOCAN tariffs. The fees have increased significantly and may have a direct impact on rental bookings.

He circulated a poster for the Fall walking program and noted that private and semi-private lessons are now very popular, as are one-day workshops.

Mr. Meunier advised that the Nanaimo Clippers Jr. Hockey Club cancelled one week of hockey school because of insufficient enrollment and staff are working to fill the vacant ice time.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

4. (1) **Port Theatre** – No report.
4. (2) **PacificSport** – Commissioner Tyndall advised that Mr. Peter Lawless has been elected as President. Five sub-committees have been established – fundraising, marketing, personnel, coaching and facility. She noted that PacificSport is excited about the Sport and Cultural Tourism initiative.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the PacificSport report be received.

Carried unanimously.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INFORMATION:

5. (1) Copy of correspondence to Mayor Gary Korpan, from Ms. Lawrie Raymer, VIE X Fair Administrator/Manager, expressing appreciation for their Tournament and Festival Fund grant of \$1,500.
5. (2) Copy of City Notes Newsletter dated 2004-JUL-15.
5. (3) Copy of correspondence to Chair McNabb and Mr. B. Meunier, from Elly Parker, Island Showcase Co-ordinator, expressing appreciation for the generous support of the 6th Island Showcase and expressing thanks to Department staff.
5. (4) Copy of Newspaper Article, entitled "VIS seeks support for harbour show", Daily News, 2004-JUL-22.
5. (5) Copy of City Notes Newsletter dated 2004-JUL-29.

Motion

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

Carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

Dealt with previously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Motion

It was moved and seconded that Item #4 – Nanaimo Christian School VIP request, be removed from Unfinished Business

Carried unanimously.

CURRENT UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- (1) Proposal for Annual Bike Rack Competition – referred to Staff to work with Cultural Committee and Downtown Nanaimo Partnership (Sep).
- (2) Recommendation from Ms. C. Meutzner, Community Heritage Commission, regarding the creation of a Miner's Memorial Public Art Project – referred to Cultural Committee (Sep).
- (3) Community Paddling/Auxiliary Coast Guard dock at the Brechin Boat Ramp – referred to staff to work with groups to develop plans and feasibility.
- (4) Cost-sharing of fence between residences at 2231 Fern Road and 2162 Lang Crescent and parkland at 2235 Fern Road – staff report.
- (5) Sunset Ceremony Flag Pole at Maffeo Sutton Park – staff report.
- (6) Commission Assignments to Community Boards – postponed to 2004-SEP-29 meeting.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS: Nil

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

Mr. F. Taylor, 204 Emery Way, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5Z8, asked that if Nanaimo Minor Baseball moves various age groups together on the Third Street fields, would that leave other fields vacant? Chair McNabb replied that no, it would not.

Mr. Taylor asked if Commission members are aware of the exact words in the covenant provided when BC Hydro gave Westwood Lake to City; will the City or BC Hydro sell the timber and who will receive the revenue; and will the trees be left on the forest floor, which is fuel for forest fires?

Chair McNabb indicated that Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, is discussing these topics with staff from BC Hydro and confirmed that the City does have the timber rights.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Cultural Committee Wednesday, 2004-SEP-01; 4:00 p.m.

Recreation Committee *(if required)* Wednesday, 2004-SEP-08; 4:45 p.m.

Parks Committee *(if required)* Thursday, 2004-SEP-09; 5:00 p.m.

COMMISSION Wednesday, 2004-SEP-29; 7:00 p.m.

Motion

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED: 9:10 p.m.