

**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, 2004-MAR-24, AT 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

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

Absent: Commissioner G. Baltzer
Commissioner D. Tyndall
Commissioner J. Whiteaker

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Motion 2004-47

Moved by Commissioner Field, seconded by Commissioner Young, that the minutes of the Second Regular Meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission held 2004-FEB-25 be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

RECEIVING OF LATE CORRESPONDENCE AGENDA:

Motion 2004-48

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Johnstone, that the Late Correspondence Agenda be received.

Carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Motion 2004-49

Moved by Commissioner Field, seconded by Commissioner Lance, that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan Committee be comprised of Commissioners Holdom, Field, Lance, Johnstone, McNabb and Tang.

Carried.

Chair McNabb accepted Commissioner Sperling's resignation with regret and on behalf of Commission thanked him for his dedication and assistance over the past 4 years. Chair McNabb extended well wishes to Commissioner Sperling and stated that he will be missed on the Commission.

Chair McNabb asked who would be interested in attending the BCRPA Annual Symposium in Penticton, 2004-APR-29 to 2004-MAY-01. Commissioners Tang, Johnstone and Tyndall will be the Commission representatives at the Symposium.

Chair McNabb advised that Mr. Anup Kang, President, Nanaimo Youth Soccer Association will not be in attendance this evening as a delegation. His group will attend the May meeting instead.

RECEIVING OF DELEGATIONS:

- (1) **Mr. Steve Bilodeau, General Manager, Doug Cowling and Randy Shaw, McGirr Sports Society**, requested that the City increase the annual operating grant that the City provides to the Society by \$40,000 to help offset the unexpected revenue loss created by the Provincial Government's withdrawal of the Society's direct access gaming funding and bingo licence.

Mr. Bilodeau advised that operating expenses no longer qualify for funding and that direct programming to children is a requirement. The Society is offering summer youth programs this year that may qualify for some grant funding in 2005. Mr. Bilodeau noted that the McGirr Sports Society is a well recognized and respected community organization comprised of a local Board of Directors. The Society provides volunteer work parties, has access to sponsorship and grant opportunities that the City does not have, creates youth employment and because volunteers are in attendance at the facility on a regular basis, vandalism is reduced.

Mr. Cowling stated that fundraising for the field house is almost complete; however, it will be very difficult to fundraise for operational costs and not receiving the gaming funding has come at a difficult time. Mr. Cowling added that the McGirr General Manager and staff have a solid understanding of the operation and staff / volunteers take great pride in the complex.

Mr. Bilodeau commented that the McGirr Sports Complex is a premier facility used to host provincial and national tournaments which bring an estimated \$750,000 annually in tourism dollars to Nanaimo.

Chair McNabb thanked the delegation for attending and complimented them on the McGirr Sports Complex.

Motion 2004-50

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Young, that the presentation from Mr. S. Bilodeau, General Manager, McGirr Sports Society, be received.

Carried.

- (2) **Ms. Joan Rogerson, Fairview Elementary School Teacher, 2404 Glenayr Drive, Nanaimo BC V9S 3R7 and Dave Connolly, Island Waters Fly Fishers**, proposed the construction of a work deck in the Jingle Pot Marsh. She asked Commission to review the summary of work completed by Fairview School to date and outlined the school objectives regarding the Marsh.

Ms. Rogerson noted that during the past year the Island Water Fly Fishers and Fairview School students have worked on joint projects including insect explorations, planting 1800 trees, providing boots and tree-planting shovels to students, and releasing co-ho fry into man-made pools beside the Cat Stream. She added that school children have released fry into the Cat Stream and this past year cut-throat trout had returned. Fairview School has been diligent in enhancing the marsh in a variety of ways, which has also enhanced the neighbourhood.

Mr. Connolly advised that the Island Water Fly Fishers are interested in participating in community projects and have allocated \$2,500 towards this project. He stated that the Club would like to dedicate this viewing deck to the memory of Bill Brown, a well-known and respected charter member who passed away recently. Mr. Connolly said that the Island Water Fly Fishers enjoy the educational component of projects in the marsh and would like to continue working to improve our community.

Ms. Rogerson explained that the students will use the proposed work deck when studying the pond life, plus it will be available for the community to use. The deck would be 16x20 ft, grade level in the rear, 12 inches high in front, with a step wide enough to be used as a bench for wildlife viewing, and be set 30 ft back from the water's edge. The deck would be constructed in a non-invasive manner at an estimated cost of \$3,000 with \$1,500 for materials. The Island Waters Fly Fishers have received funding from the Gillie Fund and the intent is to apply for matching funding from local community, provincial and federal grant programs. Ms. Rogerson asked for Commission's support and endorsement on this project.

Commissioner Lane thanked the delegation for their continuing work in the Marsh.

Motion 2004-51

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Tang, that the presentation from Ms. J. Rogerson, Fairview Elementary School, be received.

Carried.

- (3) **Ms. Anne Gilroyed, General Manager, Nanaimo Art Gallery, 900 Fifth Street, Nanaimo BC V9R 5S5** provided an update on gallery activities and special events over the past few months. Ms. Gilroyed briefly reviewed the 6 staff positions and their responsibilities and noted that Work Opportunity Students also help in the gallery. Recent highlights include:

- Several high quality exhibits of provincial and national artists during the past six months have been hosted at the Campus Gallery.
- The Artists in the Schools program has been operating for 26 years and continues to be an integral part of the School District program. This year, Weyerhaeuser donated \$2,000 to this program.
- The Downtown Gallery and staff have been working co-operatively with the Port Theatre for events and promotion, as well as with Tourism Nanaimo, the Nanaimo Museum and the Community Archives.
- Rental of the Downtown Gallery for a variety of events has created a new revenue source.

Ms. Gilroyed advised that the 2004 'ArtFest Originals Only' exhibit is scheduled for 2004-AUG-14/15 at the Harbourfront Plaza. It will include musical performances and art displays of over 50 artists with an anticipated attendance of over 2,000 people.

Ms. Gilroyed extended well wishes to Bob Kuhn and expressed appreciation for his assistance over the past years.

Motion 2004-52

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Johnstone, that the presentation from Ms. A. Gilroyed, General Manager, Nanaimo Art Gallery, be received.

Carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

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

2. (2) **Recreation Committee.** Commissioner Lance reported on the meeting held 2004-MAR-24 at 6:15 p.m.

- 2.(2.1) Tournament and Festival Fund Guidelines. Currently, many tournament and festival organizers request City support but do not fit the criteria of the City's Grant-in-Aid program. With this new funding, community sport and recreation organizations will be encouraged to develop new, or expand existing, events. This fund parallels the Arts and Culture Event Downtown Fund of \$24,000 that has been successful in encouraging new arts and culture events.

Some of the key guidelines are that:

- The tournament or festival should take place over a minimum of 2 consecutive days.
- Organizations will not be considered if they have received any other funding assistance from the City of Nanaimo.
- The maximum grant is \$1,500 per event.

Applications for events hosted through to 2004-DEC-31 are to be received by Friday, 2004-APR-30. In the Fall, the Commission will evaluate the funding guidelines based on feedback received through this year.

Motion 2004-53

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Johnstone, that the Commission proceed with the Tournament and Festival Guidelines as amended and circulated.

Carried.

Motion 2004-54

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Lane, that the Recreation Committee report be received.

Carried.

2. (3) **Cultural Committee.** Commissioner Field reported on the meeting held 2004-MAR-03 noting that Richard Harding, Manager of Parks, provided an overview of the proposed development at the Harbourfront Plaza.

2. (3.1) **Social Planning Committee.**

Motion 2004-55

Moved by Commissioner Field, seconded by Commissioner Johnstone, that Ms. L. Fraser be appointed to the Social Planning Committee as per the Nanaimo Cultural Strategy.

Defeated

Commissioner Field circulated a copy of the Cultural Capitals of Canada application.

2. (3.2) **Miner's Memorial Public Art Project.**

Motion 2004-56

Moved by Commissioner Field, seconded by Commissioner Johnstone, that this item be forwarded to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for their consideration.

Carried.

2. (3.3) **Downtown Nanaimo Partnership (DNP).** This is related to a request from the DNP to invite artists to design bicycle racks as art.

Motion 2004-57

Moved by Commissioner Field, seconded by Commissioner Holdom, that this item be forwarded to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for their consideration.

Carried.

Motion 2004-58

Moved by Commissioner Field, seconded by Commissioner Lane, that the Cultural Committee report be adopted.

Carried.

2. (4) **Athletic Commission.** Chair McNabb advised that he has invited Mr. Merv Unger, Chair of the Athletic Commission, to attend the April Commission meeting to provide an overview of what the Athletic Commission's mandate is.

Motion 2004-59

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Holdom, that the Business Arising from Delegations – Ms. Joan Rogerson regarding the proposed work deck in Jingle Pot Marsh, be brought forward at this time.

Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

- (2) **Ms. Joan Rogerson, Fairview Elementary School Teacher, and the Island Waters Fly Fishers.**

Motion 2004-60

Moved by Commissioner Lane, seconded by Commissioner Young, that the Commission supports the construction of a work deck in the Jingle Pot Marsh by Fairview School and the Island Waters Fly Fishers

Carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

3. (1) **Nanaimo 2005 BC Disability Games Nominating Committee.** Mr. B. Meunier advised that the preparation for the BC Disability Games will follow a process similar to that of the Summer and Winter Games co-ordinated through the BC Games Society. The Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission will establish a Nominating Committee in April.

Staff recommend that the nominating committee have representation from the:

- Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission (3)
- School District No. 68 (1)
- Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce (1)
- Tourism Nanaimo (1)
- Regional District of Nanaimo (1)
- Community Member Representing Disability Sports (1)

Motion 2004-61

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Lane,

1. That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission establish a Nominating Committee to select a Board of Directors for the 2005 BC Disability Games; and further,
2. That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission nominate Commissioners Johnstone, Lance and Field to the Committee.

Carried.

3. (2) **McGirr Sports Society Annual Operating Grant.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director, advised that the McGirr Sports Field Complex has been operational since 1997 and is now one of Nanaimo's most used sports facilities. The McGirr Sports Society has a licence agreement with the City for the purpose of conducting sports leagues, tournaments and related events at McGirr Sports Field. In the fall of 2003, the Provincial Government informed the McGirr Sports Society that their direct access gaming funding, as well as their bingo licence, had been withdrawn. This represented a loss of revenue to the Society of approximately \$70,000 per year. The Society will be unable to function without another revenue source to make up the shortfall.

In 2004, the City has budgeted to provide an operating grant of \$70,000 to the Society to be applied to maintenance, repairs and utilities. Staff believes that the City can either increase the operating grant to the McGirr Sports Society by \$40,000 and have them continue with their licence agreement or have the City operate the facility.

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission reviewed the 2004 McGirr Sports Society operating budget as well as an estimated budget for the City to operate the McGirr Sport Fields. The budget indicates that the McGirr Sports Society is able to provide a higher level of service at less cost to the taxpayer than a City operation. This is because they have substantial community volunteer support for both the operation and the maintenance of the park, plus they are able to generate additional revenues through concession and liquor sales, as well as corporate sponsorships which are not likely to be available to the City.

Motion 2004-62

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Field, that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission recommends that Council increase the annual operating grant to the McGirr Sports Field Society by \$40,000 to \$110,000 annually.

Carried.

Chair McNabb suggested that if Commissioner Holdom wished to write a strongly worded letter to the Provincial Government about this downloading of funding, he, as Chair of the Commission, would be pleased to sign it.

3. (3) **Evaluation of Actions Taken on the 1993 Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan.** The 1993 Master Plan that was prepared by Professional Environmental Recreation Consultants (PERC) had 112 recommendations and 88 of these recommendations have been completed or action initiated. A table outlining the status of each recommendation, including notes related to the action taken was included with the agenda. The major thrust from this plan came from the communities desire to establish trails and maintain greenspace. Staff have used this plan on an ongoing basis for policy development and capital budgeting.

Since 1993, the City has invested \$ 38 million through its Capital Budget plus community groups, businesses or other governments have contributed \$ 24 million to help implement these master plan recommendations. During that 10 year period, the City's population has grown from approximately 66,000 to an estimated 77,000 today.

The public survey and community stakeholder meetings that are part of the current Master Plan update will provide a further evaluation of community attitude towards current services and facilities.

Commissioner Field asked that the Consultants phrase the questions in a broader sense than in 1993 so that culture is included.

Commissioner Lane thanked the Director for preparing the evaluation.

Chair McNabb asked that this report be forwarded to Council and that a newspaper article be prepared. Commissioner Tang suggested that promotion of our ten years of progress should be part of the information going out to the public as part of the Master Plan Update process. Commissioner Lance suggested that the City Page could also be used for this purpose.

Motion 2004-63

Moved by Commissioner Lane, seconded by Commissioner Holdom, that the Master Plan Evaluation Report be received.

Carried.

Motion 2004-64

Moved by Commissioner Lane, seconded by Commissioner Holdom, that the 1993 Master Plan Evaluation Report be circulated to Council and to the general public.

Carried.

3. (4) **Manager of Parks Monthly Report.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, reviewed his report and advised that an agreement has been reached with the Protection Island Lion's Club regarding the maintenance of Protection Island Parks.

Mr. Hickey advised that the Island Highway and Highway 19A boulevards are going to be maintained by the Provincial Government on a 50:50 cost share with the City.

Commissioner Holdom asked why the park in Linley Valley is being referred to as Cottle Lake Park?

Mr. Hickey advised that this property is commonly referred to as Cottle Lake and it is intended that the park be named in the park planning process.

Motion 2004-65

Moved by Commissioner Holdom, seconded by Commissioner Lane, that the naming of the District Lot 13 property be referred to the Parks Committee.

Carried.

3. (5) **Manager of Recreation and Culture Services Monthly Report.** Mr. B. Meunier, Manager of Recreation and Culture Services, reviewed his report. He advised that with Bob Kuhn away on medical leave, Brent will be the staff liaison to the Cultural Committee and Elizabeth Fuller will be handling Bob's other duties. Ms. Fuller's aquatic position will be filled on a temporary basis.

Motion 2004-66

Moved by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Field, that the Director's report be received.

Carried.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

4. (1) **Port Theatre** – Monthly activity report reviewed.

Motion 2004-67

Moved by Commissioner Tang, seconded by Commissioner Lane, that the Port Theatre report be received.

Carried.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INFORMATION:

5. (1) Copy of correspondence from Mr. John Furlong, Chief Executive Officer, Vancouver 2010, to Chair McNabb, expressing appreciation for the message of congratulations.
5. (2) Copy of correspondence from Ms. Anne Gilroyed, Executive Director, Nanaimo Art Gallery, to Chair McNabb, expressing appreciation for the ArtsFest funding of \$3,600.
5. (3) Copy of correspondence from Mr. Colin Gorrie, Producer, VI Children's Festival, to Chair McNabb, expressing appreciation for the Arts and Cultural Downtown Event Grant.
5. (4) Copy of Minutes from the Board Meeting of the Bowen Park Seniors held 2004-MAR-05.
5. (5) Copy of correspondence from Mr. and Mrs. J. Berry and family, to Mr. Ian Blackwood, Trades Foreman, expressing appreciation for refurbishing the memorial plaque for their son, Scott, at the RCMP office.
5. (6) Copy of correspondence from Nathalie Clermont, Cultural Capitals of Canada Arts Policy Branch, to Mr. Tom Hickey, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, acknowledging receipt of the Cultural Capitals of Canada application.
5. (7) Copy of City Notes Newsletter dated 2004-MAR-25.

Motion 2004-68

Moved by Commissioner Field, seconded by Commissioner Lance, that the Items of General Information be received.

Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Motion 2004-69

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Field, that Item#1 - Develop Criteria for the Allocation of the Tournament and Festival Fund and Item #2 - Evaluation Report on the 1993 Master Plan, be removed from Unfinished Business.

Carried.

CURRENT UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- (1) Naming of District Lot 13 property – referred to Parks Committee.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

Recreation Facilities Association of British Columbia - the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commissioners Workshop, Thursday, 2004-JUN-03 at the Cowichan Centre. Mr. Hickey advised that Mr. Brian Johnston will present this session to Commission and the Cultural Committee as part of a Master Plan meeting. This will be a 4 hour session held mid-April.

Commissioner Tang suggested that a future Commission meeting be held at the Downtown Nanaimo Art Gallery.

Commissioner Lane suggested that NALT be invited to attend the April Commission meeting as a delegation to provide an update of their plans.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Cultural Committee	Wednesday, 2004-APR-07, 4:15 p.m.
Recreation Committee <i>(if required)</i>	Wednesday, 2004-APR-14, 4:45 p.m.
Parks Committee	TBA

COMMISSION, CULTURAL COMMITTEE **Wednesday, 2004-APR-21; 3:00 p.m.**
Nanaimo Aquatic Centre

COMMISSION **Wednesday, 2004-APR-28; 7:00 p.m.**

Motion 2004-70

Moved by Commissioner Field, seconded by Commissioner Holdom, that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried.

ADJOURNED: 8:45 p.m.