

**MINUTES OF THE TENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF NANAIMO
PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION, HELD IN THE
CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE BOWEN PARK COMPLEX,
ON WEDNESDAY, 2003-NOV-26, AT 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

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

Absent: Commissioner G. Baltzer
Commissioner B. Sperling
Commissioner B. Holdom

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

PRESENTATION OF PROVINCIAL AWARDS:

Commissioner Tyndall and Commissioner Johnstone presented Provincial awards and certificates to the Central Vancouver Island U-18 Girls Soccer Team (11).

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Motion 2003-183

Moved by Commissioner Field, seconded by Commissioner Johnstone, that the minutes of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission held 2003-OCT-22 be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS: Nil.

RECEIVING OF LATE CORRESPONDENCE AGENDA:

Motion 2003-184

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

Carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Commission Seminar. Chair McNabb reminded Commissioners to forward to him ideas for seminar topics. The seminar will be held in the new year.

Volunteer in Park Meetings. Commissioners should attend the Volunteer in Park meetings that are held in neighbourhoods on Saturday mornings. Commissioners will be reminded of upcoming VIP meetings at the regular Commission meeting.

RECEIVING OF DELEGATIONS:

(1) **Mrs. May Jenkins, 26 - 2465 Oriole, Nanaimo BC V9T 3P2** presented a petition of names and signatures of residents who are opposed to having the Beban Pool closed on Sundays. She explained that a large group of seniors use Beban Pool on Sundays, as do families, and neither group wish to go to the busier Nanaimo Aquatic Centre. She stated that there are pre-school swimming lessons taking place on Sunday mornings as well.

Commissioner Lance explained that Sunday attendance at Beban Pool has been quite low and is continuing to drop. She stated that every year as part of the budget process, the Commission provides a list of possible service reductions to Council. Commissioner Lance noted that Council uses this list should they need to cut services to achieve their budget objectives.

Chair McNabb thanked Mrs. Jenkins for attending the meeting and stated that he does not believe Council will choose to close Beban Pool on Sundays.

Motion 2003-185

Moved by Commissioner Tyndall, seconded by Commissioner Young, that the presentation from Mrs. May Jenkins be received.

Carried.

- (2) **Ms. Debbie Provencher, President, Nanaimo Diamonds Synchronized Swim Club, 2627 Starlight Trail, Nanaimo BC V9T 3S8,** requested Commission to not recommend closing Beban Pool on Sundays. Ms. Provencher advised that the Nanaimo Diamonds Synchronized Swim Club is a very small club consisting of only 22 members and operates on a shoestring budget. In spite of being able to afford minimal pool practice time, the Club continues to win at competitions, which is a reflection of the calibre of coaching provided.

The Nanaimo Diamonds Synchronized Swim Club has competitive swimmers working towards Provincial Championships and World Championships. The Club is not in a position to change pools mid-season because the coaches have been contracted for specific dates and times. Plus, there is no sound system at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre. She urged Commission to reconsider recommending closure of the Beban Pool on Sundays.

Motion 2003-186

Moved by Commissioner Tyndall, seconded by Commissioner Lance, that the presentation from Ms. Debbie Provencher, Nanaimo Diamonds Synchronized Swim Club, be received.

Carried.

- (3) **Mr. Roger Douglas, 5350 Leslie Crescent, Nanaimo BC V9V 1S9,** thanked Commission for providing such an excellent boat ramp facility and requested that Commission consider developing an alternative to the Brechin Boat Ramp annual parking pass. He suggested either selling a prorated pass, starting the user's yearly term as of the date they buy their pass, or selling a monthly/quarterly/half year pass. Mr. Douglas believes these options would better accommodate those persons who commence use of the ramp during the year rather than at the first of the year. He noted that a change to how the fees are collected would most likely encourage more use of the ramp, thereby generating more revenue.

Motion 2003-187

Moved by Commissioner Whiteaker, seconded by Commissioner Lane, that the presentation from Mr. Roger Douglas be received.

Carried.

Motion 2003-188

Moved by Commissioner Tyndall, seconded by Commissioner Whiteaker, that the request from Mr. Roger Douglas be forwarded to the Recreation Committee for consideration and recommendation.

Carried.

- (4) **Groveland VIP Group, c/o Mrs. Carol Mjoen, 6337 Lasalle, Nanaimo BC V9V 1N5,** spoke in favour of constructing a water park at Groveland Park as part of a Volunteer in Park program. She advised that a neighbourhood meeting was held in September and the residents attending believe Groveland Park is an ideal location for a water park. It would enable local residents to walk to the park with their children, rather than drive to the Departure Bay Water Park.

Mrs. Mjoen noted that staff will be recommending the Oliver Road site to Commission later this evening as the best location for a water park and she asked Commission to consider locating it at Groveland Park. The neighbourhood group is looking for a smaller scale water park suitable for neighbourhood use; and does not favour the Oliver Road site because it is too close to commercial activity. She stated that if the water park is located at Oliver Road, neighbourhood residents would most likely continue to use the Departure Bay Water Park.

Motion 2003-189

Moved by Commissioner Whiteaker, seconded by Commissioner Tyndall, that the presentation from Mrs. Mjoen be received.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: (File A)

1. (1) E-mail letter from Joy Newall, 304 - 220 Townsite Road, Nanaimo BC V9S 5S8 (newall@shaw.ca) requesting that Commission reconsider their recommendation of closing Beban Park Pool on Sundays.

Motion 2003-190

Moved by Commissioner Tyndall, seconded by Commissioner Johnstone, that the letter from Ms. Joy Newall be received.

Carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

2. (1) **Parks Committee.** Commissioner Young reported on the meeting held 2003-NOV-13.
2.(1.1) **Concessionaires in City Parks Guidelines and Selection Criteria.** Mr. Jai Brookes (Dogzilla) attended and reviewed the proposed layout developed by the concessionaires. The Committee determined that the fees for Maffeo-Sutton Park remain at \$1,100 per year; the wording in the Guidelines and Selection Criteria be consistent; food quality be added to the product type as a review item; the presentability of the units be added to the selection criteria as a separate item.

Motion 2003-191

Moved by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Tyndall, that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission adopt the Guidelines for Concessionaires; and further,

That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission award park concessionaire licenses using the selection criteria.

Carried.

2. (2) **Recreation Committee.** Commissioner Lance reported on the meeting held 2003-NOV-12.
2.(2.1) **Nanaimo BMX Society request for Overnight Camping at Beban Park.** Ms. Marie Davidson, President, Nanaimo BMX Society, attended and provided a brief overview of the BMX World Cup event scheduled for 2004-JUL-28 to AUG-01 at Beban Park. The Committee reviewed the Commission's current overnight camping policy and determined that the request from the BMX Society was within the parameters of the policy.

Staff will work with the organizers to have camping fees collected from delegates who camp on-site rather than at local licenced campgrounds. Commissioner Johnstone suggested a letter be sent to local campground operators as a courtesy to advise them that camping on-site, for this event only, has been approved by the Commission.

Motion 2003-192

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Young, that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission approve the Nanaimo BMX Society's request to permit camping at Grandview Bowl between 2004-JUL-28 and 2004-AUG-01 during the BMX World Cup Event.

Carried.

2. (3) **Cultural Committee.** Commissioner Field reported on the meeting held 2003-NOV-05.
2. (3.1) **Cultural Capitals of Canada.**

Motion 2003-193

Moved by Commissioner Field, seconded by Commissioner Lance, that the Cultural Committee submit an application to the Cultural Capitals of Canada program.

Carried.

Motion 2003-194

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

Carried.

2. (4) **Athletic Commission.** No meeting held.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

3. (1) **North End Water Park.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, advised that a neighbourhood meeting was held on Thursday, 2003-SEP-11 at McGirr Elementary School hosted by advocates of the water park to discuss the possibility of constructing a water park at Groveland Park.

The City currently operates 3 water parks, June to September weather permitting, at Departure Bay Kiwanis Water Park, Haliburton Street Water Park and Harewood Mining Community Water Park. The City also operates 4 spray pools - Franklyn Street Park, Comox Park, Chase River and Mansfield Park. Based on the statistics recorded during the 2003, we estimate that water parks are used 40 - 60 days each year and that Departure Bay has about 90 children attending per day; Haliburton about 70 and Harewood about 120.

Other than the initial start-up costs in the spring and shutdown costs in the fall, water parks have only minimal daily operating costs as they are on an automated system. Consumption of water, however, can be costly. The Harewood Mining Community Water Park daily water consumption is 4,400 gallons/day (\$16.33/day) for a total water cost of \$1,650 for the season (June 7 to September 21).

The capital costs to build a water park the size of Harewood Mining Community Water Park would be approximately \$192,000. While water parks are popular with children from age 3 to 10 years, they do require considerable capital investment for limited utility (about 60 useable days per year). The closest water park or spray pool for North Nanaimo residents is Departure Bay Water Park, a distance of approximately 8 kilometres. According to the 2001 census, the total population north of Departure Bay is approximately 40,797 (54 percent of the City population) with 4,120 being between the ages of 0 and 9 years old.

Groveland Park has a local group willing to work on the project and is a summer playground program site; however, it is not a City level park, has no washroom facility and parking would be on residential streets. The Oliver Road site has the Rotary Club willing to work on the project, will have washrooms, good parking and accessibility; however, 2005 would be the earliest possible opening.

Chair McNabb noted that water parks consume a large amount of water during the dry summer season and asked what happens to water park operations in communities when there is a water shortage. Mr. Harding advised that some communities filter and recycle the water but that the equipment is costly. Mr. Hickey advised that a water recirculating/filtration system would add an additional \$100,000 to the project.

Commissioner Tyndall asked how much it costs to operate a spray park? Mr. Harding advised that the spray parks are not metered but they only have one feature; and that he would get back with that answer.

Commissioner Field asked for clarification on what defines a neighbourhood versus community versus city level park. Mr. Harding clarified that a neighbourhood park is within walking distance (800 m); a community level park has more amenities like playfields, serves a part of the city and may necessitate a short drive but is not considered a destination park; and a city level park is a major park site with facilities and amenities that are used by the entire City.

Commissioner Whiteaker asked Commission to consider what the delegation said in that the Oliver Road site is not the location that they want because they believe it will be too busy.

Commissioner Lane suggested Commission consider a small spray park at Groveland in conjunction with the existing playground.

Commission Tang believes the Oliver Road site would be a 'drive to location' used by many people and noted that the delegation asked for a neighbourhood spray park.

Commissioner Tyndall agreed that a major playground with a water feature at the Oliver Road site would be a destination location. Commissioner Young stated that he believes a new water park should be a 'drive to' location servicing a large area.

Mr. T. Hickey suggested that staff could investigate the installation of a simple spray feature for Groveland Park; and still provide a large playground/water feature at the Oliver Road site.

Motion 2003-195

Moved by Commissioner Tyndall, seconded by Commissioner Lance, that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission consider incorporating water features into the regional playground planned for the Oliver Road site.

Carried.

3. (2) **Manager of Parks Monthly Report.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks reviewed his report and showed Commission the new map located in the Conference Room.

Commissioner Tyndall noted that the Ocean Side Rotary Club was keen to participate in creating a safety park. Mr. Harding confirmed that they are still interested and that the Oliver Road site is their location of choice.

Mr. T. Hickey advised that the two Totem Poles at Georgia Park will be removed shortly because they are severely rotted. A representative from the Royal BC Museum did the assessment and has recommended their removal. Snuneymuxw First Nations has been notified and have been invited to help with the removal process. It may be possible for Snuneymuxw First Nations, the Nanaimo District Museum and the City to work together to get grant funding for the carving of two new totems.

3. (3) **Manager of Recreation Services Monthly Report.** Mr. T. Hickey reviewed the Manager's report. He advised Commission that the McGirr Sports Field Society has been notified that their bingo and gaming revenues have been pulled which translates to a budget loss of \$70,000. McGirr Sports Field Society was notified in the spring that the Gaming Committee was scrutinizing their funding and that they needed to provide more direct programming.

Commissioner Tang advised that the Nanaimo Art Gallery also lost their gaming revenue and it had nothing to do with direct programming and they received no advance notice.

Motion 2003-196

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Tyndall, that a letter be sent to the Judith Reid and Mike Hunter advising how devastating this loss of gaming revenue is to the McGirr Sports Society and to the entire community.

Carried.

Motion 2003-197

Moved by Commissioner Johnstone, seconded by Commissioner Tyndall, that the Director's report be received.

Carried.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

4. (1) **Port Theatre** – Monthly activity report reviewed. Commissioner Whiteaker advised that the number of events held is more important than the actual number of people attending events and that facility rental generates more revenue than ticket sales. The Port Theatre is hosting many very successful events that span a wide range of interest and November and December are very busy months for Christmas activities.

Chair McNabb asked if more bookings for conventions or meetings could be encouraged during the summer. Commissioner Whiteaker stated that the Port Theatre is available for rental during the summer months.

Commissioner Lance advised that the Nanaimo District Museum is hosting a large convention next year at the Coast Bastion, and will also be using the Port Theatre. She suggested that Ms. Thomson encourage the Coast Bastion to promote use of the Port Theatre when booking conventions. Commissioner Whiteaker advised that is already taking place.

Motion 2003-198

Moved by Commissioner Tyndall, seconded by Commissioner Johnstone, that the Port Theatre report be received.

Carried.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INFORMATION:

5. (1) Copy of correspondence to Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, from Ms. Barbara Henoch, expressing appreciation for the installation of lighting and pathways at Nob Hill Park.
5. (2) Copy of correspondence to Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, from Ms. Carol Tisdale, expressing appreciation for the installation of lighting and pathways at Nob Hill Park.
5. (3) Copy of correspondence to Mr. Bob Kuhn and Mr. Brent Meunier, from Mrs. K. Cross, expressing appreciation for the wonderful, fun-filled and safe birthday party she booked for her son at Beban Park.
5. (4) Copy of City Notes Newsletter from the Downtown Nanaimo Partnership dated 2003-OCT-23; 2003-NOV-06; and 2003-NOV-20.

Motion 2003-199

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

Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

- (1) **May Jenkins, Closing of Beban Pool on Sundays.**
- (2) **Ms. Debbie Provencher, President, Nanaimo Diamonds Synchronized Swim Club, Closing of Beban Pool on Sundays.**

Chair McNabb advised that he does not believe Council will support this reduction of service.

- (3) **Mr. Roger Douglas, 5350 Leslie Crescent, Nanaimo BC V9V 1S9, Brechin Boat Ramp Parking Pass options for mid-year use.**
Dealt with previously.
- (4) **Groveland VIP Group, Mrs. Carol Mjoen, 6337 Lasalle, Nanaimo BC V9V 1N5, requesting a water park be located at Groveland Park.**
Dealt with previously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Motion 2003-200

Moved by Commissioner Field, seconded by Commissioner Whiteaker, that Unfinished Business Item #1 – Reconsideration of Park Concession Vendor Guidelines; Item #2 – Option and Feasibility of Creating a Water Park in North Nanaimo at Groveland Park; and Item #3 – Nanaimo BMX Association request for overnight parking, be removed.

Carried.

CURRENT UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- (1) Request for Alternate Fees for Brechin Boat Ramp Parking Pass – referred to Recreation Committee.
- (2) Awarding 2004 Concessionaire Licences – referred to Parks Committee.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS: Nil.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Cultural Committee

Wednesday, 2003-DEC-03, 3:00 p.m.

COMMISSION CHRISTMAS MEETING

**Wednesday, 2003-DEC-10; 6:30 p.m.
Beban Park Lounge**

Cultural Committee

Wednesday, 2004-JAN-07, 4:15 p.m.

Recreation Committee

Wednesday, 2004-JAN-14, 5:00 p.m.

Parks Committee (note date/time change)

Tuesday, 2004-JAN-13, 12:00 p.m.

COMMISSION

**Wednesday, 2004-JAN-28; 7:00 p.m.
Harmac-Pacific Room
PORT THEATRE**

Motion 2003-201

Moved by Commissioner Tyndall, seconded by Commissioner Young, that the meeting be adjourned.

Carried.

ADJOURNED: 8:28 p.m.