

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH 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-MAY-28, AT 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

<u>Members:</u>	Commissioner B. Holdom, Acting Chair	Commissioner C. Tang
	Commissioner P. Field	Commissioner B. Sperling
	Commissioner S. Lance	Commissioner D. Johnstone

<u>Absent:</u>	Commissioner L. McNabb, Chair	Commissioner D. Rispin
	Commissioner J. Whiteaker	Commissioner D. Tyndall
	Commissioner A. Young	Commissioner G. Baltzer

<u>Staff:</u>	T. Hickey	S. Przada, Recording
	B. Meunier	R. Harding

PRESENTATION OF PROVINCIAL AWARDS:

Commissioner Lance presented Provincial awards and certificates to the Provincial Swim Meet - Nanaimo Ebttides Masters Swim Team (6)

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Motion 2003-072

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Tang, that the minutes of the third Regular Meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission held 2003-APR-23 be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

RECEIVING OF LATE CORRESPONDENCE AGENDA:

Motion 2003-073

Moved by Commissioner Tang, seconded by Commissioner Sperling, that the Late Correspondence Agenda be received.

Carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Nil

RECEIVING OF DELEGATIONS:

- (1) **Mr. Horst Frieburg, Owner/Operator of Just Fries, #201-1480 Boundary Cresnet, Nanaimo, BC V9S 4N8,** spoke regarding his vendor license for his *Just Fries* concession trailer at Maffeo-Sutton Park. Mr. Frieburg has operated at Maffeo-Sutton Park between May 2002 and October 2002, and again since 2003-FEB-15. Mr. Frieburg, since learning that his contract would not be renewed, has launched a petition and has collected approximately 2,240 names, phone numbers and signatures. In view of the strong support that Mr. Frieburg has received from the public, he would like to stay indefinitely on a five-year agreement instead of a one-year contract.

Mr. Frieburg stated that he receives many compliments and few complaints about his concession. He also noted that he uses vegetable oil to cook his fries, and any fumes that come from his trailer are mostly water vapour. Not only does he sell fries, but Mr. Frieburg also acts as a lost and found, gives directions and supplies Band-Aids.

Commissioner Johnstone asked Mr. Frieburg about the style of his new trailer and what colour would it be. Mr. Frieburg responded that his new trailer would be the same, just bigger as recommended by the health unit. His new trailer will be red.

Mr. Frieburg continued to read letters of support.

Motion 2003-074

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Field, that the presentation from Mr. Horst Frieburg, Owner/Operator of Just Fries be received.

Carried.

- (2) **Ms. Diane Goodman, Vice Principal and Ms. Zelda Johnson, Chairperson, Fairview Parents Advisory Committee, 205 Howard Ave, Nanaimo BC V9R 3R3,** gave a presentation requesting that Commission provide \$12,500 from their Volunteer In Parks program to update and enhance the current playground at Fairview School. The master plan would include having a path that goes right around their large play areas and an upper play area for younger children and families with a picnic area where the trees provide shade.

Ms. Goodman stated that the playground has not had an update in 50 years. The current playground consists of old metal equipment and a couple of swings. The Fairview PAC has applied to Kaboom, an international non-profit society. Kaboom will give the Fairview PAC \$15,000 in U.S. dollars provided the school can raise funds to match it. This means they must raise about \$25,000 in Canadian funds. The Parents Advisory Committee has raised approximately \$8,000 so far.

Mr. Richard Harding, Parks Manager spoke in support of their effort to upgrade the Fairview School Playground. He stated that there is no other playground within a 1km radius. The goal of Parks, Recreation and Culture is to have a park amenity within a 400 metre radius and we do not own any land within that area. Mr. Harding also noted that Fairview school is willing to allow community access to the park at all times. If we support Fairview Schools request for funding, the School Board will maintain the park. The School District has agreed to what the Fairview PAC have proposed.

Commissioner Johnstone asked Mr. Harding if the School District has donated any money to this project. Mr. Harding replied that no, they haven't donated money, but they will provide the preparation work and the pea gravel for the playground.

Commissioner Lance asked Ms. Goodman if the school received money from the Summer Games. Ms. Goodman replied that yes they did, and the money went towards fixing the current basketball courts. They added another paved area for basketball hoops. They also added benches and more garbage cans.

Motion 2003-075

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Johnstone, that the presentation from Ms. Diane Goodman, Vice Principal, Fairview School and Ms. Zelda Johnson, chairperson, Fairview Parents Advisory Committee, be received.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. (1) Correspondence from Mr. Rick Smith, G.R.'s Island Grill, requesting a Park Concession Vendor License for Maffeo-Sutton Park.

1. (2) Letter from Mr. John Cunnigham, #202 Victoria Rd, Nanaimo BC, against letting Mr. Horst Freiburg, Just Fries, be reconsidered for a Vendor's License at Maffeo-Sutton Park.
1. (3) Copy of correspondence from Ms. Cindy Williams, in support of Mr. Horst Freiburg, Just Fries, be reconsidered for a Vendor's License at Maffeo-Sutton Park.

Motion 2003-076

Moved by Commissioner Field, seconded by Commissioner Lance, that the copies of correspondence be received.

Carried.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

2. (1) **Parks Committee.** No meeting held.
2. (2) **Recreation Program and Facilities Committee.** The meeting was held at 6:00 P.M. in the Bowen Park Conference Room regarding 2003 - 2006 fees and charges.

Commissioner Lance stated that the fee for a senior's Brechin Boat Ramp pass is much more discounted than other City senior rates and the committee recommends the rate be incrementally increased to bring it in line.

Motion 2003-077

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Field, that the Commission approve the proposed free and rental increases of approximately 10% in total over the next 4 years; and

That the Senior's Brechin Boat Ramp Pass be increased by \$10 per year until it is 75% of the adult rate.

Carried.

2. (3) **Cultural Committee** Commissioner Field reported on the meeting held 2003-MAY-07. Commissioner Field noted that there is a cultural forum at Beban Park on Thursday 2003-MAY-29 and all Commissioners are invited to attend.

Motion 2003-078

Moved by Commissioner Field, seconded by Commissioner Lance, that the Committee reports be received.

Carried.

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

3. (1) **Sand Volleyball Courts.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director reported that at the 2003-APR-23 Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission meeting, staff updated the Commission that the competitive volleyball group is not enthusiastic about the Harewood Centennial Park site, and that the courts may not get much use. Staff was directed to prepare a report on the feasibility of locating the sand volleyball courts in Bowen Park adjacent to Wall Street.

In the last few years several sites have been considered for sand volleyball courts including Wardropper Park, Beban Park (two courts next to the tennis courts), Bowen Park, Harewood Centennial Park and Diver Lake Park. Key considerations for determining the location for sand volleyball courts are:

- There is space for at least 4 courts (about 1,200 sq. meters).
- Washroom facilities and parking are nearby.
- Volleyball is complimentary to other park uses and ideally the area is buffered or distanced from surrounding residential areas.

The lower Bowen Park area meets the above criteria and the courts will be easily seen and accessed. Two of the courts will be constructed on the parking lot eliminating about 30 to 40 parking stalls. This parking lot is used to capacity for a few large Curling Club and Caledonia Park special events each year (i.e. curling bonspiels and playdowns).

The Parks, Recreation and Culture capital budget has \$20,000 allocated in Sportfield Development for the construction of sand volleyball courts and construction costs are expected to be in this range. Staff will get more detailed construction estimates and provided the project can be done on budget or if the volleyball community contributes to any budget shortfall, construction will proceed at Bowen Park. If costs are too high at Bowen, then the Beban site could be used as the alternate construction site. The Vancouver Island Volleyball Association believes both the Bowen and Beban sites to be good.

Commissioner Johnstone asked Mr. Hickey if Departure Bay might be a good sight for sand volleyball courts. Mr. Hickey responded that the area is be too small for courts.

Motion 2003-079

1. Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Field that four sand volleyball courts be constructed at Bowen Park, if construction can be completed within budget; and further,
2. That Beban Park be used as the alternate site for the four sand volleyball courts.

Carried

3. (2) **Civic Arena Parking.** Mr. T. Hickey, Director reported that at the 2003-APR-23 Commission meeting a memo was received from the Parking Advisory Committee asking the Commission to comment on their proposal regarding pay parking at the Civic Arena parking lot, as well as tour bus parking at the Nanaimo Curling Club parking lot.

The Civic Arena parking lot has 230 stalls that are used by arena, civic park users and Newcastle Island Park users. City Bylaw staff note that there are approximately 40 cars using the Civic Arena parking lot on a daily basis for other than park use, and that this number may increase because of parking regulation changes in the downtown area.

The Parking Advisory Committee recommends that the Civic Arena parking lot be restricted and patrolled to a maximum of 4 hours Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and that pay parking be re-established on Arena Street. The pay parking area would offer all day parking at a reduced rate. This recommendation will help generate additional parking revenues and will also free up space in the arena parking facility to accommodate legitimate users of the Civic Arena, Maffeo-Sutton and Swy-A-Lana Parks. The Parking Advisory Committee is asking the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission to comment on this proposal.

In 1991, City Council and the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission had much discussion on this same issue with the opening of the Bastion parkade. The Commission recommendation adopted by Council at that time was to erect signs in the arena parking lot providing for 3-hour maximum parking, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The intent of the restrictions was to provide ample time for daytime park users while placing no restrictions on evening or weekend users

Once again many non-park users are regularly parking their vehicles at the Civic Arena parking lot. Therefore, the reapplication of parking restrictions is recommended to help ensure this parking lot is used for park purposes and encourage downtown workers to park at other parking lots

After consultation with parking control staff on the various options, the 3 hour free parking restriction combined with pay parking beyond that time limit for the whole parking lot is the recommended option. The parking fees can be collected from a ticket dispenser placed at the entrance to the parking lot.

Commissioners commented that a \$3.00 fee for overnight parking to Newcastle Island is reasonable for the service provided.

The Parking Advisory committee also asked that the Commission consider permitting tour busses to park in the Nanaimo Curling Club parking lot. The tour bus season runs from May to September. Generally there is no more than 3 tour busses needing parking on any given night. On the occasion that there is a summer event at the Curling Club where the parking lot may be fully used, alternate arrangements can be made for the bus parking.

Commissioner Field asked if tour buses would have to pay for overnight parking. Commissioner Lance added that we should allow the buses to park for free as they are bringing in the tourists.

Motion 2003-080

1. Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner ,Field that the 3 hour free parking restriction for the Civic Arena parking, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. be re-implemented; and further,
2. That the parking rates be established at: 3 Hours – Free, 6 Hours - \$2.00, and for each 24 hour period - \$3.00; and,
3. That overnight bus parking be permitted at the City parking lot by the Nanaimo Curling Club from May to September.

Amendment:-

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Field, that the word "free" be added to overnight bus parking be permitted at the City parking lot by the Nanaimo Curling Club from May to September.

Carried.

3. (3) **Manager of Parks Monthly Report.** Mr. R. Harding, Manager of Parks, reviewed his report noting that construction of the E&N trail extension from Bowen Road to Mostar Road has begun.

Chair Holdom asked Mr. Harding about the Buttertubs Marsh Management Committee meetings and the status of the dogs at Buttertubs Marsh. There will be more discussions regarding this issue in the future.

Commissioner Johnstone stated that there is a mosquito problem on College Heights. Could this be the warm weather causing the mosquitoes to rise up from Buttertubs? She asked Mr. Harding about the West Nile Virus.

Mr. Harding, Manager of Parks noted that the potential for West Nile Virus is very small. If you watch the weather channel, it says to contact the Parks department, but it is the Vancouver Island Health Authority who should be called. We are in the process of making up pamphlets with information on the West Nile Virus that will be made available at Parks, Recreation and Culture facilities and on the City website.

The dog-off-leash area at Beban will open Saturday, 2003-MAY-31 and the official opening will be held on Saturday 2003-JUN-07. Mr. Harding asked if there were any Commissioners who would like to attend.

Staff reviewed with Commission proposed pedestrian traffic flow upgrades at the Civic Arena parking lot. These changes will make pedestrian access safer. The upgrade is planned for the fall.

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

Nanaimo Aquatic Centre is open again after a three-week shutdown. The Cliff McNabb arena has been shutdown in order to make repairs and will be back up on 2003-JUN-06. There have been some changes at the Cliff McNabb to accommodate a female change room.

Motion 2003-081

Moved by Commissioner Lance, 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 2003-082

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Field, that the Port Theatre report be received.

Carried.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INFORMATION:

5. (1) Copy of correspondence from Mr. David Procyk, Treasurer, Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association to Mr Dave Bakes, President, BC Summer Games Society regarding Legacy Funding Distribution.
5. (2) Copy of correspondence from Larry McNabb and Phil Field to Mr. Marshal Cooper, President, Vancouver Island Arts Festival regarding approval of additional Cultural Fund Grant for the Vancouver Island Arts Festival Society in the amount of \$3,000.
5. (3) Copy of correspondence from Larry McNabb and Phil Field to Mr. Robert Bevis, President, Vancouver Island Symphony regarding additional Cultural Fund Grant for the Vancouver Island Symphony in the amount of \$3,200.

Motion 2003-083

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

Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS:

Motion 2003-084

Moved by Commissioner Lance, seconded by Commissioner Johnstone, that \$12,500 be allocated from the VIP program to upgrade the Fairview School Playground provided that community access is permitted on the playground at all times.

Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- (1) Charging of fees at the Civic Arena parking lot – staff report requested.
- (2) VIS financial situation and request for annual funding from the City – report from Cultural Committee.
- (3) Sand Volleyball court located in lower Bowen Park – staff report requested.

Motion 2003-085

Moved by Commissioner Tang, seconded by Commissioner Lance, that item #1 – Charging of fees at the Civic Arena parking lot, and item #3 – Sand Volleyball court located in lower Bowen Park, be removed from Unfinished Business.

Carried.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

There was a motion from Council regarding Mr. Horst Frieburg, Owner/Operator of *Just Fries*, that he be referred back to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for further consideration and that *Just Fries* be allowed to continue their operation until the issue has been reconsidered.

Commissioner Lance asked if there have been any complaints against Mr. Horst Frieburg. Mr. Hickey responded that there have just been some complaints of grease smells.

Commissioner Field questioned if Commission had adopted the guideline for park vendors. Mr. Hickey responded that he did not now if the Commission had adopted the concessionaire guidelines.

Chair Holdom, asked where the pushcart idea originated. Mr. Hickey responded that he believes the idea came from Seattle and Lower Mainland parks in the early 80's.

Motion 2003-086

Moved by Commissioner Field, seconded by Commissioner Lance, that Commission extend its reconsideration of the park concession vendor guidelines and allow current park vendors to operate during the reconsideration process.

Carried.

Mr. Hickey, Director commented that there are four spots at Maffeo-Sutton Park. Two will be mobile vendors and two will be pushcart. Mr. Horst Frieburg, Just Fries, and Mr. Jai Brookes, Dogzilla will continue as trailer concessions, and Craig Hanson, Island Sno Biz and Debra Wagner, D.B. Vending will operate as pushcart vendors.

At its 2003-APR-23 meeting, Commission awarded Mr. Frieburg a Concession Licensee for Westwood Lake, which was his second choice application. Because the intent was not to give a vendor more than one licensed location, and Mr. Frieburg will now be at Maffeo-Sutton Park, then another vendor should be selected for Westwood Lake.

Motion 2003-087

Moved by Commissioner Johnstone, seconded by Commissioner Lance, that staff consider applications for vendors at Westwood Lake and Long Lake.

Carried.

MEDIA QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD. Nil.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Cultural Committee	Wednesday, 2003-JUN-04 ; 4:15 p.m.
Recreation Program & Facilities (if required)	Wednesday, 2003-JUN-11; 5:00 p.m.
Parks Committee (if required)	Thursday, 2003-JUN-12; 5:00 p.m.
COMMISSION	Wednesday, 2003-JUN-25; 7:00 p.m.

Motion 2003-088

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

Carried.

ADJOURNED: 8:30 p.m.