

MINUTES
PARKS, RECREATION, AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING
TRAINING ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, CITY HALL
455 WALLACE STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2018-JAN-17, AT 5:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Members: Councillor I. Thorpe, Chair
 Marsha Down
 Tyler Fraser
 Howard Houle (vacated 7:01 p.m.)
 Gabby Lent
 Alec McPherson
 Daniel McVicar
 Ken Milne
 Calvin Tant
 Tracy Vandermolen
 Maureen Young

 Absent: Councillor W. L. Bestwick (Alternate)
 Julia Buisman
 Trevor Heshka
 Mark Swain

 Staff: R. Harding, Director, Parks and Recreation (entered 5:43 p.m.)
 K. MacDonald, Parks and Open Space Planner
 S. Griffin, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Parks, Recreation, and Wellness Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

Councillor Thorpe spoke regarding the delay in reviewing the Maffeo Sutton Park Draft Plan and the urgency of presenting the plan to Council.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

 It was moved and seconded that the Agenda, be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

 It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Wellness Committee held in the Board Room, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2017-NOV-22 at 5:30 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

R. Harding entered the Training Room at 5:43 p.m.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Draft Maffeo Sutton Park Plan Update

Introduced by Councillor Thorpe.

Kirsty MacDonald, Parks and Open Space Planner, provided a presentation regarding the Draft Maffeo Sutton Park Plan and spoke regarding the history of the site and possible upgrades and improvements to the park which included:

- More trails;
- More washrooms and upgrades to current washrooms;
- Improving the lagoon area for more recreational use as it is not fully utilized;
- Improvements to the playground and improvements to Lions Pavilion;
- Maintenance of the public art as it is a popular feature of the park;
- Increased parking;
- Working with Snuneymuxw First Nations for better ferry connections to Newcastle Island;
- Increased stages for events;
- Possible full time concession run out of a new amenity building;
- Widen walkway and new bike path with access to Front Street;
- Increase public access points to the water;
- Possibility of extending walkway; and,
- Enhancing habitat along Millstone River.

Committee discussion took place regarding water quality and testing of the water in the park. The committee was advised that testing is done in the public swim areas but not in the lagoon. The lagoon is a man made engineered lagoon which has its own built-in flushing system. The salt water lagoon is home to a very rare oyster called Olympia Oyster.

Kirsty MacDonald, Parks and Open Space Planner, spoke regarding some of the plan implementation actions for the short term, within five years, and longer term actions which included:

- Short term – improved playground for fall of 2018;
- Short term – improved Lions Pavilion for sound and sightlines;
- Short term – access points to the water;
- Long term – design for new washroom building or a multi purpose building;
- Long term – expanded public art displays; and,
- Long term – expanded perimeter trail widths and uses.

Richard Harding, Director of Parks and Recreation, spoke regarding some of the challenges the park faces with the variety of public uses.

Committee roundtable discussion took place regarding the park which included:

- Containment and defined exit ways around the playground area;
- Playground activities for younger and older children be separated similar to the set up of the Bowen Park playground area;
- Safety concerns;
- Concerns regarding parking and obstructed views; and
- Possibility of a large fountain structure.

Richard Harding, Director of Parks and Recreation, advised that Staff in the Parks and Recreation Department are working with the Rotary Club for the 100 year commemoration of the club. The Rotary Club is interested in working with the Parks and Recreation Department on the draft plan which may include a water feature.

Committee roundtable discussion regarding the park continued regarding:

- Proposed amenity building;
- Food truck program;
- Park signage;
- Promoting the park;
- More activities such as table tennis or pickle ball;
- Education component to make the park an interactive park to explore; and
- Covered benches along the walkway.

H. Houle vacated the Training Room at 7:01 p.m.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation, and Wellness Committee recommend that Council approve the Draft Maffeo Sutton Park Master Plan Update. The motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

(a) Development of 2018 Parks, Recreation, and Wellness Workplan

Due to time constraints the development of 2018 Parks, Recreation, and Wellness Committee Workplan was deferred to next scheduled Park, Recreation, and Wellness Committee to be held 2018-FEB-28.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 7:06 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER