

MINUTES
PARKS, RECREATION AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY, 2018-MAY-23, AT 5:30 P.M.

Present: Councillor I. W. Thorpe, Chair
M. Down
T. Heshka (arrived 5:40 p.m.)
A. McPherson
D. McVicar
K. Milne
C. Tant
M. Young

Absent: Councillor W. L. Bestwick, Alternate
J. Buisman
T. Fraser
H. Houle
G. Lent
M. Swain
T. Vandermolen

Staff: M. Smith, Manager, Recreation Services
D. Johnston, Assistant Manager of Aquatics
K. MacDonald, Parks & Open Space Planner
J. Vanderhoef, Recording Secretary

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

At 5:31 p.m. Councillor Thorpe, Chair, advised that the Parks, Recreation and Wellness Committee did not have quorum and they would wait fifteen minutes to gain quorum.

Trevor Heshka entered the Boardroom at 5:40 p.m.

The Parks, Recreation and Wellness Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:41 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

(a) Councillor Thorpe requested that Agenda Item 5(a) - Aquatic Program Overview be moved to follow Agenda Item 6(a) - Pilot Park Site for Model Airs and that the delegations from Leo Katila and William Rollins, Nanaimo Model Airs Club, be heard prior to reviewing the Staff report.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

4. 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, 2018-APR-25 at 5:30 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

(a) Pilot Park Site for Model Airs

Delegation:

1. Leo Katila and William Rollins, Nanaimo Model Airs Club, spoke regarding Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's). They provided an overview of UAV's, a history of their club, and spoke regarding the dangers of people flying recreational UAV's without training or safety procedures in place. They proposed a rules-based field that meets Transport Canada requirements and requires that all flyers must be members of a national model organization to provide liability coverage. They requested permission from the City to create a UAV flying site on the East Wellington field, located at 2191 East Wellington Road, and requested written authorization from the City to the national organization (who could then provide a sanction on the field). They also noted that the surface will need upgrading, and requested that a 50 x 500 foot level area be graded and seeded at the appropriate time to improve the site. They spoke regarding some possible concerns with the site relating to accessibility and parking and suggested a trial period to test the site.

Committee members posed questions regarding:

- the proposed location;
- current use of the site;
- estimates for grading of the site;
- where does the club fly currently – Parksville flying field;
- number of current members in the Nanaimo Model Airs Club; and,
- cost of membership with the national organization.

Staff report introduced by Mary Smith, Manager, Recreation Services, and Kirsty MacDonald, Parks & Open Space Planner.

Committee discussion took place regarding the following:

- issues relating to the site being on a flood plane;
- layout of proposed Millstone Greenway trail network; and,
- restrictions associated with the proposed site being within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

It was moved and seconded that Parks, Recreation and Wellness Committee recommend that Council:

- a. direct Staff to work with the Nanaimo Model Airs Club to explore suitable locations for use of Model Aircraft; and,
- b. undertake a park planning process for East Wellington Park to determine appropriate land use strategies for the site including the exploration of a pilot site for the Model Airs.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Aquatic Program Overview

Damon Johnston, Assistant Manager of Aquatics, provided an overview of the Nanaimo Aquatics Programme.

Councillor Thorpe spoke regarding the opening of recent parks around the City and noted that June 9th will be the official opening of the Linley Valley Partners in Parks Playground.

7. QUESTION PERIOD:

- Adrian Hovestad re: flying of UAV's and implications if people are required to purchase memberships to use the proposed flying field.
- Al Seper re: costs of memberships impacting people's ability to participate in flying UAV's.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- costs associated with memberships that would restrict use of the proposed flying field; and,
- time frames being implemented on when UAV's could be flown to protect the nature parks.
- William Rollins re: costs of junior memberships for Nanaimo Model Airs Club.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 6:55 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER