

DATE OF MEETING JULY 27, 2020

AUTHORED BY Richard Harding, General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture

SUBJECT OUTDOOR STADIUM IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

Provide Council with a report and presentation on where to focus resources on an outdoor Stadium in the City of Nanaimo.

Recommendation

1. That Council receive the draft Stadium Development Report and make available for review and comment by the community, and;
2. That Staff work with Nanaimo Ladysmith School District No. 68 and local sport and stadium user groups on the concept of making NDSS Community Field the medium-sized Stadium for improvement and use and report back.

BACKGROUND

At the Special Open Committee of the Whole Meeting 2015-NOV-17: It was moved and seconded that Council direct Staff to prepare a report on field and stadium development including but not limited to Serauxmen Stadium, Rotary Bowl and Caledonia Park; and, that Nanaimo Ladysmith School District No. 68 be provided with 12 months notice to implement shared development plans before the City moves forward independently.

Since the motion above, a number of changes have occurred in regards to sport venue development. Primarily and based on direction from above motion, Nanaimo Ladysmith School District No. 68 and the City of Nanaimo entered into an agreement to purchase Rotary Bowl, Serauxman Stadium and develop and maintain jointly the NDSS Community Field.

DISCUSSION

Securing Rotary Bowl, Serauxmen Stadium, as well as the development of the new facility of NDSS Community Field, dealt with a number of issues in the 2017 motion of Council as well as providing new opportunities for consideration. However, the need to confirm or focus resources and amenity on one stadium that can host a variety of medium-sized sporting events such as Junior and High school football, soccer, field lacrosse, rugby and other sports and community events continues to be a desire and need in the community.

Attached to this report is a draft “City of Nanaimo Stadium Report” that examines and provides background to stadium design and use.

Mr. Doug Wournell, Specialty Design Consultant of Sports and Recreation Facilities, author of the attached report, will be providing a presentation on his review and recommendations to Council and answer any questions.

The report recommends that the community, at this point in time and given current demand, focus on a medium-sized stadium (3,000-8,000 seats).

In addition, the report examines three potential sites to accommodate this level of use which are also the three locations currently used by groups and organizations listed above:

1. Caledonia
2. Beban Park and;
3. NDSS Community Field

Based on Mr. Wournell’s review, he recommends that the community focus on improvements to NDSS Community Field as the best of the three options for establishing a medium-sized stadium. This recommendation also is consistent of the designation of this area as the “Sport Zone” and amenity development at this site will benefit other venues such as Rotary Bowl, Serauxman Stadium, Nanaimo District Secondary School and Vancouver Island University.

OPTIONS

1. That Council:
 - A. receive the draft Stadium Development Report and make available for review and comment by the community and;
 - B. That Staff work with SD68 and local sport and stadium user groups on the concept of making NDSS Community Field the medium-sized stadium for improvement and use and report back.
 - The advantages of this option: moves the process forward on focusing resources and amenity development on an event stadium in the City.
 - The disadvantages of this option: May not be a priority of Council at this time.
 - Financial Implications: none at this phase but if a site is selected to focus on, costs will be identified to upgrade seating and other amenities meet a medium-sized stadium.

2. That Council not proceed to focus on a designated medium-sized stadium at this time.
 - The advantages of this option: Staff will focus on other priorities of Council.
 - The disadvantages of this option: None of the sites currently used by groups and organizations have the amenities to meet a medium-sized stadium.
 - Financial Implications: Costs will be focused on at least three locations to facilitate events rather than one venue.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Point #1.....Securing Rotary Bowl, Serausmen Stadium, as well as the development of the new facility of NDSS Community Field, dealt with a number of issues in the 2017 motion of Council as well as providing new opportunities for consideration.
- Point #2.....The report recommends that the community, at this point in time and given current demand, focus on a medium-sized stadium (3,000-8,000 seats).
- Point #3.....Based on Mr. Wournell's review, he recommends that the community focus on improvements to NDSS Community Field as the best of the three options for establishing a medium-sized stadium.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A: Stadium Report

Submitted by:

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Culture

Concurrence by:

Art Groot,
Director, Facility and Parks Operations