

DATE OF MEETING July 27, 2020

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SUBJECT RE-OPENING PLAN FOR COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRES

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To obtain Council approval for the re-opening plans for community recreation centres to include, Beban Social Centre, Oliver Woods Community Centre, and Bowen Complex.

Recommendation

That Council approve the Community Recreation Centres Re-opening Plans that align with the City's "COVID-19 Recovery Plan" and comply with the components of the "Planning Framework for Municipal Operations".

BACKGROUND

The City of Nanaimo, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture closed most of its facilities for programs, rentals and drop-in activities on Monday, March 16 after the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, cancelled gatherings of more than 50 people as a way to slow down the transmission of COVID-19.

Since that time, most outdoor amenities have reopened, some outdoor programs have resumed, rentals have been accepted for essential services (ie: Blood Donor Clinics), and bookings have resumed for smaller activity centres and outdoor amenities.

In order to reopen the remaining indoor facilities, City staff have been working through very complex and detailed re-opening strategies for each facility that will keep everyone safe and healthy when buildings do open.

DISCUSSION

The re-opening plan for Arenas was presented to Council on July 13, 2020. Re-opening plans for Beban Social Centre, Oliver Woods Community Centre, and Bowen Complex, were developed with all of the same guiding principles, following the same process, and with the same general assumptions that include the following:

- Community members want, and need, to get back to activities that support their social, physical and mental health and well-being

- In the event of a second wave of COVID 19, a phased approach to re-opening is the most practical so that it is easy to scale back on services offered if required
- Schedule B – Fees and Rental Policy of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Regulation Bylaw No. 7073.06 – will remain in effect

BEBAN SOCIAL CENTRE REOPENING PLAN

Beban Social Centre, although closed to the general public since March 16, continued to support the provision of Blood Donor Clinics, out-of-school care programming, summer camp programs, and corporate meetings and workshops. The continuation of these bookings provided the Social Centre with the opportunity to implement different facility layouts and trial running multiple bookings in the building at the same time.

The Beban Social Centre reopening plan is based on the additional assumptions:

- That bookings of over 50 persons will not be allowable this fall; therefore, reducing the total revenue for large-scale bookings
- That there may be an increase in bookings to accommodate smaller groups, resulting in an increase of total revenue for small-scale bookings

The facility is already set up to accommodate physical distancing requirements and COVID protocols, and the allocations, custodial and management staff have continued working out of the facility.

It is recommended that Beban Social Centre reopen to the public on August 4 for facility rentals, and for fall programs to begin September 9, 2020.

OLIVER WOODS COMMUNITY CENTRE REOPENING PLAN

The Oliver Woods Community Centre closed on March 16, 2020, with the exception of the RCMP satellite office. Staff were redeployed into other locations and the facility will remain closed over the summer. This facility typically experiences a high volume of use and turn-over. A phased reopening plan has been prepared so that the main floor will reopen first and act as a pilot to ensure measures put in place are working prior to opening the second floor.

The reopening plan for Oliver Woods Community Centre offers a phased approach as follows:

Phase	Oliver Woods	Target Date
1	Main Floor	Ready for September 9
2	Second Floor	To meet demand and/or once the main floor use proves to be working well

The Oliver Woods Community Centre reopening plan is based on the additional assumptions:

- That bookings of over 50 persons will not be allowable this fall; therefore, reducing the total revenue for large-scale bookings
- That there may be an increase in bookings to accommodate smaller groups, resulting in an increase of total revenue for small-scale bookings

It is recommended that the Main Floor reopen to the public on September 9, 2020, and the second floor reopen to meet demand and/or once the main floor use proves to be working well.

BOWEN COMPLEX REOPENING PLAN

The Bowen Complex facility is mainly a headquarters for some of the Parks, Recreation and Culture administration staff, and as such remained open for staff and for corporate meetings, and closed to the general public from March 16 – present. As of July 6 the Lawn Bowling Club restarted and a summer camp program was headquartered out of the lower floor. As well, many other programs were offered outdoors in the park surrounding the facility.

The reopening plan for Bowen Complex offers a phased approach as follows:

Phase	Bowen Complex	Target Date
1	Auditorium and Room 1 on main floor, and lower floor activity rooms	Ready for September 9
2	Smaller activity rooms on main floor	After physical distancing restrictions are lifted

The Bowen Complex reopening plan is based on the additional assumptions:

- The majority of use in the building, other than staff offices, is for seniors programming and drop-in activities. These activities are normally accessed by membership and led by volunteers but, this fall they will be accessed by registering and paying a drop-in fee or, a partial membership fee.
- Other programs typically break even, meaning that scheduling programs in the facility will not create any significant changes to the budget.
- There are very few external renters; therefore, there will not be a significant decrease in booking revenues.

It is recommended that the facility reopen, for Phase 1, to the public for facility rentals and for fall programming beginning September 9, 2020.

COVID 19 Safe Operating Plans for the Beban Social Centre, Oliver Woods Community Centre and Bowen Complex, are attached for information.

Attachment 1 – Projected Impact of Reopening Plan – Bowen Complex, Beban Social Centre & Oliver Woods, indicates that:

- Beban Social Centre operating costs are projected to be \$115,000 more
- Bowen Complex operating costs are projected to be \$26,000 less
- Oliver Woods operating costs are projected to be \$52,000 less
- Net operating costs for the 3 facilities are projected to be \$37,000 more than budgeted

Attachment 2 - Projected Impact of Reopening Plan – Recreation Services All – shows the projected variance to December 31 for Beban Social Centre, Bowen Complex and Oliver Woods Community Centre, plus the other recreation services (support services, programs, events, smaller facilities, and Beban Park Physical Plant) associated with recreation services as a whole.

- The net operating surplus is projected to be \$175,000
- This means that the 2020 operating budget of \$3, 681,590 is projected to come in at \$3,506,590, which is a \$175,000 net reduction in operating costs overall

OPTIONS

1. That Council approves the re-opening plans for Community Recreation Centres.

COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRES

Advantages of Reopening Community Recreation Centres	Disadvantages of Reopening Community Recreation Centres
<p>Community members can get back to activities that promote physical, mental and social well-being</p> <p>A phased approach, where recommended, can act as a pilot to ensure all protocols, facility retrofits, and operating schedule revisions in place, are successful</p> <p>More opportunities for smaller scale bookings will be available and could contribute to an increase in revenue from those types of bookings</p>	<p>Demand for space might exceed availability with less space available to comply with physical distancing requirements</p> <p>Inability to take large bookings, of over 50 people, will affect revenue</p>

Additional information on re-opening Community Recreation Centres is included in:

Attachment 1 - Projected Impact of Reopening Plan – Bowen Complex, Beban Social Centre and Oliver Woods

Attachment 2 - Projected Impact of Reopening Plan – Recreation Services All

2. That Council does not approve re-opening plans for Community Recreation Centres and chooses instead to leave the facilities closed until a later date.

- The advantages of this option include minimizing the risk of having to close again in the event of a second wave of COVID 19 and realizing some cost savings.
- The disadvantages of this option include less provision of recreation services to the public and the potential for public outcry as community members have expressed the desire to resume regular activities in whatever modified way is necessary.
- Financial implications include cost savings which could help to offset the overall impact of COVID 19 to the City.

3. That Council provide alternate direction to staff.]

- The advantages of this option include the ability for staff to go back and explore other ideas as suggested by Council.
- The disadvantages of this option are that there will be a delay in choosing re-opening dates for Community Recreation Centres and consequently the ability for community members to get back to activities that promote physical, mental and social well-being
- Financial implications include continued cost savings as re-opening dates will be delayed.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Re-opening plans are complete for Beban Social Centre, Oliver Woods Community Centre, and Bowen Complex.
- The re-opening plans offer revised operating schedules, and modified recreation programming, which will allow the community to get back to some of their regular activities as quickly and as safely as possible.

ATTACHMENTS:]

1. Projected Impact of Reopening Plan – Bowen Complex, Beban Social Centre and Oliver Woods
2. Projected Impact of Reopening Plan – Recreation Services All
3. Beban Social Centre Safe Operating Plan
4. Oliver Woods Community Centre Safe Operating Plan
5. Bowen Complex Safe Operating Plan

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