

**MINUTES**  
SPECIAL DISTRICT 68 SPORTS FIELD AND  
RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
ELECTRONIC MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, 2021-DEC-15, AT 5:00 P.M.

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Present: Councillor Thorpe, Chair  
Councillor Turley  
V. Craig, Director, Electoral Area B, Regional District of Nanaimo  
K. Wilson, Director, Electoral Area A, Regional District of Nanaimo

Other: T. Osborne, General Manager, Recreation and Parks, Regional  
District of Nanaimo

Absent: W. Geselbracht, Director, Regional District of Nanaimo, District of  
Lantzville  
C. Pinker, Alternate, Electoral Area C, Regional District of Nanaimo,  
M. Swain, Director, Regional District of Nanaimo, District of Lantzville

Staff: L. Wark, Director, Recreation Services  
L. Mercer, Director, Finance  
S. Snelgrove, Deputy Corporate Officer  
K. Lundgren, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE SPECIAL DISTRICT 68 SPORTS FIELD AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Special District 68 Sports Field and Recreation Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Agenda item 5(b) 2022 Budget Operations and Recreation Facilities – Add handout titled “City of Nanaimo – Regional District of Nanaimo Recreation Agreement 2019 - 2022”.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Special District 68 Sports Field and Recreation Committee Meeting, held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Thursday, 2020-DEC-03, at 2:00 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

5. REPORTS:

(a) Recreation Facilities and Sports Field Usage Survey Update

Introduced by Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture.

Presentation:

1. Tom Osborne, General Manager, Recreation and Parks, Regional District of Nanaimo, provided the Committee with a verbal update regarding the usage survey of recreation facilities and sports fields. Highlights included:
  - The District 68 Sports Field and Recreation Services Agreement between the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and the City of Nanaimo (City) has worked out well over the years
  - The agreement is in place until 2025
  - Part of the agreement requires a usage survey of recreation facilities and sports fields to be conducted every five years
  - The 2020 usage survey had been postponed due to COVID-19
  - The purpose of the usage survey is to ensure that the agreement is reflective of what is actually taking place in terms of usage
  - Services and infrastructure may influence usage

(b) 2022 Budget Operations and Recreation Facilities

Introduced by Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture.

Presentation:

1. Laura Mercer, Director, Finance, provided a verbal update on the 2019 - 2022 operating budget as it pertains to the District 68 Sports Field and Recreation Services Agreement. Highlights included:
  - Update includes a summary of recreation service agreement costs for 2019 to 2021 as well as projection for 2022
  - Facilities are broken down into cost centres that pertain to the RDN Recreation Agreement
  - The cost total for 2021 is an estimate as the year is not yet complete
  - 2019 recreation facilities applicable cost of \$8.3M dropped to \$7.7M in 2020 primarily due to COVID-19
  - Applicable costs increased to \$9.7M in 2021 as restrictions eased
  - Cost information is sent to the RDN and then allocated out to the various areas
  - Anticipate the 2022 costs to be similar to 2021, with an estimated 2022 cost of \$9.6M for facilities and \$2.4M for sports fields

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Challenge in making the projections due to uncertainties of the pandemic and changing restrictions
- Main Beban Park Pool currently closed and hopefully can be reopened soon
- Rates and fee structure update for Parks and Recreation user fees is overdue and will be coming forward in the future
- Cost centres, where only a portion of the costs is specific to the agreement, are indicated under “Partial amounts” on the City of Nanaimo – RDN Recreation Agreement handout

Committee discussion took place regarding the role of the Committee in setting user fees for facilities and the Committee meeting schedule.

Tom Osborne, General Manager, Recreation and Parks, Regional District of Nanaimo, spoke regarding the dissolution of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the purpose of District 68 Sports Field and Recreation Committee is to allow electoral areas to be informed about City facilities and sports fields.

(c) Sports Fields and Recreation Facilities

Presentation:

1. Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture, provided the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation and update on the City’s sports fields and recreation facilities. Highlights included:
  - REIMAGINE Nanaimo into phase 3 of the process
  - Ongoing impacts from the pandemic; however, assuming a trend back to normal in 2022
  - Adhering to a variety of different health orders and vaccination checks which puts added pressure on Parks and Recreation staff
  - Electrical upgrade completed at Beban Park to install generator for emergency purposes
  - LED lights installed in Nanaimo Ice Centre
  - Issue at Beban Park Pool concerning water loss from the main tank; however, the smaller pools have remained open
  - Special sealant to be applied to the main tank over the next several days in effort to resolve the issue and hoping to reopen in January 2022
  - Several improvements to Beban Park Pool during the closure included art murals, new tiling, touchless sinks, and upgrades to accessible change rooms
  - Received report from accessibility audit conducted on the facility
  - Increase in outdoor recreation bookings and anticipate this trend to continue
  - The replacement of the boat at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre and design taken to Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness to ensure accessibility

Committee discussion took place regarding the Serausmen Stadium Turf fields that need replacing and the lifespan of the turfs.

Lynn Wark, Director, Recreation and Culture, continued the presentation. Highlights included:

- Nanaimo Night Owls Baseball team starting May of 2022
- Serausmen Stadium undergoing improvements (outfield fencing, safety netting and seating)
- The Stadium District central plaza space and common entrance for ticketed events
- Harewood artificial turf fields contingent on grant application, multi-purposed and allowing for 3,000 hours of use
- Received approval for feasibility study in 2022 for a South End Nanaimo Community Centre

Committee discussion took place. Highlights included:

- Schedule for the community centre in the south end will be created as part of the feasibility study
- Ticketing and seating for the Vancouver Island Raiders football team at the Stadium District

Tom Osborne, General Manager, Recreation and Parks, Regional District of Nanaimo, spoke regarding information sharing being a key factor in the Sports Field and Recreation Services Agreement to ensure that all members are informed.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

(a) City of Nanaimo Athlete Recognition Award Program

Committee discussion took place regarding the City of Nanaimo Athlete Recognition Award Program. Highlights included:

- The City's athlete recognition award program recognizes athletes residing within the City; however, there is a gap for recognizing athletes residing in Electoral Areas A, B, C and District of Lantzville
- Addressing issue by reviewing terms of reference of the recognition ceremony
- Team recipients may include athletes outside of the City, however, the terms state that individual award recipients must reside within the City

7. QUESTION PERIOD:

There was no one in attendance to ask questions.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 5:53 p.m. that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

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C H A I R

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER