

REPORT of the regular monthly meeting of the OAK BAY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION held on Wednesday, October 2, 2013 in the Council Chambers, Municipal Hall.

**In Attendance:**

Monty Holding, Chair  
Sandi Piercy  
Drew Henderson  
Brian Sharp  
Alison Davis  
Councillor Ney

**Staff:**

Ray Herman, Director, Parks and Recreation  
Grant Brown, Manager Administrative Services  
Chris Hyde-Lay, Manager, Parks Services  
Janet Barclay, Manager Recreation Program Services  
Mandi Krieger, Executive Assistant

Regrets: Linda Allen, Rick Marshall, Chris Smith, Victor Lotto

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**I. MINUTES** Commission (2013-09-04)

Moved by Drew Henderson, Seconded by Brian Sharp, THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2013 REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION BE ADOPTED.

Carried

**II. CORRESPONDENCE** - there was no correspondence

**III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – there was no unfinished business

**IV. REPORTS**

Program Reports

Manager, Recreation Program Services reported that the Oak Bay Culture Days was held on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> which included the unveiling of a mosaic as part of the Bowker Creek initiative.

The Oak Bay Community Bike Ride & Festival on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> was relocated from Willows Beach to the Indoor Sports Field at Recreation Oak Bay due to the inclement weather so that young riders could still participate in the activities.

Manager, Parks Services reported that 11 Garry Oak trees were lost during the rain storm on September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Friends of Uplands Park will host the annual Broom Bash on October 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 4pm.

Personnel Report

The temporary Full Time position of Receptionist at Oak Bay Recreation Centre has been posted to cover the incumbent while on maternity leave.

Finance Report

**August 2013, Month End Statement**

	<u>2013</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>%</u>
YTD Revenue at month end	\$4,621,893	66.43	\$4,534,900	66.11
YTD Expenditures at month end	\$7,274,688	68.37	\$7,194,703	69.28
YTD Net Expenditure at month end	\$2,652,795	72.03	\$2,659,803	75.44
YTD Net Expenditure at month end (adj.)	\$2,652,795	72.03	\$2,652,795	72.03

NLC Update

A meeting was held on September 25<sup>th</sup> in Municipal Council Chambers with regards to the Oak Bay High School Transportation Study Documents. Members from Council, Parks & Recreation Commission, Active Transportation Advisory Committee and the Oak Bay High School were in attendance.

The building plans for the High School and Neighborhood Learning Centre should be available by mid November for the interested groups to have a better idea of the traffic pattern through the new campus.

Henderson Centre Update

The Henderson Centre renovation is mostly complete. A small deficiency list is being addressed with the contractor that includes the replacement of a column in the fitness studio that does not cosmetically meet approval.

Moved by Sandi Piercy, Seconded by Alison Davis, THAT THE STAFF REPORTS BE APPROVED.

Carried

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

Dog Management Report Recommendations (Director, 2013-09-25)

The Chair reported that in May of 2012 the Windsor Park Dog Group forwarded a Dog Management Report to Council. This report was placed on the municipal website to allow for public commentary. The report was considered again at the Committee of the Whole meeting of July 15, 2013, and a number of the recommendations in a report from the Municipal Clerk were approved.

Council has referred a number of recommendations from the Windsor Park Dog Group's Dog Management Report to the Commission for comment.

Recommendation #2: That Windsor Park dog access be expanded by undertaking a pilot project for a period of 3-6 months to allow for afternoon/evening access when the park is not booked for specific events.

A number of concerns were raised including the fact that active park spaces are meant not only for scheduled play, but also for unscheduled play. Allowing further access to dogs in the evenings would impact the potential for this type of park use. Given lack of consistency in the proposed schedule, and given that parks can be booked with little notice if available, the potential for conflict would seem significant. The Chair reported that, during the recent Fall Field User meeting,

concerns were expressed by sports groups over safety of the fields, given that dogs often dig holes in the fields. It was noted that some of the soccer groups for younger children have relocated due to the presence of dogs on the field.

Comments were also received regarding possible conflicts due to field use by sports groups for tournaments, etc. that could overlap the times that dogs are allowed off leash on the fields. Suggestion was made that park permits include the set up time that would take precedent over the use of the field for dogs to alleviate any possible conflict.

Recommendation #3: That a “dog-friendly” approach be considered as part of the upcoming redesign of Carnarvon Park, that a dog friendly community representative from the Carnarvon area be part of the Carnarvon Park redesign planning committee, and that the planning committee consult with some of the WPDG owners (in south Oak Bay) in this redesign.

It was noted that work being done to consider the future of Carnarvon Park has been put on hold. Given the expected completion of the Oak Bay High School in 2015, and the move of programs from Carnarvon Park to the High School location, work will commence again to determine the future of building footprint and adjacent areas. It would be expected that any plans for the future would include public consultation, open to all members of the community.

Recommendation #4: That Fireman’s Park, lower field, be considered for a potential pilot for 2012 if additional access to McNeill Bay in not possible.

As Council approved additional areas to McNeill Bay for dogs in May 2012, Fireman’s Park no longer needs to be considered.

Recommendation #21: That a “sports bench” be set up next to the Windsor Pavilion for sports equipment, to keep the equipment away from mud/water on the ground as well as making it inaccessible to dogs.

Staff has been unable to determine how this would be done effectively without detrimental impact on the park aesthetics. Further, there is generally no sport activity in the park at the same time that dogs are allowed off-leash. Once sporting activity takes place, dogs are to be on-leash, and would thus be under the control of their owners.

Recommendation #5: That Oakdowne Park, currently no restrictions for dogs, be fenced to make it more appropriate for a dog exercise area, as the Parks budget permits. If this proceeds, it is further recommended that hours restrictions be posted for the park to ensure the adjacent neighbors are not bothered at very early/late hours.

Numerous requests from community members in the Oakdowne Park area to establish a playground structure have been received by the Parks & Recreation department. Before fencing the park at significant cost, it was agreed there needs to be some planning done as to what the park will look like in the future. Cost estimates for fencing have not yet been solicited, but the cost is expected to be several thousand dollars.

A query was made regarding the provision of dog waste dispensers in the parks. Director noted that staff have been directed to comment to Council with financial and logistical information.

Moved by Drew Henderson, Seconded by Sandi Piercy THAT THE COMMENTS REGARDING THE DOG MANAGEMENT REPORT BE FORWARDED TO COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION.

Carried

**VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Director reported that preliminary budget discussions have been held with staff and that the 2013 year end projections and 2014 provisional budget request will be presented at the November Commission meeting.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Drew Henderson, Seconded by Brian Sharp, THAT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION BE ADJOURNED AND THAT A CLOSED SESSION BE CONVENED TO DISCUSS LABOUR RELATIONS OR EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS.

Carried

The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.