

REPORT of the regular monthly meeting of the OAK BAY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION held on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 in the Council Chambers, Municipal Hall.

In Attendance:

Monty Holding, Chair
Sandi Piercy
Rick Marshall
Chris Smith
Councillor Tara Ney
Brian Sharp
Alison Davis
Linda Allen
Mayor Nils Jensen (item I only)

Staff:

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

Regrets: Victor Lotto, Drew Henderson, Janet Barclay

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

I. WELCOME

Mayor Nils Jensen welcomed new appointees Alison Davis and Linda Allen to the Oak Bay Parks and Recreation Commission. He expressed thanks to commission members and staff for the past year and commented on the anticipation of upcoming projects such as the Neighbourhood Learning Centre, upgrade to Henderson Centre and future of Carnarvon Park after the completion of the NLC as well as connecting with other community groups to work cooperatively within the community.

On behalf of Council, Mayor Jensen wished Commission members and staff all the best for 2013.

II. ELECTIONS

Director Ray Herman called for nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair of the Oak Bay Parks and Recreation Commission for 2013.

Monty Holding was appointed as Commission Chair and Sandi Piercy was appointed as Commission Vice Chair for 2013 by acclamation.

III. MINUTES Commission (2012-12-05)

Moved by Rick Marshall, Seconded by Brian Sharp, THAT THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2012 REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION BE ADOPTED.

Carried

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Proposed Cattle Point Star Park (Bohlman, 2012-10-02)

Mr. Mark Bohlman and colleagues in attendance.

At their meeting of October 22, 2012 Council considered a proposal from Mark Bohlman, Secretary, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada – Victoria Centre to designate Cattle Point as an Urban Star Park. Council has referred this proposal to the Commission for consideration and a recommendation to Council.

An Urban Star Park is a designated area that allows public, novice stargazers and astronomers to enjoy the night sky and supports astronomical learning. A key element of Urban Star Parks is preservation of the night sky quality and having a minimum of artificial light within the park area. Mr. Bohlman advised that the existing light conditions at Cattle Point fall within the acceptable parameters for an Urban Star Park, as determined by the RASC.

In conversation with the Director, Mr. Bohlman confirmed that access to Cattle Point Park would stay within normal operating hours as outlined in the Parks & Beaches Bylaw and that any signage would be approved by Oak Bay, with the production and installation costs being funded by the RASC Victoria Centre. Mr. Bohlman also confirmed that the RASC Victoria Centre would manage the outreach program based on what Oak Bay would consider to be appropriate, and the need for a policy or bylaw to protect the area from any increase in glare from municipal, commercial and private lighting was not required.

The Director noted that after confirming several details with Mr. Bohlman, there is no financial impact to the department and that the Oak Bay Police have no concerns with increased evening use of Cattle Point or with the proposal in general.

Moved by Rick Marshall, Seconded Sandi Piercy THAT THE COMMISSION RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THAT THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA-VICTORIA CENTRE PROPOSAL TO DESIGNATE CATTLE POINT AS AN URBAN STAR PARK BE SUPPORTED.

Carried

Tree/Time of Respectful Silence Request (Gibb, 2012)

A proposal was received from Drelene Gibb to create community meditation sites in the community in general and at Uplands Park specifically. The proposal suggests that a tree be identified and designated at Uplands Park/Cattle Point to be a Tree of Respectful Silence. The tree would be lit and surrounded with stools or benches so as to allow for non-denominational prayer and/or meditation.

It was noted that municipal park and green spaces are developed in an attempt to provide all members of the community with the opportunity to recreate and reflect in an outdoor environment. These objectives are usually coupled with a desire to maintain park spaces in as natural an environment as is safely possible thereby encouraging interaction with nature for all ages.

Staff believes that there are many areas within the municipality where people currently enjoy periods of quiet reflection, whether they are along the waterfront locations or in more natural park spaces. A lack of such spaces has not been expressed by the community to date. Further, staff would not recommend additional infrastructure in the proposed area of Uplands Park. Estimated cost for the project would be in the range of several thousand dollars (+/- \$10,000) plus the ongoing maintenance and repair of such infrastructure.

Moved by Linda Allen, Seconded by Alison Davis THAT COMMISSION DOES NOT SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH TREES OF RESPECTFUL SILENCE AS IT IS NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE VISION FOR MUNICIPAL PARKS IN OAK BAY AT THIS TIME.

Carried

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Recycling in Parks

At the Commission meeting held on June 13, 2012, staff was given direction to investigate the possibility of providing recycling containers in the parks, specifically at Willows Beach.

The Director reported that this issue has been raised in the past and as recently as 2010 the municipality decided against purchasing recycling containers. Challenges are involved in adding a recycling program within the municipality such as purchasing/retrofitting a vehicle to collect recyclables, space in the Public Works yard for sorting, staff times required and the low numbers of recyclables found in bins during previous trials.

It was reported that Council has recently asked the Environmental Advisory Committee to provide recommendations to enhance Oak Bay's recycling program. It was agreed that the Director will establish contact with the Chair of the Environmental Advisory Committee to arrange a meeting including the Manager of Parks and Rick Marshall.

Kiwanis Projects to be Funded

At the September Commission meeting a proposal to establish lockers at Willows Park was brought forward for the Commission's consideration. These lockers were to be funded by the Kiwanis Club. The Commission inquired as to other potential park-related projects, and asked that staff meet with the Kiwanis Club president as to potential projects to be funded, and report back.

The Director and Manager of Parks Services met with Dave Cockle, Kiwanis Club President, to discuss a list of potential projects to be presented to the Kiwanis Club members for funding. In late October, Mr. Cockle advised that the Club members had approved funding towards establishing three new bike racks at Willows Park and replacing the monkey bars at Quimper Park. It was noted that these projects will benefit the community and do not have an identified funding source within the 2013 provisional or capital budget.

It was agreed that the Manager of Parks would contact the Active Transportation Advisory Committee to work collaboratively with regards to location and installation of the bike racks. A suggestion was made for signs to be erected at the entrances to Willows Park directing cyclists to the bike racks.

Moved by Sandi Piercy, Seconded by Chris Smith THAT STAFF BE DIRECTED TO WORK WITH THE KIWANIS CLUB TO ESTABLISH ADDITIONAL BIKE RACKS AT WILLOWS PARK AND TO REPLACE THE MONKEY BARS AT QUIMPER PARK, BASED ON KIWANIS CLUB'S FUNDING OFFER.

Carried

VI. REPORTS

Program Reports

The Director reported that the Oak Bay Recreation Centre was open on Christmas Day from 1pm to 4pm and was well attended. Patrons were welcome to skate, swim, play tennis or use the fitness studio for free with a non-perishable food item or monetary donation to the food bank.

A New Year's Day Celebration event was held on January 1st, 2013 at the Oak Bay Recreation Centre replacing the New Year's Levee. The event consisted of a community walk with Mayor and

Council and free activities including swimming, skating, fitness studio orientations, organized tennis activities, children's movies and a Jazzercise class. Council redirected funds from the levee to support this event and donations were accepted for Kid's Sport.

The Manager, Parks Services reported that the swing at Queen's Park has been removed for maintenance. Restoration work at Uplands Park, that includes installation of an information kiosk, will begin shortly to make use of grant monies that must be utilized by March 2013.

Concern was expressed regarding the replacement of Garry Oak trees on private property and the reduction of the large canopy trees within the municipality. The Manager, Parks Services reported that homeowners are encouraged to replace Garry Oaks with similar trees if the site allows. The Tree Protection Bylaw will be reviewed at an upcoming Commission meeting and Staff was asked to bring suggestions to address the replacement guidelines.

Personnel Report

Janet Welham, Sports Coordinator, will be commencing maternity leave effective February 14th, 2013. The position is posted and closes on Monday, January 14th at 9am.

Finance Report

November 2012, Month End Statement

	<u>2012</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>%</u>
YTD Revenue at month end	\$6,287,638	91.67	\$6,247,534	91.11
YTD Expenditures at month end	\$9,375,711	90.28	\$9,126,920	88.63
YTD Net Expenditure at month end	\$3,088,073	87.58	\$2,879,386	83.67
YTD Net Expenditure at month end (adj.)	\$3,090,759	87.66	\$3,010,212	87.47

NLC Update

No update at this time.

Henderson Centre Update

The Director reported that the expansion project at Henderson Recreation Centre has begun. Reception has been relocated to a temporary space and disruption to patrons is being kept to a minimum.

Moved by Chris Smith, Seconded by Sandi Piercy THAT THE STAFF REPORTS BE APPROVED.

Carried

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Wall of Fame Appointee

The Director reported that the Wall of Fame Committee requires a second Commission member and asked interested members to forward their name to either himself or the Municipal Clerk to have their name put forward for consideration by Council.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ken Olson, Operations & Energy Coordinator, has done an outstanding job over the past year and BC Hydro has requested that the term be extended for an additional year. The request has been approved by Council.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Brian Sharp, Seconded by Sandy Piercy, THAT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION BE ADJOURNED.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.