

MINUTES of a meeting of ESTIMATES COMMITTEE of the Municipal Council of The Corporation of the District of Oak Bay, held in the Council Chambers, Oak Bay Municipal Hall, 2167 Oak Bay Avenue, Oak Bay, B.C., on Wednesday March 24, 2010.

PRESENT: Mayor C. M. Causton (Chairman)
Councillor H. Braithwaite
Councillor A. R. Cassidy
Councillor P. Copley
Councillor J. Herbert

STAFF: Municipal Administrator, W. E. Cochrane
Municipal Treasurer, P. Walker
Director, Parks and Recreation, L. Curtis
Manager, Recreation Program Services, J. Barclay
Manager, Administrative Services, G. Brown
Manager, Parks Services, L. Middleton

PARKS &
RECREATION
COMMISSION: F. Carson
D. Farquhar
D. Henderson
M. Holding
R. Marshall
B. Sharp
C. Smith

Mayor Causton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Mayor opened the proceedings by noting that the financial performance of the Parks and Recreation Department had been exemplary in 2009, with net expenditures coming in substantially under budget.

Mayor Causton also remarked that, with the forthcoming redevelopment of Oak Bay Secondary School, there may be an opportunity in 2010 to take advantage of a Ministry of Education program that provides additional capital funding for components of school construction that benefit the greater community. Some of the services that the Municipality had previously been looking at providing in a new building at Carnarvon Park might, he felt, fit into this category. The Mayor said that Council may wish to consider budgeting money to engage a consultant for the purpose of exploring this program in more detail, and to work on the development of a proposal if the exploration revealed sufficient potential in this regard.

2010 Parks and Recreation Budget

The Director of Parks and Recreation reviewed the 2010 operating and capital budgets, answering questions from Committee members on individual items.

It was noted that Monterey Centre represented an exception to the trend towards improvements in user pay ratios at the various recreation facilities. Membership numbers for the Centre were continuing to decrease, and the Commission recognized that the facility was to some extent in transition, with programming gradually shifting from a seniors-oriented focus to a more mainstream adult clientele.

In the course of examining the capital budget, particular attention was paid to the proposal to replace the rubber tile surface at the Carnarvon water park. Although the existing surface had deteriorated and was no longer adequate from a safety point of view, especially in consideration of its use by the adjacent day care centre, it was also noted that relatively little aesthetic improvement would be realized from this significant expenditure. The Manager of Parks Services undertook to carry out some additional research into surfacing options prior to the conclusion of the Estimates Committee process.

Observing that the capital budget included a proposal to remove the Carnarvon Park lacrosse box at a cost of \$17,000, Mayor Causton said that this should perhaps not be accorded a very high priority. He said that the facility was no longer used by organized lacrosse associations, so there was no pressure to upgrade it from that source, while at the same time it continued to receive a considerable amount of use for pickup road hockey. The Manager of Parks Services confirmed that the facility, while not reflecting particularly well on the Municipality from an appearance point of view, was not in a condition that created any danger for users.

There was considerable discussion on the proposal to replace the current propane-powered Zamboni with an electric-driven unit, using a combination of trade-in value, established reserves and financing through the Municipal Finance Authority's leasing program. The Committee asked for details on various aspects of the proposal, such as warranty coverage and electrical infrastructure requirements, before it met again in April.

Responding to a question from the Committee, the Manager of Parks Services said that no money was budgeted for the installation of computer-controlled lock timers for the public washrooms at the Municipal Hall. He said, however, that the capital cost of such an initiative would be approximately \$4,600, and that there would be a monthly subscription fee as well, much like a security alarm system. Mr. Middleton also noted that, if a system of this type was used to maintain certain hours of opening on weekends, it would likely become necessary to fund the associated additional cleaning requirements.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Certified Correct

D/Municipal Clerk

Chairman