

REPORT of the regular monthly meeting of the OAK BAY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION held on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 in the Council Chambers, Oak Bay Municipal Hall.

In Attendance:

Monty Holding, Chair
Brian Sharp
Drew Henderson
Laverne Bennett
Frank Carson
Liz Hawes
Hazel Braithwaite

Staff:

Agnes Szilos, Director, Parks and Recreation
Lorna Curtis, Manager, Program Services
Mandi Krieger, Executive Assistant

Absent: Matt Fairbarns, Dick Cavaye, Donald Farquhar, Lorne Middleton

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

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| I. MINUTES | Commission (2009-02-04)
Committee of the Whole (2009-02-16) |
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Moved by Laverne Bennett, Seconded by Liz Hawes, THAT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2009 MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION BE ADOPTED.

Carried

The minutes from Committee of the Whole were received for information.

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

III. CORRESPONDENCE

Hood Lane – Public Lookout and Municipal Property on Radcliffe Lane

Council referred the following issues regarding public access to municipal property to the Parks and Recreation Commission for comment and recommendation on possible courses of action.

Hood Lane, located off Beach Drive, leads down to a public beach access that is not easily accessible or walkable but does provide beautiful ocean views. Council suggested that feasibility of developing a public “lookout” from the south end of the lane be considered. Staff noted that installing a proper access to the beach would be a safety concern but a small fenced area with a donated bench would provide the ability for the public to enjoy the area.

The second component forwarded to Commission was regarding the municipal property located on Radcliffe Lane which is approximately 1.2 acres in area and designated as park land. A portion of the parcel adjacent to Radcliffe Lane is used for public parking, and the question of whether or not parking should be encouraged or prohibited arose. It was also noted that there is no sign to indicate that the property on Radcliffe Lane is public, and

Council felt that consideration should be given to installing signage on the land to ensure awareness of the availability of the land for public enjoyment.

Staff noted that the parking area could be maintained and it was suggested by Commission that the parking be limited to a two or three hour maximum to ensure that the parking area is available for use by the public as intended.

Moved by Drew Henderson, Seconded by Laverne Bennett THAT SIGNAGE INDICATING PUBLIC BEACH ACCESS BE INSTALLED ON BEACH DRIVE AND RADCLIFFE LANE TO HEIGHTEN THE AWARENESS OF THE PUBLIC ACCESSES; THAT THE PARKING AREA ON RADCLIFFE LANE REMAIN WITH A TIME LIMIT IMPOSED AND FURTHER THAT A FENCED AREA BE ERECTED AT THE END OF HOOD LANE TO CREATE A LOOKOUT AREA.

Carried

Tree Protection Bylaw – Diameter Limits

At its meeting held February 16, 2009, Council's Committee of the Whole considered possible amendments to the Tree Protection bylaw with respect to the method of calculating the diameter of multi-stemmed trees, and also with respect to the catch-all diameter limits for protected trees.

Committee of the Whole forwarded the item to the Parks and Recreation Commission, along with a report from the Municipal Administrator, for consideration and a recommendation.

The item was tabled until the April Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to allow for the Parks Manager and Commission members who were instrumental in the creation of the Tree Bylaw to be in attendance.

Tabled

VI. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Reports, March 2008

Manager, Recreation Program Services reported that the "One Year Out" event held at the Oak Bay Recreation Centre on Friday, February 13, 2009 went well with approximately 1000 people in attendance.

Parks and Physical Plant Reports, March 2008

Director, Parks & Recreation reported on behalf of the Manager, Parks Services.

In response to neighbor requests, lighting was installed at the end of Lulie Street to enhance visibility on the pathway through Fireman's Park. The Parks department will look at improving the south side trail by Monteith in the spring. A request was made regarding the possibility of installing a crosswalk

from the Bowker Creek pathway to Fireman's Park which has been forwarded to the Engineering department for consideration.

The sand field will be closed from March 9th – April 4th and the remaining fields will be closed from March 16th – 27th for spring maintenance. The sand field requires a longer closure as the maintenance procedure is more detailed.

The Chair asked that any members interested in representing the Commission at the spring/fall field user meetings to contact him.

Facilities Committee

On behalf of the Facilities Committee, the Director, Parks & Recreation submitted a report on recommendations regarding Carnarvon Park to the Mayor and Members of Council. The report was prepared by a committee comprised of two Council members, two Parks & Recreation Commission member, two members from the general community, and the Director of the Parks and Recreation. The purpose of the committee was to review current and future needs and look at the desirability of potential upgrades to the Carnarvon, Henderson, and Monterey facilities. The report submitted to Council focuses on future needs at Carnarvon Park.

The Committee is of the view that a broader vision is required for Carnarvon Centre. Due to the age and poor condition of the building, the Committee suggests that a completely new facility at that location would better serve the needs of the community. Council endorsed the proposed redevelopment of the Carnarvon Park facilities in principle, subject to funding and forwarded the report to the Parks and Recreation Commission for formal comment.

The issue was raised of various user groups hoping to have dedicated space in the park and in any new facility. The Director noted that, due to Oak Bay's limited resources, the aim is to make all facilities as multi-purpose as possible to accommodate as many different users. It was agreed that input from user groups would be taken into consideration during the process as it was with the redevelopment of the Windsor Pavilion.

The next step in the process would be to seek capital funding sources prior to gathering public input on the project and a conceptual drawing. Unlike the Recreation Centre redevelopment where increased net revenue was generated, in this case, revenues would only offset additional operating costs. The committee proposed that the proposed project be "shelf-ready" in anticipation of government grants coming available.

Moved by Drew Henderson, Seconded by Brian Sharp THAT COMMISSION ENDORSE IN PRINCIPLE THE REPORT ON THE PROPOSED REDEVELOPEMENT OF THE CARNARVON PARK FACILITIES AND BE RETURNED TO COUNCIL FOR FUTHER DIRECTION.

Carried

OBRC Food Services Committee

The Committee evaluated the financial situation of the food services based on information compiled by staff. Following discussions of possible alternatives the committee acknowledged that food services in other facilities do not generate profit and reported that the value the food services adds to the facility offsets the financial losses that the area incurs.

Staff has reduced hours in the summer months to keep costs down and are actively marketing the area to increase its' profile. The recently installed big screen will also help to increase the profile of the Sportsview.

Finance and Personnel Subcommittee, March 2009

Director, Parks & Recreation reported that the department concluded 2008 with net expenditures of \$3,144,711, which was \$45,968 less than approved net expenditure levels. The variance is due primarily to under expenditure in the parks full time wage accounts due to charges to capital accounts, staff turnover, illness and parental leaves, and gaps in filling positions.

The 2009 net operating budget request is \$3,263,208 which is 2.27% or \$72,528 over the 2008 approved budget. A three week pool closure for required maintenance and a one week closure for the OBRC fitness studio for maintenance and installation of new fitness equipment is incorporated into the budget.

Moved by Frank Carson, Seconded by Laverne Bennett THAT THE 2009 OPERATING BUDGET BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

Carried

2009 Fees and Charges

Commission reviewed the fees and charges as presented.

Moved by Liz Hawes, Seconded by Drew Henderson THAT THE 2009 FEES AND CHARGES BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

Carried

2009 Capital Requests

Commission reviewed the 2009 Capital requests as presented.

Moved by Frank Carson, Seconded by Laverne Bennett THAT THE 2009 CAPITAL REQUESTS BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL.

Carried

The Director noted that the consultant's report on energy usage at Oak Bay, Henderson, Monterey Recreation Centres and the Municipal Hall is being reviewed and recommendations regarding implementation will be forwarded to Council.

Moved by Laverne Bennett, Seconded by Brian Sharp THAT THE SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS BE RECEIVED.

Carried

VII. NEW BUSINESS

In conjunction with Youth Week, the Manager, Recreation Program Services requested permission for Recreation Oak Bay to host a free event to include swimming, skating and Indoor Sports Field events on Wednesday, May 6th from 6 – 8:30pm for teens.

Moved by Drew Henderson, Seconded by Liz Hawes THAT COMMISSION APPROVE THE REQUEST BY STAFF TO HOST A FREE EVENT ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2009 IN CONJUNCTION WITH YOUTH WEEK.

Carried

The pilot "Nutrition for You" contract with Thrifty Foods is coming to a close and negotiations are currently in progress for the 2009/10 contract. As part of the new contract, Thrifty Foods would like to distribute the project flyer describing the offered programs and is looking to see which communities in the Greater Victoria region would be willing to include the insert in their fall brochure.

Staff noted that the flyer is directly connected to the programs being offered at the centres and fits the municipal policy regarding commercial advertising. Commission concurred that this was a partnership component of the Active Communities Initiative and supported the distribution request.

The suggestion of a municipal Arbor Day Celebration or Tree Appreciation Day to promote public awareness of the importance of the tree canopy in our community was discussed last September. Manager, Parks Services was gathering information from other municipalities who currently have an Arbor Day established. Commission supports the creation of a Tree Appreciation Day and requested a report on this item for the April Commission meeting.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Oak Bay Figure Skating will be performing "Dracula on Ice" on March 14th.

The Director noted that the Joint Council and Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 7pm in Council Chambers at the Municipal Hall.

The Director provided Commission with the 2008 Annual Report for the Parks and Recreation Department. The report consists of a synopsis of the 2008 departmental objectives and provides the 2009 objectives.

The annual BCRPA Symposium will be held on May 27th – 29th, 2009 at Whistler. The Director noted that this conference is an excellent opportunity for learning and networking for both staff and Commission. An invitation was extended for a Commission member to attend the conference with staff. Anyone interested in attending was asked to advise the Director at the April Commission meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Frank Carson, Seconded by Drew Henderson, THAT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION BE ADJOURNED AND THAT A SPECIAL MEETING IN CAMERA BE CONVENED TO DISCUSS PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT AN IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR A MUNICIPAL AWARD OR HONOUR.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.