

REPORT of the regular monthly meeting of the OAK BAY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION held on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 in the Council Chambers, Oak Bay Municipal Hall.

In Attendance:

Staff:

Frank Carson, Acting Chair	Agnes Szilos, Director, Parks and Recreation
Brian Sharp	Lorna Curtis, Manager, Program Services
Matt Fairbarns	Lorne Middleton, Manager Parks Services
Dick Cavaye	Mandi Krieger, Executive Assistant
Liz Hawes	
Donald Farquhar	

Absent: Monty Holding, Drew Henderson, Hazel Braithwaite, Laverne Bennett

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

I. MINUTES	Commission	(2009-03-04)
	Committee of the Whole	(2009-03-16)
	Estimates Committee	(2009-03-18)

Moved by Dick Cavaye, Seconded by Liz Hawes, THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2009 MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION BE ADOPTED.

Carried

Hood Lane

After further investigation, the Parks Manager reported the location that was originally considered to create a lookout area at the end of Hood Lane is private property. To create a lookout on nearby municipal property would entail considerable vegetation removal. An alternate location would be further up Hood Lane and closer to Radcliffe Lane and would offer a better viewpoint.

Moved by Matt Fairbarns, Seconded by Don Farquhar THAT COMMISSION SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A LOOKOUT AREA AT THE ALTERNATE UPPER LOCATION.

Carried

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

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Tree Protection Bylaw – Diameter Limits

At its meeting held February 16, 2009, 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. The request for a staff report followed discussion on an application to Council to reconsider the staff-level denial of a permit to remove a flowering plum tree on Island Road on February 9, 2009.

Municipal Administrator was requested to provide a report on possible options for amendment to the diameter limits associated with multi-stemmed trees.

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

After much discussion with regards to amending the current Tree Protection bylaw, it was noted that Oak Bay has a much higher percentage of smaller tree diameters than some of the other municipalities and that the current bylaw is well suited to Oak Bay's tree canopy.

Moved by Matt Fairbarns, Seconded by Dick Cavaye THAT COMMISSION DOES NOT SUPPORT ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE TREE PROTECTION BYLAW.

Carried

Arbor Day

In response to the suggestion of a municipal Tree Appreciation Day to promote public awareness of the importance of the tree canopy in our community, staff are planning a celebration to take place in early November 2009. The location of the celebration would be in Uplands Park where gorse was removed in previous years and would include the planting of one or two established oak trees by staff and allow the public to plant some oak seedlings. Refreshments and informative brochures would be made available to public and costs covered by the operating budget.

Moved by Matt Fairbarns, seconded by Don Farquhar THAT PLANS FOR THE CREATION OF A MUNICIPAL TREE APPRECIATION DAY CELEBRATION IN EARLY NOVEMBER 2009 BE FORWARDED TO COUNCIL FOR ENDORSEMENT.

Carried

III. CORRESPONDENCE

IV. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Reports, March 2009

In follow up from the March meeting, staff provided information regarding the childminding service at Recreation Oak Bay. Manager, Recreation Program Services reported that the service is offered Monday through Friday from 9am – 11:30am to allow parents to attend programs in the facility. Currently, three to six children attend daily and the program is costing the department between \$5,000 and \$6,000 annually to provide the service. In order to reach the break even point, thirteen children would have to attend daily. Staff are working on various promotions to increase the awareness of this service including increased marketing, distribution of a survey to parents currently using the service, a one week free promotion in September, and the ability to pre-register for the service.

Moved by Matt Fairbarns, Seconded by Brian Sharp THAT STAFF REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE CHILDMINDING SERVICE TO COMMISSION AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

Carried

Manager, Recreation Program Services recommended that a change be made to the schedule of the Novice Hockey League. Currently, the two NHL programs offered on a Sunday are separated by a Parent and Child Hockey drop in session. Staff has spoken to NHL parents and proposes that it would be more convenient to offer the drop-in hockey session first at 4:45pm – 5:45pm and then schedule the NHL programs following. This would avoid a one hour gap for parents that have children participating in both NHL programs.

Commission supported staff recommendations to change the time of the Parent and Child hockey drop in session from Sundays at 6pm – 7pm to 4:45pm – 5:45pm.

Parks and Physical Plant Reports, March 2009

Received for information

Finance Minutes

Received for information

Moved by Don Farquhar, Seconded by Matt Fairbarns THAT THE SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS BE RECEIVED.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Wall of Fame Concept

Following the March Commission meeting, staff were asked to research the concept of a “Wall of Fame” as a potential means of recognition for individuals who have made significant long term contribution to Parks and Recreation in the community.

In addition to current practices, it may be appropriate to recognize individuals who have been instrumental in the development of Recreation Oak Bay’s parks, facilities and programs and who exercised extraordinary commitment to the community of Oak Bay. Such individuals could be recognized by inclusion onto a “Wall of Fame” where there would be a 9 x 10 display on which would include a photo of the individual and brief overview of their contributions. A potential location for such a Wall of Fame might be the Social Lounge of the Oak Bay Recreation Centre where there are already two photos of people who have made significant contributions to parks and recreation in the community.

It was suggested that a sub-committee consisting of Commission members and staff be created to establish criteria for the selection process for a potential "Wall of Fame".

Moved by Don Farquhar, Seconded by Liz Hawes THAT A SUB-COMMITTEE BE APPOINTED TO CREATE CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION PROCESS OF A POTENTIAL "WALL OF FAME" AT THE OAK BAY RECREATION CENTRE.

Pesticide Use

At the Council meeting held March 23, 2009, the issue of pesticide use was raised, and it was suggested that the District of Oak Bay investigate implementing its own pesticide use reduction bylaw, as has recently been done in the City of Victoria.

Council directed that the Commission investigate the issues involved, and report back to Council with respect to the implications of implementing pesticide use regulations.

Manager Parks reported that the CRD and Victoria currently have a pesticide bylaw in place and that Saanich is in the process of creating a bylaw for their municipality. Oak Bay currently uses the approach of looking at all aspects prior to using pesticides. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that it was feasible to wait until other municipalities have a bylaw in place and then compare the options to create the best approach for Oak Bay.

It is expected that the Parks Manager will have a report to present to Commission at the September meeting.

4 for 3 month student pass

Manager, Recreation Program Services reported that staff would like to introduce a new 4 for 3 month student pass to be offered to university / college students with valid identification. The pass would be valid from May 1st through to August 31, 2009 at a cost of \$139.00, the same cost as the three month pass.

Commission supported the introduction of the 4 for 3 month pass.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Dick Cavaye, Seconded by Liz Hawes, THAT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION BE ADJOURNED.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.