

REPORT of the regular monthly meeting of the OAK BAY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION held on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 in the Council Chambers, Oak Bay Municipal Hall.

In Attendance:

Monty Holding, Chair
Dick Cavaye
Matt Fairbarns
Drew Henderson
Liz Hawes
Donald Farquhar
Hazel Braithwaite
Brian Sharp
Dick Cavaye

Staff:

Agnes Szilos, Director, Parks and Recreation
Lorna Curtis, Manager, Program Services
Lorne Middleton, Manager Parks Services
Grant Brown, Manager, Administrative Services

Absent: Mandi Krieger, Frank Carson, Laverne Bennett

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

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| I. | MINUTES | Commission | (2009-06-03) |
| | | Committee of the Whole | (2009-06-15) |

Moved by Liz Hawes, Seconded by Drew Henderson, THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2009 MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION BE ADOPTED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF NEW BUSINESS ITEM "DOGS ON HENDERSON TRAIL" WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED AT TONIGHT'S MEETING.

Carried

Moved by Matt Fairbarns, Seconded by Dick Cavaye, THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 15, 2009 MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE BE RECEIVED.

Carried

Concern was expressed regarding Council's decision not to adopt the Commission's recommendation to turn down the request to extend the summer dog hours at McNeil Bay Beach.

The order of the agenda was varied by consensus.

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dogs on Henderson Chip Trail

Correspondence was received from Ms. Judith Kovats that Commission reconsider allowing dogs on the Henderson chip trail. Ms. Kovats noted that she has been living in Oak Bay for 28 years and walking the chip trail daily. During her walks she has met a lot of people but none have complained that her dog is on the trail. Ms. Kovats provided statistics of her observations on the use of the trail over a ten day period stating that it was not highly used.

The Oak Bay Greenskeeper also submitted statistics on the trail use between July 22 and August 31 2009 which showed much heavier use of the trail.

It was pointed out that the chip trail was developed for use of walkers and joggers and is not conducive to dogs, especially with the installation of fitness equipment. Members questioned the safety of allowing dogs on the narrow chip trail with its many turns where an animal or person might be startled even on leash.

Moved by Dick Cayave, Seconded by Drew Henderson THAT THE REQUEST TO ALLOW DOGS ON THE HENDERSON CHIP TRAIL BE TURNED DOWN.

Carried

Rental of Fields for Private Functions

Staff was asked to review current field rental policy and make recommendations regarding the rental of fields for non-sports oriented private functions. The review was requested in light of several inquiries from private individuals where use of green space or part of a field was requested for children's birthday parties wherein permission was also sought for inclusion of novelty play items such as bouncy castles.

Staff surveyed other regional departments regarding private use of green space for non-athletic functions and found that all allow it and do not differentiate such rentals from other green space bookings.

It was noted that all rental requirements would apply such as insurance, field permit fees and room rental rates when applicable.

Members concurred with staff recommendation to continue to allow such rentals.

Report on Pesticide Control meeting

Staff convened a meeting on July 16th 2009 to obtain input on potential pesticide use control bylaw. Oak Bay Parks and Uplands and Victoria Golf Club staff were in attendance. An overview of the CRD Draft Pesticide Bylaw and the City of Victoria's recently adopted bylaw were reviewed. It was also noted that a bylaw is being drafted for consideration by Saanich Council in fall 2009.

Following discussion, those at the meeting felt that Oak Bay should wait until the Saanich bylaw was drafted as there was considerable merit to trying to achieve consistency throughout the region. It was also noted that the costs associated with such a bylaw need to be considered, including bylaw enforcement, training, and informational materials. With Victoria's bylaw coming into force just this year, full costs remain to be known.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

Canadian Diabetes Assoc. Clothesline Project

Peter Rowand from the Canadian Diabetes Association was in attendance.

The Canadian Diabetes Association Clothesline program collects used clothing and household products by making pre-arranged pick-ups with their donors. However, they find that the timing is not always convenient for their donors. In order to better serve their donors they place drop boxes in convenient locations throughout the Capital Regional District. The organization is requesting that drop boxes be placed at select municipally owned facilities such as Oak Bay's three recreation centres.

Concerns were raised regarding the difficulty distinguishing one worthy cause from another as well as with regard to the very limited space available at the recreational facilities.

Moved by Matt Fairbarns, Seconded by Dick Cavaye THAT THE CANADIAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION CLOTHESLINE PROJECT REQUEST TO PLACE DROP BOXES WITHIN RECREATION CENTRES BE TURNED DOWN.

Carried

Tree Protection Bylaw and Urban Forestation

The Tree Protection Bylaw amendments made by Council at their June 25 2009 meeting were discussed. Concern was expressed regarding the amendments and the consequences that may result. It was felt that intent and effectiveness of the bylaw has been diminished.

Following discussion, it was Moved by Donald Farquhar, Seconded by Matt Fairbarns THAT DUE TO CONCERNS ABOUT THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE CHANGES TO THE TREE PROTECTION BYLAW THAT THE TREE BYLAW COMMITTEE BE RECONVENED TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CHANGES WITH A VIEW TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMMISSION AND COUNCIL.

Carried

BCRPA – A Time for Renewal

Council received correspondence from the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) requesting a letter of support for their document, "Time for Renewal: Assessing the State of Recreation Facilities in British Columbia". The survey document, based on 5 years of comprehensive research, found that 68% of BC's indoor recreation facilities are 25 years or older and cited the need to upgrade or replacement recreation facilities throughout British Columbia. BCRPA has determined that \$5.2 billion is needed over the next decade in order to upgrade or replace these facilities.

Moved by Matt Fairbarns, Seconded by Drew Henderson TO RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL SUBMIT A LETTER OF SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF OAK BAY TO SUPPORT THE BRITISH COLUMBIA RECREATION AND PARKS ASSOCIATION'S "A TIME FOR RENEWAL" DOCUMENT.

Carried

IV. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Reports, Parks & Physical Plant - Summer 2009

Programs:

Oak Bay had over 10,000 registrations for the summer which was up 800 registrations over last summer. The Manager, Recreation Program Services noted the excellent work of summer camp staff.

Staff reported that based on patron feedback there will be a pre-register option for child minding this fall and that the status of child minding will be brought back to Commission at the November meeting.

It was noted that the new Paddington morning care program was cancelled due to lack of registration.

In response to a question regarding the department's approach to the potential outbreak of the H1N1 virus, it was noted that the emphasis, per Health Authority information, is to encourage the frequent washing of hands. The department receives Health Authority briefing information and will act accordingly.

Parks:

Staff reported that Oak Bay has received Rick Hansen grant monies for the accessible playground changes to be made at Windsor Park.

Arbor Day is scheduled for November 8th at Uplands Park and the public will be informed of the event, with details to be on the municipal website as well as published in the Oak Bay News. Tree related information is also available via a number of International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) pamphlets which are available at the Parks office and at Municipal Hall.

Finance Minutes

Received for information

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

Carried

(Matt Fairbarns left the meeting at this point)

Wall of Fame

Liz Hawes gave an overview of the Recognition Committee's work over the summer and reviewed the recommended Wall of Fame policy and procedures.

Moved by Liz Hawes, Seconded by Dick Cavaye TO RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL ADOPT THE PROPOSED PARKS AND RECREATION 'WALL OF FAME' RECOGNITION PROPOSAL AS AMENDED.

Carried

V. NEW BUSINESS

Monterey Bike Shelter

Staff explained that the installation of a covered bike shelter at Monterey Centre was approved in the 2009 capital budget; however the planned location interferes with the loading zone area of the parking lot. Having reviewed the site, staff sought a location which is close to the entrance to the library and Monterey Centre and does not impact any parking spaces or walkways. The proposed location has two large Pine trees present and it is recommended that one be removed. This tree is the smaller of the two and is already pushing against the concrete pads beside it and lifting them. It would likely need to be removed within the next 3-4 years. The tree is below the threshold for protection under the tree bylaw.

Moved by Brian Sharp, Seconded by Dick Cavaye TO FORWARD THE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL TO PROCEED WITH THE REMOVAL OF THE PINE TREE AND RELOCATE THE MONTEREY COVERED BIKE SHELTER TO THE PROPOSED LOCATION.

Carried

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carnarvon Roof

Staff reported that 2009 capital projects are going ahead smoothly. However the original plan to patch the Carnarvon roof and replace the arena change room has changed as further investigation has found that the arena roof is holding up and the Carnarvon roof is leaking badly. Staff went to council and requested to reallocate \$12,000 from the arena roof capital budget to the Carnarvon roof capital budget which was passed. Work is expected to begin mid September.

Energy Project Report

Staff reported that they are awaiting approval on the EcoEnergy grant funding.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Brian Sharp, Seconded by Liz Hawes, 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 9:15pm.