

MINUTES of the regular meeting of the COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 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, Victoria, B.C. on Monday September 16, 2019 At 7:00 PM

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Coast and Straits Salish Peoples. Specifically we recognize the Lekwungen speaking people, known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, and that their historic connections to these lands continue to this day.

PRESENT: Councillor A. Appleton, Acting Mayor, Chair  
Councillor H. Braithwaite  
Councillor C. Green  
Councillor T. Ney  
Councillor E. Paterson  
Councillor E.W. Zhelka

REGRETS: Mayor K. Murdoch

STAFF: Chief Administrative Officer, L Varela  
Director of Corporate Services, D. Hopkins  
Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, R. Herman  
Recorder, A. Nurvo

OTHER: M. Holding, Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Acting Mayor, Councillor Appleton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE ITEM(S):**

**1. Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission Minutes**

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture provided a brief summary of the Commission meeting and overview of the program reports, including next steps on the playground rejuvenation project and implementation of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Masterplan and public art policy. As stated in the report, the Commission will schedule a meeting later in the fall with the Public Art Committee to establish additional process and locating guidelines for public art in Oak Bay. The Director also advised of the Castaway Wanderers Rugby Club application to hold a beer garden Saturday September 14, 2019 that had been approved by the Commission did not take place due to a change in the games schedule.

Council discussion ensued as follows:

- Council requested an explanation of the numbers in the tree report and asked what they are showing, as it appears that the District is doing significantly better on the Tree Protection Bylaw on municipal property where every tree removed is replaced with three, than on private property where every four trees removed are replaced with one.

Staff responded that the District has received BC Hydro grants and bequeathed funds to assist in tree replacement on municipal property. The District's biggest challenge is on private property. Staff is currently working on an initiative, with a number of Garry Oak seedlings purchased to make available to members of the public.

- Council asked when they will see an amended Tree Protection Bylaw, if monies are available to offset the cost of the arborist and to boost the program to enhance our urban canopy, and when the amended Bylaw will be put into action.

Staff stated that currently the third draft of the Bylaw is being circulated to staff for final review, and the draft Bylaw will be presented to Council in the near future.

- Council congratulated Parks staff on the recent federal announcement of the Uplands receiving recognition as a national historical site. Council recommended that, since this was a community driven project, the Mayor should acknowledge the lead individuals involved for all their hard work.
- Council inquired what the next steps regarding the energy loop will be.

Staff advised that staff have a proposal ready to replace solar panels on the Oak Bay Recreation Centre. While the energy loop is turning out to be very successful in decreasing gas consumption, hydro usage has increased. The solar panels will help alleviate electricity usage.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS:

J. Sultanum, Oak Bay resident, requested clarification of the work requested in the report, and the financial and budget process involved.

Staff responded that staff is currently working on the draft 2020 budget projections for the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, which will be presented to the Commission in November. These will then be presented jointly to Council along with other Departments in the spring.

MOVED and seconded: That the minutes of the meeting of the Oak Bay Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission held September 4, 2019, and the recommendations contained therein, be approved.

**CARRIED**

#### COMMUNICATIONS:

##### **2. Proposed Permissive Tax Exemptions 2020 - 2023**

The Director of Corporate Services advised that this is a long standing Permissive Tax Exemption in Oak Bay which is up for renewal. Staff is requesting that Council allow staff to give notice to the public and allow for public feedback. Despite being municipally-owned property, since it is not occupied by the municipality, the legislation requires that we conduct this process to exempt the property from taxation each year.

Council discussed the following:

- The granting of Permissive Tax Exemptions are based on organizations providing value to the community. Council asked staff if they have requested a report from this group of their assessment of the value of their contributions to the community.

Staff advised that staff currently does not have this information but it will be made available when the bylaw is being considered for three readings at the September 30<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

- Clarification was requested by Council that the permissive tax exemption process does not preclude Council from further considerations with respect to heritage designations on these properties.

Staff confirmed that these are distinct processes, and that the Director of Building and Planning will attend the next Council meeting to provide further clarification.

There were no comments from the public.

MOVED and seconded: That it be recommended to Council that staff be directed to conduct the statutory notification of the proposed Permissive Tax Exemptions for the years 2020 to 2023 inclusive, as outlined in the report of the Acting Director of Financial Services dated September 16, 2019 and in accordance with Section 227 of the *Community Charter*.

**CARRIED**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**3. Motion to Adjourn**

MOVED and seconded: That the meeting adjourn at 7:31 p.m.

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:

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Chair

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Director of Corporate Services