

REPORT of the regular monthly meeting of the OAK BAY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION held on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 in the Council Chambers, Oak Bay Municipal Hall

In Attendance:

Sandi Piercy, Chair
Victor Lotto
Rick Marshall
Linda Allen
Matt Fairbarns
Darlene Therrien
Chris Smith
Councillor Braithwaite

Staff:

Ray Herman, Director, Parks and Recreation
Janet Barclay, Manager Recreation Program Services
Grant Brown, Manager Administrative Services
Chris Hyde-Lay, Manager, Parks Services
Sonya Reuter, Administrative Assistant

Regrets:

Alison Davis
Mandi Krieger, Executive Assistant

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

I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Darlene Therrien, Seconded by Sandi Piercy, THAT THE AGENDA BE ADOPTED.

Carried

II. MINUTES Commission (2015-01-07)

It was noted that the minutes should be amended to include reference to the question posed to the Mayor during his remarks as to whether Culture would include the library.

Moved by Darlene Therrien, Seconded by Sandi Piercy, THAT THE MINUTES OF THE January 7, 2015 REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION BE ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

Carried

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

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Gerald Smeltzer attended to discuss flow of information from Commission meeting to the Public.

- Certain items and financials are not included in the meeting minutes;
- Made reference to Auditor General's 2013 report on Capital Procurement in Rossland;
- Access to information should be open and transparent;
- Access for Public to information is difficult and costly; should be consistent with Freedom of Information rules;
- Hazel Braithwaite suggested that points are valid and that discussion will occur with the Municipal Clerk.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Eliminator Triathlon Request (Dibden, 2014-11-28)

Mr. Rob Dibden was not in attendance.

Human Powered Racing has requested use of Willows Park & Beach to host the Eliminator Triathlon on Sunday, July 19, 2015.

This event was held in Oak Bay for the first time on August 24, 2014.

Director, Parks & Recreation reported that the MEC Paddlefest is scheduled to take place on their traditional date of Saturday, July 18, 2015, also at Willows Park. Staff are not aware of any issues or complaints arising out of the 2014 Eliminator Triathlon. The original request in 2014 was denied given that Human Powered Racing is a commercial entity. However, once the Victoria Sexual Assault Centre became the benefit charity for the event, approval was granted. The same partnership is proposed for the 2015 event. The Director suggested that Commission give consideration Willows Park hosting two special events on the same weekend.

Matt Fairbarns discussed that when using the proposed Decision Guide for Commission that this proposal would be turned down.

Commission discussed the need for additional information in order to make a decision, including financial information from 2014, a report on any youth clinics that were proposed, and whether a date change would be feasible.

Moved by Darlene Therrien, Seconded by Linda Allen THAT STAFF GO BACK TO PROPONENT FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE AMOUNT DONATED TO CHARITY, THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT FROM LAST YEAR'S EVENT, AND TO ASK IF THEY HAVE AN ALTERNATE DATE IN MIND.

Carried

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commercial Use of Parks Task Group Report

Rick Marshall reported that a meeting has taken place. Darlene Therrien reported that she withdrew from the working group as there were enough members.

VI. REPORTS

Program Reports

The Manager of Recreation Program Services reported that she had followed up from the Willow's Block Watch group regarding their concerns at Willow's Park. She will forward this information to the sub-committee working on park permits. A new app is now available on itunes for the Recreation Oak Bay schedules and rates. Oak Bay is the first municipality in the region to offer this convenience to patrons. This year the New Year's Classic Tennis tournament included a dinner dance which was well attended and received compliments from the BC Tennis Association. A new climbing wall donated by the Rotary Club of Oak Bay will be unveiled at the 3pm Family Day swim.

Parks Report

Manager, Parks Services reported that last week Parks received complaints from both Castaways rugby regarding dog feces on the rugby field (4 piles) and from Bays United Soccer about holes dug by dogs on the Windsor fields. The Parks Foreman also very regularly fills in holes dug by dogs on the fields during his inspections. The dog holes have become a safety issue for the sports groups

and the dog feces left on the fields are a health issue. This is an ongoing problem that the Windsor dog group needs to find a solution for. Parks are presently trying to re-establish a contact person.

The Urban Forest Canopy loss continues to be a challenge for the Municipality, especially on private lands. Parks manages to replace the same number of trees it removes from Municipal land but the private property tree loss is considerable. Parks are hoping that by developing strategies we can stop or reverse this trend.

Volunteers continue to make considerable contributions towards invasive plant control, restoration work and educational events in many of our natural area parks. For example, Friends of Uplands Park organized over 40 events in 2014.

Finance Report

- Admission were up \$175,000 over 2013 and \$76,000 over budget;
- Camps were up \$50,000 net over 2013;
- Monterey was up \$45,000 net over 2013;
- \$120,000 in savings versus budget for open fulltime positions that were covered by auxiliary staff;
- Golf programs made budget due to summer instructions increases and strike camps in the fall.

Neighbourhood Learning Centre

Director, Parks & Recreation reported that a draft of the operating agreement is expected by mid-February.

Councillor Braithwaite suggested that the time of a tour of the NLC for the Commission members take place late afternoon on a weekday. Commission members agreed. Councillor Braithwaite will report back with a date for the tour.

VII. NEW BUSINESS - none

Commission member Linda Allen left the meeting at 9:10pm.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director reported that the architect has provided some, but not all, of the information requested related to the Lounge. The information is expected to be available for the March meeting.

The following items have been approved by staff, as per Commission direction:

- Jaguar Club Car Show – July 18, 2015, Windsor Park
- Walk for Muscular Dystrophy – May 24, 2015, Willows Park
- MEC Paddlefest – July 18, 2015, Willows Park

Public Participation

The Public Participation portion of the Agenda was to be included on a trial basis, which has now lapsed. This standing agenda item at all Parks & Recreation Commission meetings allows for public participation on items relevant to Commission.

Moved by Matt Fairbarns, Seconded by Rick Marshall, THAT THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION CONTINUE TO BE INCLUDED ON A PERMANENT BASIS.

Carried

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Victor Lotto, Seconded by Darlene Therrien, THAT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION BE ADJOURNED.

Carried

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:26pm.