

REPORT of the regular monthly meeting of the OAK BAY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION held on Wednesday, October 1, 2014 in the Council Chambers, Oak Bay Municipal Hall.

In Attendance:

Sandi Piercy, Chair
Rick Marshall
Alison Davis
Victor Lotto
Darlene Therrien
Brian Sharp
Councillor Ney
Chris Smith
Linda Allen

Staff:

Ray Herman, Director Parks and Recreation
Janet Barclay, Manager Recreation Program Services
Grant Brown, Manager Administrative Service
Mandi Krieger, Executive Assistant

Regrets: Chris Hyde-Lay, Matt Fairbarns

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

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Linda Allen, Seconded by Victor Lotto THAT THE AGENDA BE ADOPTED.

Carried

II. MINUTES Commission (2014-09-03)

Moved by Darlene Therrien, Seconded by Rick Marshall, THAT THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2014 REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION BE ADOPTED.

Carried

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

IV. DELEGATIONS

Oak Bay Arts Laureate

Barbara Adams was in attendance to share the positive comments that she had received from the public regarding the Oak Bay Summer Arts project. She noted that two of the painted pianos will be auctioned off at a "Piano Magic" event on October 23, 2014 at the Oak Bay Beach Hotel from 5:30pm – 7:30pm. The third piano will remain in the lobby of the Municipal Hall for the public to enjoy.

She also noted that she is looking at the option of the community purchasing the "Salish Seas" sculpture by Chris Paul that is installed on Turkey Head for it to remain in place for the public to continue to enjoy.

Ms. Adams noted that she is working with Janet Barclay, Manager, Recreation Program Services, to look at Victoria's Public Arts policy with the goal of making some recommendations to Council on revising the existing Oak Bay Public Arts policy. Her hope is that Culture can be added to Parks & Recreation.

Moved by Chris Smith, Seconded by Linda Allen THAT COMMISSION SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION OF THE ARTS INITIATIVE IN PRINCIPLE.

Carried

Friends of Anderson Hill Park

Christina Johnson-Dean was in attendance representing the Friends of Anderson Hill Park. Ms. Johnson-Dean gave Commission a brief history of the park and an overview of the removal work that is done by volunteers in partnership with the Parks Department to control the invasive plants such as Ivy, Broom and Gorse.

Ms. Johnson-Dean mentioned that it would be desirable to update the signage at the entrance to the park to reflect the history contributions of the First Nations and settlers to the area.

Commission thanked Ms. Johnson-Dean and the volunteers for their hard work at Anderson Hill Park.

V. CORRESPONDENCE - none

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commercial Use in the Park Task Group Update

It was reported that the task group met and agreed that the focus of the group should include not just commercial use of park areas but overall use of parks in general for all events. It was observed that the number of external events in parks have increased significantly over the past few years and should be addressed. The task group will bring suggested guidelines to the next Commission meeting for discussion to clarify the criteria required for park use and to maintain consistency.

Urban Forest Strategy Update

The task group met to work on a providing a document to reflect the scope of work done and to clarify what can be done through use of volunteers and staff. It was noted that the document must be clear on deliverables that are required in order to obtain a quote from a consultant. Staff reported that they have spoken to two consultants to get an approximate dollar figure for budgetary purposes and both suggested a figure of \$60,000 which will be included in the capital budget. Staff noted that this figure was for budgetary purposes and will allow for a robust public consultation plan but is not a firm quote.

Sportsview Deli Bar & Grill Options Report

The Manager, Recreation Program Services reported that the Sports View Deli Bar and Grill has had an increasing deficit over the past 10 years. In 2013 a sub committee of the Oak Bay Parks and Recreation Commission examined the situation. Their analysis explored food service budgets and actual for 2010-2013, facility bookings 2010-2013 and the potential for special events. Management staff also reviewed staff schedules, banquets and menus, special events and marketing and promotion. It was noted that although changes have been made such as the addition of monthly music events, revamped banquet menus and the closure of the area for the summer months, the losses continue to increase.

Staff have reviewed all aspects of the food service and considered other possible uses of the upstairs space to provide the most efficient, practical and beneficial service and use in the future.

Three options were suggested:

1. Status quo – continue to use the upstairs space for food services from September to May and use as program space during the summer. Staff would continue to offer music events and promote the space as a cultural venue.

2. Convert both lounges to program space with limited food service – this would see the Sports View used for fitness programs and the small lounge used for programs and/or meeting space. Food would be served via a concession window to the foyer area.
3. Convert both lounges to program space, no food service, with social seating area in foyer.

It was reported that once options are fully developed and endorsed by the Parks and Recreation Commission, an online survey could be set up and made available to all citizens as part of the consultation process.

Staff noted that option #2 and #3 would require structural changes and a meeting has been arranged with an architect to discuss feasible options and costs.

Discussion ensued and it was agreed that a pleasant social gathering space should be seriously considered regardless of the option chosen and that the communication and consultation process is key. Staff will take the feedback from the Commission meeting and bring back options to the budget meeting in November.

Official Community Plan

It was noted that the Official Community Plan was adopted by Council on September 9th, 2014. Staff will look at the Parks & Recreation portion when the official document has been released and report back to Commission with a summary of upcoming recommendations.

VII. PROGRAM REPORTS

Personnel Report

No staff changes this month

Finance Report

August 2014, Month End Statement

	<u>2014</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>%</u>
YTD Revenue at month end	\$5,009,863	71.41	\$4,703,702	67.61
YTD Expenditures at month end	\$7,390,420	67.97	\$7,301,088	68.62
YTD Net Expenditure at month end	\$2,380,557	61.71	\$2,597,386	70.53
YTD Net Expenditure at month end (adj.)	\$2,469,267	64.01	\$2,597,386	70.53

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director, Parks & Recreation reported that budget meetings have been held over the past couple of weeks with staff and are close to completion.

Staff recently had a tour of the Neighborhood Learning Centre and will be meeting with the architect and project manager to prepare for the budget process. The draft for the operating agreement is still forthcoming from the School Board.

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Director reported that he has received an approximate cost of \$12,500 for the design work for a multi-use path along Bowker Creek from the east end to Hampshire Road. The amount will be included in the 2015 capital budget for consideration. Query was made as to the additional cost if the path was to extend to St. Ann. The Director will report back once enquiries haven been made.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

Carried

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:32pm.