

MINUTES of a meeting of ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 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, Oak Bay, B.C., on Monday April 7, 2014.

PRESENT: Mayor N. Jensen (Chairman)
Councillor J. Herbert
Councillor P. Copley (via telephone)
Councillor C. Green
Councillor M. Kirby
Councillor T. Ney

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION: Matt Fairbarns (left at 7:30 p.m.)
Rick Marshall
Sandi Piercy
Brian Sharp
Darlene Therrien

STAFF: Municipal Administrator, H. Koning
Municipal Treasurer, P. Walker
Director, Parks and Recreation, R. Herman
Manager, Recreation Program Services, J. Barclay
Manager, Administrative Services, G. Brown
Manager, Parks Services, C. Hyde-Lay

Mayor Jensen called the meeting to order at 5.33 p.m.

Nils Jensen, Chairman, opened the meeting by remarking on the number of positive letters and comments that he has received from the public regarding the parks and recreation centres of Oak Bay and then turned to the Manager of Administrative Services to lead the Committee through the Parks and Recreation budget. Mr. Brown highlighted and discussed key issues contained in his March 27, 2014 report, the sources of increased costs and he summarized the 2013 results. It was pointed out that the Boulevard Frontage Tax revenue in the Parks Department could be increased to \$172,236 (an additional \$6.026) to reflect the actual tax that will be collected in 2013. Mr. Brown responded to questions with respect to the Fees & Charges, Recreation, Parks and Capital sections of the budget.

The future of the SportsView Deli, Bar and Grill was discussed at some length. The budget was prepared assuming that it will be closed between June 1 and September 8, 2014. There were some suggestions of extending the closure but the decision was made to leave it as originally budgeted, with the understanding that during this time staff will develop options for the space which can then be reviewed by Commission and Council, following which the public may be asked to provide input regarding the more favourable options.

This year the Parks Department will not be receiving a federal grant towards the cost of removing invasive species, and therefore the budget before the Committee did not have any money in it for this program. There was considerable discussion regarding the importance of the program and the impact on protected plants in the Uplands Park if it was allowed to lapse for even one year. There was agreement that \$12,400 would be added to the budget to allow the program to continue in 2014.

It was noted that the lawn bowling maintenance program was not budgeted to break even, and the Director of Parks and Recreation agreed that he would approach the Lawn Bowling Club regarding this. This will add \$5,378 to the revenue.

The decision was made to leave staff to find the remaining \$7,000 that is required to fund the invasive species removal program, and the Treasurer will report back to the Estimates Committee

The possibility of expanding the allotment garden program was discussed, with suggestions of where additional plots might be created.

The Committee thanked the Parks and Recreation Commission and the department's staff for all their time and effort.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was the consensus of the Estimates Committee that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Certified Correct

Municipal Administrator

Chairman