

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 Wednesday, March 26, 2015.

PRESENT: Mayor N. Jensen (Chairman)
Councillor H. Braithwaite
Councillor T. Croft
Councillor M. Kirby
Councillor K. Murdoch
Councillor T. Ney
Councillor E. Zhelka

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION: Victor Lotto
Rick Marshall
Sandi Piercy
Darlene Therrien

STAFF: Municipal Administrator, H. Koning
Municipal Treasurer, P. Walker
Director, Parks and Recreation, R. Herman
Manager of Administration Services, Grant Brown
Manager of Recreation Programs, Janet Barclay
Manager of Parks Services, Chris Hyde-Lay

Mayor Jensen called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Nils Jensen, Chairman, opened the meeting by remarking on the pride that is felt of the Oak Bay Parks and Recreation Department. Oak Bay was a leader in the development of a multi-use facility when the Bee Street centre was built. All the work that is done by staff and Commission is very much appreciated. The Parks and Recreation Department has the largest budget of all the municipal departments.

The memorandum prepared by the Manager of Administration Services, which reviewed the 2014 actual results, and provided a summary of the major items contained in the 2015 operating and capital budget was discussed in detail.

It was pointed out that the Monterey Centre had a very good year, representing its best since 2009, and that the school strike resulted in approximately \$60,000 in extra net revenue as a result of extra camps that were put on, making up for lost revenue in afterschool care. Even before this, there was a significant increase in afterschool registrations and summer camps, showing an overall increase of approximately \$80,000.

The changes from 2014 to 2015 budgets were reviewed and discussed. It was pointed out that the costs of cultural events and the Arts Laureate that until now have been included in the General budget had not been included in the budget before the Committee, because no specific decision has been made about its reallocation to the Parks and Recreation Department. The Manager of Recreation Programs confirmed that she had dealt with four film projects to date, with more film productions expected to take place in Oak Bay this year. The success of the Live Music Series at the Sportsview Lounge was commented upon.

The Director Parks and Recreation discussed the Neighbourhood Learning Centre project and brought the Committee's attention to the fact that he had very recently learned that the building would not be ready for the summer recreation programs, and there would also be no access to the west part of the school. The Rotary Club will be donating \$40,000 for the Teen Centre which will be within the building.

There was discussion regarding the Henderson golf course and its fiscal performance. The list of capital requests, their necessity and their funding sources were reviewed by the Committee.

Fee increases were discussed, in particular the philosophy behind the change in the method that will be used to issue park permit fees. The fee changes are proposed to take place in September of this year, and will be formally approved by Council at a later meeting.

No changes or additional information related to the budget were requested of staff. 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 7:55 p.m.

Certified Correct

Municipal Administrator

Chairman