

MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the OAK BAY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION held on Wednesday, May 30, 2012 in the Council Chambers, Oak Bay Municipal Hall.

In Attendance:

Monty Holding, Chair
Brian Sharp
Brian Yellin
Chris Smith
Liz Hawes
Sandi Piercy
Victor Lotto
Councillor Tara Ney

Staff:

Ray Herman, Director, Parks & Recreation
Janet Barclay, Manager, Recreation Program Services
Grant Brown, Manager, Administrative Services

Regrets: Rick Marshall, Drew Henderson

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm.

I. PRESENTATION BY CANADIAN COLLEGE OF PERFORMING ARTS

The Chair explained that the Special Meeting was being held to allow the Canadian College of Performing Arts (CCPA) to make a presentation to the Commission on a potential partnership at Carnarvon Park. The Chair introduced College Director Ron Schuster, Communications & Marketing Manager Steven Seltzer and President of the Board Eric Partridge to the Commission.

Ron Schuster went over a Powerpoint presentation with the Commission. The presentation had two themes:

1. Overview of the CCPA

- College originated in 1999 and is presently located on Elgin Road in St. Mary's Church.
- College is owned by the Canadian Heritage Arts Society, which was incorporated in BC in 1990 and became a registered charity in 1991.
- The CCPA is an accredited private career training institution licensed under PCTIA regulations.
- The CCPA offers studies in the disciplines of acting, voice, dance and career management in intensive 1 and 2 year curriculum options, plus a newly launched Year 3 diploma program. Graduates have become stars of stage and screen across Canada and beyond.
- Students come from across Canada, as well as internationally.
- Students conduct a number of successful performances in the greater community each year.
- The CCPA estimates their economic spinoff in the community at roughly \$1.5 million annually.

2. Partnership Proposal

- The CCPA has outgrown their space at St. Mary's Church and has been investigating options to acquire dedicated space for their activities.

- A discussion with former Mayor Causton led to the idea of a partnership with the municipality at Carnarvon Park.
- A new building is proposed which would roughly cover the footprint of the current antiquated building on the site, as well as the lacrosse box.
- Conceptual plans showed a two-storey building, along with a smaller building to the east, and south of the spray park, that would house washrooms, dressing rooms and meeting space for community groups.
- The CCPA has had discussions with both Pacific Opera Victoria and the Oak Bay Archives about the potential of having space in the building.
- Based on a total square footage range of 27,500 to 39,500, and estimated construction costs of \$230/sq.ft., CCPA estimates capital costs of \$6 - \$9 million.
- Proposed financing suggests being ready for a Federal-Provincial infrastructure grant program where each level of government would be responsible for a 1/3 funding contribution. The municipality would not provide funding, but would provide the land for the project. The CCPA would fundraise to cover the municipality's share of the funding under such an arrangement.
- A second option of obtaining funding through the Department of Heritage Cultural Spaces program was noted, but a strategy has not been developed at this time.

Following the presentation there were a number of questions & answers, and significant follow up discussion. There were a number of positive items raised regarding the proposal, as well as a number of concerns or challenges identified:

Positives/Opportunities

- Proposed partnership would provide an enhanced cultural profile within the department and the community.
- Community groups would benefit through use of new dressing rooms/washrooms & meeting space.
- Other spaces within the main building would be available for community use, particularly during evenings and weekends when the college is not in session.
- College is credible, draws students from across the country.
- Estimated economic spinoff of \$1.5 million.
- Potential to reduce footprint and add basement?
- Inclusion of archives and opera.
- Many opportunities for increased cultural programming through collaboration with our department.
- No funding required from the municipality.

Concerns/Challenges

- Is this the best use of public parkland?
- Would this be the top priority for the municipality in applying for significant grant funding (as opposed to sewer, road projects)?
- Negative impact on existing tennis courts (shading).
- Is there enough parking?

- Building is not public – public access would need to be guaranteed through an access agreement.
- Limits potential to expand spray park in future.

Moved by Chris Smith, Seconded by Brian Sharp, THAT HAVING HAD A FULL & FRANK DISCUSSION, THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT THE CANADIAN COLLEGE OF PERFORMING ARTS MAKE A PRESENTATION TO COUNCIL ON THEIR PROPOSAL.

Carried

The Commission thanked Ron, Eric & Steven for the work done on the project and for the presentation.

II. ADJOURNMENT

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

Carried

The next regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission will be on Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at 7:30am in Council Chambers, Oak Bay Municipal Hall.