

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Via Microsoft Teams
March 23, 2022 at 4:01 p.m.

Present: Councillor Judy Brownoff (Chair), Ted Austin, Leigh Campbell, Pam Carroll, Rachel Corder, David Little, Amy-Jade Louie, Darrell Wick.

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services; Valla Tinney, Director of Finance; Stacy McGhee, Program Manager for Strategic Facilities Planning; Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager of Community Services; Nathalie Dechaine, Manager of Community Development and Business Systems; Graham Thomson, Manager of GR Pearkes Recreation Centre; Alison Chamberlain, Older Adults Community Programmer II; Julie Lommerse, Park Planner Designer; and Austin Winters, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Dex Owen, Annie Djiotsa.

Guest(s): Andrew Pape-Salmon and Daniel Cammiade.

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by L. Campbell and Seconded by T. Austin: "That the minutes of the February 23, 2022 Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

2. CHAIR'S REMARKS

- Budget meetings are still in process and nearing completion.
- Numerous projects and events are underway with Parks, Recreation and Community Services.
- 2022 Pop-Up Dog Park program will be returning to PTR for further consideration per Council's direction.

3. SAANICH OPERATIONS CENTRE

The Program Manager for Strategic Facilities Planning and the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Service delivered a presentation on the proposed redevelopment of the Saanich Operations Centre (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted during discussion with committee members:

- The current conditions of buildings at the Saanich Operations Centre are concerning and may be affecting staff morale and retention.
- The existing central location of the Saanich Operations Centre is key for garden waste drop off and timely service.
- Staff safety is paramount and measures are in place to ensure continued protection.
- The Surrey Operations Centre was redeveloped and staff there have noticed improvement in productivity and interdepartmental collaboration.
- Landscape architects and environmental consultants are included as part of the Saanich Operations Centre redevelopment and will focus on the creek, green space and proposed pathway.
- Sharing the story about why this redevelopment is required will be key to gain

community and stakeholder support.

- Staff parking for the redeveloped Operations Centre is being thoughtfully considered, in addition to ensuring adequate facilities for staff who cycle or use other modes of transportation.
- Garden waste drop-off may be relocated to another site in the future. For the time being, it will remain in place.
- During peak season, the Saanich Operations Centre sees 350 to 425 employees on site.
- A construction management company will deal with temporary relocation of staff during the construction process.
- There will be an open-house at the Saanich Operations Centre on March 26, and an upcoming final virtual event.

4. OLDER ADULT STRATEGY

The Senior Manager of Community Services and the Older Adults Community Programmer II provided an annual update. The following was noted:

- The Older Adult Strategic and Implementation Plan was approved by Council in 2017.
- The program has seen many successes despite a slow start as a result of funding requests and the global pandemic.
- Programs such as the Connections Guide and NEPT (Neighbors Engaging on Phones Together) were created to address isolation faced by older adults.
- Age Friendly Spaces, a World Health Organization initiative, provides walking trails that accommodate for people with limited mobility.
- Programs such as the Sign Strategy and Wayfinding Guide, and the Welcome Kiosks aim to deliver services and clear direction for older adults to be able to get around autonomously.
- The biggest barrier for the Strategy has been the lack of funding.
- Next steps include efforts in creating sustainable age-friendly programs and acquisition of additional resources.
- The impacts of the Strategy are significant and provide ongoing support, wellness, and connections for older adults.

In response to questions from the Committee, the following was noted:

- Resting spaces such as benches in parks and trails are included as part of the Older Adult Strategy.
- The washroom strategy was approved and funded by Council in 2021. It is a multi-year plan that will see more washrooms in parks.

5. RECREATION UPDATE

Due to time constraints this item is postponed to the next meeting.

6. COASTAL CONNECTOR TRAIL

Daniel Cammiade and Andrew Pape-Salmon delivered a presentation on the Coastal Connector Trail Initiative (Presentation on file). In response to questions from the Committee, the following was noted:

- The Active Transportation Plan (ATP) is a key part of the Coastal Connector Trail Initiative. This proposed trail may be considered as part of the ATP five year update.
- Trail connections would potentially include McMinn Park and trails such as Quick's Bottom and Panama Flats.
- The Committee is supportive of initiatives such as this to improve trail connections.

7. PICKLEBALL REPORT

The Park Planner/Designer presented an update on outdoor pickleball courts and the following was noted:

- Two styles of sound mitigation panels are being moved from Tolmie to McMinn Park as they proved to be unsuccessful at Tolmie Park.
- Signs have been installed at Tolmie Park tennis courts requesting that they not be used for pickleball as a result of noise impacts to neighbours.
- As of April 4, 2022, a limited playing schedule will be introduced at Tolmie Park which should reduce play time by 50%.
- Staff are proposing that a security company lock and unlock the gates. This may not be done right on time.
- An online booking system will be implemented in late spring; a booking fee will be implemented in future as well.
- Parks staff will be impacted as a result of the new booking system.
- Staff will continue to explore alternate locations for outdoor pickleball courts.
- Tolmie Park pickle ball courts will close and be repurposed when a replacement pickle ball location is found.
- Topaz Park within the City of Victoria is getting six new pickleball courts with an anticipated completion by early 2023.
- Staff have used a well balanced approach to reach a compromise with pickle ball users and residents.

In response to questions from the Committee, the following was noted:

- Concerns were expressed regarding Saanich's outdated and lenient Noise Suppression Bylaw, and that additional opportunity for silence and tranquility could be beneficial.
- Saanich has indoor pickleball courts at Saanich Commonwealth Place, Pearkes and Cedar Hill Recreation Centres with good availability which tends to get booked up.
- Pickle ball courts at McMinn Park are further away from residences than at Tolmie Park. Staff will trial sound mitigation panels as well as the acoustic panel that may be moved from Tolmie Park courts when they are decommissioned.
- Saanich Parks is making efforts to accommodate residents and pickleball users through various noise mitigation factors and exploration of new outdoor courts. It will take some time before new courts are found and constructed.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by D. Owen and Seconded by R. Corder: "That the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned."

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m. The next meeting is April 27, 2022 at 4 pm.

Councillor Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary