

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at the Cedar Hill Golf Course Clubhouse
Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Nichola Wade

Members: Jim Anderson, Terrance Berscheid, Tom Hatcher, Harry Lewis, Martin Roberts, Stefanie Barber, Daryl Dagneault, Jesse McClinton

Staff: Doug Henderson, Director of Parks and Recreation; Rae Roer, Senior Manager, Parks; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Guest: Brian Johnson, Principal, Professional Environmental Recreation Consultants Ltd.

MOTION

MOVED by H. Lewis and seconded by T. Berscheid, "That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held April 24, 2014 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

FUTURE FEES AND CHARGES MODELS WORKSHOP

The Director of Parks and Recreation introduced Mr. B. Johnson. Mr. Johnson facilitated a discussion around exploring fees and charges models and looking at what other options might be considered in the future should a change be warranted to address issues relating to philosophical foundations, access to programs, services and facilities, subsidization, cost recovery, and demographic changes. The intent of the session was for discussion and information sharing and it was not structured to arrive at a "final" direction for fees and charges for Saanich. The feedback received will be used in the future should it be determined that changes to the existing model are required. The following was noted:

- Fees and charges for accessing municipal recreational opportunities must be fair and equitable, based on sound principles, practical and palatable.
- Pricing systems are based on various foundations:
 - Tradition/history
 - Cost based approaches: most common, consistent recovery rate
 - Basic service models: some key services are offered at reduced rates and the cost is offset by higher costs for non- key services.
 - Ability to pay approaches
 - Market based approaches: increase fees until the demand levels off.
 - Benefits based approaches
- User fees are applied for a number of reasons:
 - Reduce the demand to equal supply
 - Vary/change behaviour
 - Allocate resources
 - Reduce tax support
- Three providers of service; private sector, public sector and the not for profit sector.

- All of the approaches require a two level approach for fees (mainstream and safety net), calculation of unit costs for each service and determination of user categories for which a fees is to be charged.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Raising funds through taxation is rapidly approaching a threshold and alternate modes of rising funds needs to be explored.
- Possible partnerships could be explored. Island Health could become a partner as more active citizens can result in a healthier population.
- Aging demographic needs to be considered with future fees and charges models.
- Revisiting what are direct and indirect costs when exploring fees and charges models would be advisable.
- Currently there is not much latitude for setting fees as all of the recreation centres within the CRD are competitively priced.
- Residency based pricing has been generally abandoned.
- Annual access passes are coming under scrutiny. A possible bias exists with wealthier individuals/families being more able to pay a large lump sum upfront for access.
- Private businesses within the recreation centres should go through the RFP process. Exploration of whether rent charged to private businesses should be higher than market rates due to the additional business advantages associated with being located with a public recreational facility should be investigated.

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Saanich Municipal Hall Committee Room #2.

Councillor Wade, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary