

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at the Saanich Municipal Hall Committee Room #2
Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Nichola Wade

Members: Tom Hatcher, Harry Lewis, Martin Roberts, Daryl Dagneault, Jesse McClinton

Staff: Doug Henderson, Director of Parks and Recreation; Julie Wallace, Programmer II; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Gary Darrah, Manager Parks Planning and Design; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Jim Anderson, Terrance Berscheid, Stefanie Barber

MOTION

MOVED by J. McClinton and seconded by M. Roberts, "That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held June 26, 2014 be adopted as circulated."

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) AGE FRIENDLY SAANICH UPDATE

The Programmer II presented the committee with an overview of current projects and initiatives offered through Recreation Community Services that address the World Health Organization Age Friendly Cities key themes or principles. The following was noted:

- Community Services staff members facilitate a network with a number of Older Adult & Senior service providers. These groups meet twice a year to collaborate and plan for programs and services and work on developing joint marketing tools.
- Steps to Connect Program-Saanich Community Services works in partnership with Island Health Hillside Seniors Centre to offer leisure education and recreation opportunities to seniors.
- Mature driving workshops are offered in partnership with the BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation in cooperation with the Saanich Police. These workshops address some of the changes mature drivers face.
- Aberdeen Art Program-The Arts Centre at Cedar Hill recently completed a pilot program in partnership with Island Health's Aberdeen Hospital and the Eldercare Foundation.
- Conversation Cafes-These monthly dialogues offer an opportunity for seniors to discuss current issues important to seniors.
- Trust Me Intergenerational Dialogues-This project was created to advance social connections between seniors and teens.
- Senior Drop Ins- free social drop in times offered at Gordon Head and GR Pearkes teen centres.
- Community Multi-generational Drop Ins-Offers an opportunity for grandparents and grandchildren to enjoy the Youth Centre at Gordon Head Recreation Centre.

- Minds in Motion-In partnership with BC Alzheimers Society & Saanich Recreation- A fitness and social program for people experiencing early stage memory loss due to Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. Caregivers, family members or a friend are encouraged to attend with the individual.
- Gentle Walk and Talk programs-These free guided walks give seniors an opportunity to enjoy the fresh air and socialize while getting gentle exercise.
- Food Skills for Seniors-In partnership with the Diabetes Association and the Food Skills for Families: Senior edition workshop series Saanich Parks and Recreation educate seniors at free workshops on food literacy.
- Community Kitchens-In partnership with the Eldercare Foundation, Saanich Parks and Recreation offer a program for seniors to cook and share a meal together.
- Seniors Gardening Group-Saanich supports two plots in the Capital City Allotment Garden. Members can attend with the garden coordinator or on their own.
- Marketing and promotions of public health education and awareness have been supported with:
 - "Embrace Aging Show"
 - The Social and Recreational Opportunities Guide-this guide has been produced four times and was spearheaded and funded by Community Services. Future editions of the guide will be an annual guide representing all of Saanich's partners in senior services.

PARK PLANNING PROCESS

The Manager of Parks Planning and Design presented an overview of the park planning and design process. The following was noted:

- The Corporate Planning framework from the Official Community Plan (OCP), Local Area Plans (LAP), Strategic Plan and Budget Process contains the majority of the Parks planning parameters.
- Additional direction for the Park planning process can be found in the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan (PRC) and other strategies, guidelines or action plans.
- There is a Council Policy (1990) on park development that requires Council approval by way of concept plans.
- The PRC Master Plan also calls for an initiative to develop park specific management plans.
- Multi-Year capital plan also guides park development.
- Many different types of park projects ranging from basic "re" and "re" to comprehensive multi-year management plans.
- There is a spectrum of public engagement with level of stakeholder engagement influenced by type of project.
- Recent park planning experiences have provided a great deal of information about public expectations, competing interests and engagement.
- There are some capacity constraints impacting raised expectations.
- Parks staff are interested in obtaining feedback from committee members about park planning in general but also management plans in particular.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- The public park planning process could consider incorporating a value based poll at the commencement of the planning process.
- Parks budget will be increased in the coming year. Revenue from taxation will provide capital for asset replacement and grant funding to assist with new projects.

DIVISION UPDATE PARKS

The Division update was provided in the agenda. There were no questions from the Committee.

DIVISION UPDATE RECREATION

The Senior Manager, Recreation provided a Division update on Recreation services. The following was noted:

- Summer was busy at all the Saanich Recreation Centres.
- Cedar Hill Recreation Centre had the following highlights:
 - The Girls Alternative Program was run on a weekly basis, and on June 6, 2014 students from the program participated in the Victoria Goddess Run.
 - The summer had 52 classes offered and 452 participants.
 - Artapalooza opened in the Café Gallery in the beginning of September 2014.
- Saanich Commonwealth Place (SCP) had the following highlights:
 - Other pools around the region were closed for annual maintenance so the June daily swims at Commonwealth were very busy.
 - SCP hosted the BC double AA swim meet in June and a triple AAA Swim Meet in July with just over 700 participants.
- Music in the Park was in its eight year and the events continue to be very well attended. The Saanich Legacy Foundation continued to be the main sponsor for these events.
- The Gorge Canada Day – Gorge on Art was likely the largest single day event in Saanich.
- An estimated 7000 people attended the 48th Annual Strawberry Festival.
- G. R. Pearkes Recreation Centre utilized recycled tires for the new flooring around the Gold Arena. The new flooring was installed with the support of a \$30,000 grant from the Tire Stewardship of BC.
- Gordon Head Recreation Centre hosted the Victoria Lifeguard Completion with 40 competitors from around the province competing.

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 23, 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