

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre, Queen Alexandra Room  
**FEBRUARY 26, 2015**

Present: Chair: Councillor Brice

Members: Jim Anderson, Daryl Dagneault, Tom Hatcher, Stefanie Yao, Pamela Carroll

Staff: Doug Henderson, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Gary Darrah, Parks Planning and Design Manager ; Nikki McWalters, Landscape Technician; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Absent: Stefanie Barber, Terrance Berscheid, Martin Roberts

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**MINUTES**

**MOVED by S. Yao and seconded by P. Carroll, "That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held January 27, 2015 be adopted as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

**PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT AND UPGRADE PROCESS**

The Parks Planning and Design Manager and the Landscape Technician presented information regarding the playground replacement and upgrading processes. The following was noted:

- Saanich has three models of playgrounds.
- Out of Saanich's 56 playgrounds, 14 are Model 1 Playgrounds:
  - Playground space is approximately 500 square metres.
  - Mostly Municipal and Community parks with some Neighbourhood Parks.
  - Play equipment consists of separate structures for 2-5 year olds and 5-12 year olds.
  - Often other amenities including benches, tables, trash cans and trees.
  - Approximate costs \$220,000-\$250,000
- Out of Saanich's 56 playgrounds, 24 are Model 2 Playgrounds:
  - Playground space is approximately 250-300 square metres.
  - Mostly Neighbourhood with some Community Parks
  - Play equipment consists of structure for 2-12 year olds.
  - Often other amenities including benches, tables, and trees.
  - Approximate costs \$150,000-\$160,000
- Out of Saanich's 56 playgrounds, 18 are Model 3 Playgrounds:

- Playground space is approximately 150-300 square metres.
  - Neighbourhood Parks.
  - Play equipment consists of structure for 2-5 year olds.
  - Often other amenities including benches, tables, and trees.
  - Approximate costs \$80,000-\$90,000
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- Specialty Type Parks include Pearce Crescent Rotary Play Area and Cadboro Gyro Park.
  - Universal accessibility is considered and included in all of Saanich's new playground upgrades.
  - Playground accessibility is ensured by the use of wood engineered safety surfacing.
  - A 5 year Capital Playground Program has been developed out to 2019.
  - Playground upgrade priorities are determined based on assessments of the following:
    - Age
    - Condition
    - Safety/design issues
    - Accessibility
    - Drainage
    - Type or presence of curb
    - Local area location
  - The Recreation Infrastructure Canada Program (RInC 2010) was part of a Federal Economic Action Plan-stimulus program designed to invest in local park infrastructure.
  - RInC 2010 provided a \$1 million grant as part of a \$3 million program were Saanich contributed the \$2 million balance.
  - This program allowed Saanich the opportunity to upgrade a significant portion of the parks infrastructure.
  - Saanich has a goal of upgrading two parks per year.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Addition of adult equipment to playgrounds would be a good idea. Sidney has adult equipment on the grounds of the library.
- A ranking list should be published on the Saanich website.

## **INCLUSION STATEMENT**

The Senior Manager, Recreation presented an Inclusion Statement to the Committee. A discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- An investigation of Inclusion Statements that are used in other municipalities should be conducted.
- Must ensure that the list is all inclusive.
- The Committee supports the Inclusion Statement but requests that the topic be returned to a future Committee meeting for further discussion.

## **PLAYFAIR PARK UPGRADE**

The Parks Planning and Design Manager presented information regarding improvements to Playfair Park. The following was noted:

- Community engagement has occurred but consensus was not found; some concern was expressed about the path width however balance is needed. Survey results from May – December 2014 were from 51 responses; most who live close to the park.
- Playfair is a showcase park with rhododendron displays and Garry oak restoration area and venue for community events. There is also a play area and a few paths running through the park.
- The main path is narrow (1 metre) and in rough shape; needing improvements for public safety and comfort.
- In 2009 some path and playground improvements occurred; the path was widened to 2.5 metres based on the Parks Trail Guidelines.
- An upper path is used by more cyclists as the grade is better than on the main path. Fencing and mature ornamental plantings preclude any widening of this upper path.

A discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- The 2.5 metre proposed width is minimal for a multi-use path.
- Even if the connectivity cannot be seen today, paths are important and may be needed in the future.
- Suggestion that some caution signage alerting pathway users of “children at play” would be beneficial.
- The main path asphalt may be textured or coloured to give it more of a pedestrian feel.
- Information booth set-up in the Park to help inform the public about proposed Park upgrades and to obtain public feedback.
- An Open House could be considered to further facilitate public participation in the upgrade process.

**MOTION: Moved by D. Dagneault and Seconded by J. Anderson: “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee endorses the proposed Playfair Park upgrades and further recommends that staff continue to engage the public in the process of improving Playfair Park.”**

**CARRIED**

### **JANUARY FITNESS AND ART SAMPLER WEEK**

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services provided the Committee with an update on the January Fitness and Arts Sampler Week. The following was noted:

- The week of January 3-9, 2015 had Saanich offer 52 fitness classes at no charge.
- This year staff focussed heavily on offering new and historically lower registered programs.
- When compare to 2014 the overall number of participants decrease in 2015, but there was an increase in the primary target markets (new to a class or new to Saanich).
- Other Parks and Recreation Departments are also now offering a “free” week in January.

- The Arts Sampler Week is in its second year and had a positive experience.
  - Visual Arts/Pottery
    - 2014: 5 canceled classes in January session
    - 2015: only 1 canceled class (36% increase in classes running) and a 46% increase in registrations
  - Dance
    - 2014: 3 canceled classes
    - 2015: Only 1 canceled class and a 10% increase in registrations
- Both the Fitness and Arts staff feel their respective sampler weeks are very beneficial to the success of their registered programs.

### **PARKS UPDATE**

The Director of Parks, Trails and Recreation circulated an update from the Parks Division.

### **RECREATION SERVICES UPDATE**

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services provided an update from the Recreation Division. The following was noted:

- A new partnership with the Diabetes Society and Cedar Hill Recreation Centre has been created. A "Walk the Talk" diabetes 10 week program will start in March.
- Work on the Youth Development Strategy and Five Year Implementation Plan is underway.
- The Project Team consists of four Parks and Recreation staff, five youth between the ages of 13-18 from across Saanich, representatives from School Districts 61 and 63, as well as two other adult community members, one from a community association and one with a public health background.
- Fitness Sampler week was well received.
- Osteofit programs at Pearkes Recreation Centre are full.
- The Pacific Cup Hockey Tournament will be held at Pearkes Recreation Centre with over 120 hockey teams participating.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2015.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary