

MINUTES
PARKS TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
March 28, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Taylor

Members: Pamela Carroll; Daryl Dagneault; Lyndsay Edgar; Peter Haddon; Wyatt Matthews and Stefanie Yao

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation); Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks; Gary Darrah, Manager, Park Planning and Development; and Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Ted Austin; Elise Cote

Guests: Dr. David Atwell, Greater Victoria Velodrome Association; John Erington, Greater Victoria Velodrome Association; and Matt Jeffries, Executive Director, Cycling Canada

MINUTES

MOVED by L. Edgar and Seconded by S. Yao: “That the minutes of the Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held February 8, 2019 be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

THE HUB: A PROPOSAL FOR A MULTIPLEX RECREATION CENTRE IN SAANICH

David Atwell, on behalf of the Greater Victoria Velodrome Association (GVVA), provided the committee with an overview of The Hub: A Proposal for a Multiplex Recreation Facility in the Centre of Saanich. The following was highlighted:

- We are gathering on unceded territories of the Esquimalt, Songhees and WSÁNEĆ peoples.
- It is critical to ensure that the facility and programming promotes diversity, dialogue and understanding between peoples. Facilities and programming will provide equal access to all and to promote community, mental and physical reconciliation, health and wellbeing.
- At the august 2017 GVVA passed the following resolutions:
 - The GVVA Board supports the development of an indoor velodrome for Victoria.
 - The GVVA Board supports the development of an indoor velodrome for Victoria that is centrally located to promote maximum community participation.
 - The GVVA Board supports the development of a community survey to gauge support for various options with respect to the development of an indoor velodrome in Victoria.

- The current track is an outdoor facility located in Colwood, it is a legacy from the 1994 Commonwealth Games.
- A new year-round facility is desirable; however, as single purpose facility is a hard sell.
- There are currently only three (3) indoor velodromes in Canada.
- Only one track in Canada - located in Milton, Ontario - is compliant with the Union Cycliste Internationale completion standards. Including Milton, there are only three (3) in North America.
- Cycling Canada supports the west-coast base for training.
- Building a facility that is not just a velodrome, but rather a public space that is engaging, open to the community and will result in an asset that enhances community health and wellness.
- The community needs identified through the Hub planning process include (but are not limited to):
 - Hotel spaces,
 - Commercial space,
 - Affordable housing,
 - Tourism infrastructure,
 - High performance sport facilities,
 - Indoor velodrome and courts,
 - Convention, exhibition and conference infrastructure.
- The core infrastructure that would support the facility includes a hotel, commercial spaces and a residential building.
- Additional features and service would include a themed multi-use recreation centre, a high-performance sports facility for cycling (and other sports)
- Court facilities (tennis, basketball, and pickle ball), daycare, health services and public transit facilities.
- The Canadian Sport Institute, the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence, the National Mountain Biking Training Centre and Triathlon Canada are either in need of additional spaces or facilities for training and programming.
- Anchor partners would include commercial development, an affiliated hotel and affordable housing.
- The facility would be a hub for sports tourism beyond cycling, and would also be home to concert, exhibitions and convention facilities.
- The Hub would also integrate community arts and culture and facilitate active transportation.
- Key strategic drivers with regard to the location of any facility are: accessibility, enhancements to currently underserved neighbourhoods, fit with the Official Community Plan and Local Area Plans, and encouragement of economic development.
- Potential development sites include (but not limited to):
 - Tillicum Mall
 - University Heights
 - The Archery Range
 - Blenkinsop and McKenzie area
 - Cedar Hill Recreation Centre
 - UVic
- No conclusion has been reached with regard to location. There are site specific requirements include lot-size and accessibility.
- Langford is interested, but locating in the west-shore runs counter to the notion of

centralization. Travel would be a barrier, particularly youth.

- The facility must recognize the land-use, environment and housing needs of the community, while at same time provide value-added and complimentary community amenities.
- The next steps for the proposal are seeking demonstrated support from Saanich, including the appropriate advisory committees, a community survey, a feasibility study, the development of a not-for-profit society and securing initial funding.
- Following the initial steps the Hub would look to source equity partners, secure funding from all three levels of government, acquire land and proceed with the formal planning and development process.
- Construction completion is estimated to be 5 – 8 years.
- The cost is estimated to be between \$90-120 million, with the velodrome/rec-centre facility accounting for approximately \$15 – 20 million.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was highlighted:

- There are no plans for new recreation facilities at this time.
- The Council approved Strategic Facilities Master Plan identifies the Public Works Yard and Fire Station 2 as the priorities.
- The Recreation Master Plan identifies the need of an additional dry-floor programming area as well as a feasibility study for another ice-pad.
- The utilization rates for the Milton, Ontario facility are in the report.
- There are about 7000 cyclists in various leagues and tours across Canada
- Velodrome-cycling as a sport is growing worldwide, and is considered the entry-point for numerous cycling related disciplines.
- There will be an open-house at the outdoor track on April 12, 2019.
- The experience of the Milton facility is continued growth, with over 9000 registered users from the immediate area (Milton has a population of approximately 110,000 people).
- It is intended that the facility would serve as community hub, with all the associated community amenities.
- Integrating the amenities, hotel, and conference space help to achieve an economy of scale and ongoing revenue.
- The District's facilities are nearing capacity; however, the community is most interested in seeing new community centre type facilities in their communities and neighbourhoods.
- There is a critical need for additional arena space.
- There does not appear to be demonstrable need for additional recreation facilities.
- Saanich would be a partner, not an owner.
- The development was not predicated, nor is it dependent on funding from Saanich.
- The Hub would not be a capital project for Saanich.
- Limited capacity exists at UVic and PISE; however, PISE is relatively inaccessible due to the location.
- Lending support to the project would be easier if there were an official municipal study that demonstrated the need for such a facility.
- A more developed and detailed proposal would assist the committee in making an informed recommendation.
- A short-list, or preferred location for the facility needs to be determined in order to make an informed decision.

- There is an opportunity to work with BC Transit to explore the possibility of integrating a transit exchange.
- The community in the immediate vicinity of Uptown has demonstrated some concerns with the potential impact of a proposed transit exchange in the area.
- What are the priorities of the Uptown neighbourhood, as well as those throughout the District? Is this what they want?

MOTION

Moved by D. Dagneault and Seconded by L. Edgar: “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee support the proposed Multiplex-Velodrome in principle and recognize that the proposal, as presented, supports the need for additional recreation facilities and programs to support active transportation, community health and recreation.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was highlighted:

- There are supportable aspects of the plan; however, those individual supportable components are conflated in this context.

AMENDMENT

Moved by P. Haddon and Seconded by D. Dagneault: “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee support the proposed Velodrome in principle.”

Committee discussion resumed, the following was highlighted:

- If the multiplex is removed it takes away the value to the community.
- The project should be consider as a singular entity, significant value is lost if considered independent of the multiplex.
- The proposed amendment is to provide clarity with regard to support.

**The Amendment was then Put and DEFEATED
With Members Carroll, Dagneault, Edgar, Haddon and Matthews OPPOSED**

Committee discussion resumed, the following was highlighted:

- There is considerable ambiguity with regard to who will fund the facility.
- Numerous unknowns make it difficult to support.

**The Motion was then PUT and Defeated
With Councillor Taylor and Members Carroll, Haddon, Matthews OPPOSED**

BIKE PARKS BEST PRACTICES – UPDATE

Gary Darrah, Manager, Park Planning and Development provided the committee with an update on the best practices for bike parks as well as a status update on McMinn Park. The following was noted:

- Ongoing, unsanctioned jump building in Haro Woods resulted in staff investigating the benefits of purpose built facilities.
- Plans for a purpose built facility at McMinn Park are in the final design phase.
- On-site meeting with the builder today (March 28).
- The next step is to finalize design drawings and begin logistics planning.

- Construction will begin in May.
- Ride testing and final shaping and landscaping will be completed before the park is opened to the public – target is late June.
- Staff have initiated the preliminary steps for the proposed youth bike skills park.
- Land negotiations, and subsequent Council endorsement are the immediate next steps.
- There will be public engagement with the community in the planning and design stages.
- Construction is targeted for 2020.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was highlighted:

- This is Phase 2 of the McMinn plan.
- Acquisition, or the leasing of land is a Council process.
- McMinn has its approvals and funding in place.
- A berm will be utilized to delineate spaces for cyclists and other park users such as dog walkers.
- Saanich carries significant blanket insurance for facilities like this.

L.I.F.E REVIEW UPDATE

- Review initiated in fall of 2018
- Objective is to evaluate current service with the potential of making future recommendations and changes where feasible.
- Final report will be brought to Council for consideration as part of the 2020 Financial Plan process.

DIVISION UPDATE RECREATION

The Senior Manager – Parks provided an overview of the March Parks Division Update report dated, March 20, 2019.

DIVISION UPDATE PARKS

The Senior Manager – Parks provided an overview of the March Parks Division Update report dated, February 28, 2019.

DIVISION UPDATE COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Director of Parks and Recreation provided an overview of the February and March Community Services Division Update reports dated, February 28, and March 28, 2019 respectively.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The committee discussed potential topics for inclusion on future agendas

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2019.

Councillor Taylor, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary