

MINUTES
PARKS TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, 770 Vernon Ave.
October 24, 2019, 7:01 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Taylor (7:25 p.m.)

Members: Ted Austin; Daryl Dagneault, Peter Haddon; and Stefanie Yao

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation; Gary Darrah, Manager of Park Planning and Design, Cristina Caravaca, Manager Community Services; Becky Goodall, Park Planning Designer; Jason Jones, Programmer II and, Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Pamela Carroll; Lyndsay Edgar; and, Dex Owen

Guests: None

The Clerk called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. and advised the committee that the Chair would not arrive until 7:30 p.m. and that an interim Chair would be required.

The Clerk asked the committee to nominate a member to serve as (A) Chair until the Councillor Taylor's arrival.

MOTION

MOVED by L. Edgar and Seconded by P. Haddon: "That member T. Austin serve as the (A) Chair of the October 24, 2019 Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee until Councillor Taylor arrives."

CARRIED

MINUTES

MOVED by D. Dagneault and Seconded by P. Haddon: "That the minutes of the Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held May 23, 2019 be adopted as circulated."

MOVED by L. Edgar and Seconded by P. Haddon: "That the minutes of the Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held September 19, 2019 be adopted as circulated."

DIVISION UPDATE RECREATION

The Clerk circulated the October Recreation Division Update, dated October 22, 2019 on-table. The Sr. Manager of Recreation provided the committee with an overview of the report, the following was noted:

- In response to requests from the community, Saanich is now offering a number of classes that older adults can “try before buying”.
- Programming varies, and can be one day, others are complete sessions.
- Programs are free of charge but pre-registration is mandatory.
- Community Services staff are engaged in a UBCM funded regional study that is looking at a number of matters related to childcare.
- The flood at Pearkes resulted in nearly \$500,000 worth of damage. The costs of repair will be covered by insurance.
- The District was advised by Swimming Canada that they were relocating their national high-performance centres to Vancouver and Toronto and that Saanich Commonwealth Place will no longer be for National Team training.

DIVISION UPDATE PARKS

The Director of Parks and Recreation provided an overview of the September Parks Division Update report dated, October 24, 2019. The following was noted:

- There will be a tree planting event in King Alfred Park in November.
- The Lochside connector will be established as a proposed public amenity attached to the development application for the Mann property at the end of Beckwith Ave.
- The application is still pending and will be processed through the planning department with a decision from Council. Timing is currently unknown.
- The Uptown Douglas Corridor Plan will result in new parks that will be funded through Develop Cost Charges. A staff report to Council on the matter is forthcoming.
- The planned bike park development at McMinn Park will be geared towards beginners.

DIVISION UPDATE COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services Manager provided the committee with an overview of the September Community Services Division Update report dated, October 24, 2019.

Councillor Taylor arrived at the meeting at 7:25 p.m. and assumed the Chair

CHAIR’S REMARKS

The Chair thanked T. Austin for serving as Chair in his stead before providing the committee with a brief overview of the issues arising at the September 18, 2019 meeting of PTR, and as noted in the Clerk’s “on-table” memo dated, October 23, 2019. The Chair took the opportunity to also remind members of the need to inform the Clerk in event they are unable to attend the meeting so as to ensure that the committee may achieve quorum and conduct business.

Noting that the committee had not taken any action on the items, the Chair first inquired if the Manager of Community Services could provide a brief overview of the Inclusive Services Update originally presented at the September 18, 2019 meeting.

INCLUSIVE SERVICES UPDATE

The Community Services Manager, referencing the minutes of September 18, provided the committee with brief overview of their Report on Inclusion Services Program, and dated September 18, 2019. The following was highlighted:

- The District is working on the development of an Inclusion Services program to be housed in the Community Services Department.
- Historically the District has provided services to the disabilities community through the non-profit society, Recreation Integration Victoria (RIV).
- The Recreation Market Analysis made it clear that Saanich was not meeting the demands of its community, and that persons with disabilities were experiencing barriers when attempting to engage with recreation programming.
- The best practice with recreation inclusion programming is a 1:1 ratio (client:support provider); however, RIV's ability to meet this target was challenge.
- In order to fund the program the District ended its contract with RIV and reallocated the funds to act as seed money for the new program.
- Customers were now able to acquire an assist pass from the recreation centre of their choice.
- This equitable change now afforded persons with disabilities the same experience as others in the community enjoy.
- The department plans to have an Inclusion Services Specialist on staff by October. The position will administer the program and work with the community and staff to improve accessibility to Saanich Parks, Recreation and Community Services programs.
- The position is funded as a 0.5 FTE in the current budget; accordingly, staff identified a number of priorities for the position.

MOTION

Moved by T. Austin and seconded by P. Haddon: "That the Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee:

- 1. Receive the Report by the Community Services Manager, and dated September 18, 2019 for information; and,**
- 2. Support staff in going forward with a resource request to Council for the 2020 fiscal year which describes the need for full-time staff and program support funding."**

CARRIED

COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS IN PARKS

The Chair provided the committee with a brief overview of his September 18, 2019 proposal for the committee to consider a recommendation asking Council to develop a pilot project for food-truck/food-vendor in Saanich Parks. The following was noted:

- There are opportunities for businesses such as food trucks and food stands to operate in certain Parks during Special events.
- Section 17 of our Parks Management and Control Bylaw prohibits the sale of refreshments, goods or services in parks except with the expressed written consent of Council.

- Consideration should be given to exploring the idea of permitting small scale business operations in certain parks on a more regular basis; however, there are significant implications to consider, including:
 - Limiting the potential for over-commercialization in parks, and maintaining the calm, natural atmosphere our community currently enjoys.
 - Criteria to determine what Parks are appropriate, and which are not.
 - What kind of business is permissible?
 - What is the best manner to explore the notion?
- Staff have recommended that consideration be given to a Pilot Project that is limited to only one Park.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was noted:

- Small commercial operations exist at the music in the park events.
- The food available is a welcome amenity at these events.
- A staff feasibility report would need consider a number of factors, including hours of operations, appropriate infrastructure, capacity etc.
- Sports associations are required to adhere to a number of regulations in order to ensure their snack bars are in compliance. Is it worth it for these specified food-truck vendor?
- Where does it fit amongst Saanich's priorities? There is no reference in any of the current plans and strategies to such an initiative.
- Garbage and refuse could be an issue, is there operational capacity?
- Has the industry come forward with a request? Is there actually a demand?
- Not being a priority isn't necessarily a bad thing. It is a new idea, a new opportunity.
- Prospect of revenue generation in municipal parks raises concern over commercial creep, and changes to the park experience.

In response to questions from members, Councillor Taylor noted:

- A local community association came forward to advise that there has been expressed interest by the industry in their community.
- Council considered a number of staff resource requests as part of the 2019 Financial Plan (FP) deliberations, including a requests from Parks and Recreation for a 0.5FTE Parks Refuse Collector.
- Although the request was not approved, it could be reconsidered as part of the 2020 FP.

MOTION

Moved by T. Austin and seconded by D. Dagneault: "That the Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommend that Council consider having staff bring forward a report on the feasibility of a food truck pilot program in an appropriate Saanich Park.

CARRIED
With member P. Haddon OPPOSED

COMMUNITY SERVICES MULTI-CULTURAL SERVICES UPDATE

The Manager of Community Services introduced, Jason Jones, Programmer II. Mr. Jones presented an overview of the District's numerous multi-cultural services, and initiatives. The following was highlighted:

FIRST NATIONS:

- On November 27, 2017 Saanich Council passed a motion to commence formal Government – Government relationships with neighbouring First Nations. The enabling motion gave authority to the following:
 - Relationship building.
 - Council to Council meetings.
 - Development of an Interdepartmental Working Group.
 - Staff to implement projects or initiatives that do not involve costs.
- Projects and initiatives that have been undertaken since 2017 include:
 - Development and protocols of the Territorial Acknowledgement.
 - Traditional welcome at the Inaugural 2019 – 2023 Council meeting and searing-in ceremony.
 - Engagement and consultation in the Local Area Plan update process.
 - The opening of the Shelbourne Memorial Lane, Strawberry Festival, and Cadboro Bay Festival all began with a Territorial Welcome
 - Corporate wide support and participation of Orange Shirt Day
 - Information and resources published to Saanich.ca and the corporate intranet.
- Going forward the District plans to establish staff training modules, continue to attend indigenous events, work with First Nations on restoration efforts for natural areas and waterways and watersheds such as the Colquitz, promote and incorporate indigenous arts (i.e. the Earth Drum Installation at the Cedar Hill Recreation Center) and culture throughout the district.

MULTI-CULTURALISM:

- Saanich has the largest and most diverse population in the region.
 - 22% of our population are immigrants (24,755)
 - 2,905 new Canadians to Saanich during the last census period
 - The country of origin for newcomers has changed over time, with the fastest growing ethnic group being from the Philippines.
- Connections with these communities are enabled through numerous partnerships and initiatives, including:
 - Work with Inter-Cultural Association and Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society.
 - The Community Partnership Network (Saanich was a founding partner).
 - Building relationships with our cultural communities.
 - Attending community cultural events.
- The District has a number of multi-cultural programs and services, that are advertised and communicated via:
 - A translation tool on Website.
 - Multilingual Recreation Guide.

- Translation of forms and other related information.
- Google Translate tablets at each recreation centre.
- These programs and services include:
 - SpeakWell ESL Program
 - Chinese Seniors Drop-In
 - Victoria Day Punjab
 - Muslim Women and Girls
 - Intro to Recreation for new Canadians in conjunction with the Inter-cultural Association.
- Saanich plays host to a number of cultural events and festivals, including:
 - Moon Festival
 - Iftar Dinner
 - Cultural Stage at Strawberry Festival
 - Lunar New Year
 - Diwali
 - Punjabi Mela
 - World Refugee Day

LGBTQ2:

- The District has a wide compliment of programs and services for the LGBTQ2 community, including:
 - Two-Spirit, Queer and Trans Dinner and Drop In (SCP)
 - QT2IPoC Dinner Program
 - LGBTQ drop-in
 - Queer Prom
 - Queer Youth Open Mic's
 - Annual participation in Pride Parade
 - Pride and Trans Flag raising event.
- Through meaningful engagement and continued relationship building, the District will continue develop and deliver services and programs that are representative of our diversity.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was noted:

- Noting the rise of populist discourse across the country, could Saanich events be made more identifiably inclusive?
- Artists that perform at Music in the Park are recommendations brought forward from our partners at the Inter-Cultural Association.

PARKS WASHROOM PLAN – UPDATE

Becky Goodall, the Park Planning Designer, provided the committee with an overview of updates and revisions to the Public Washroom Plan since the May 2, 2019 PTR presentation. The following was highlighted:

- The name of this plan has been revised to more accurately reflect the scope of work. The plan is now referred to as the *Washroom Operations and Capital Plan*.

- The Active Transportation Plan and Older Adult Strategy both recognize the importance of a good parks and trails systems.
- Public washrooms are an important component, as they influence where people will visit, and how long they can stay there.
- The washroom strategy/plan was initiated in order to determine how best to provide washroom facilities to enable the greatest number of people to use our parks and trails.
- The previous iteration of the plan had four (4) focus areas. Since the last check-in this has been consolidated into three (3) focus areas:
 1. Highest-use Parks.
 2. Popular Easy Walking Trails within Parks.
 3. Main Trail Network.
- Locations within the focus areas were assessed to determine where improvements are needed and feasible.
- The Galloping Goose and Lochside Regional Trails, operated by the CRD, have also been included in the scope of the strategy and will be considered along with the main, Centennial Trail Network.
- The combination of ideal maximum time between facilities and the typical travel speed of population segments (seniors, children, adults and cyclists) were considered when establishing the ideal facility spacing.
- There are several facility types available, which vary in price and appropriateness.
- The plan intends to share facilities, rather than build new ones, wherever possible.
- Locations for new and/or shared facilities have been identified, there are twenty-five (25) in total, including:
 - 12 Shared (4 for future consideration)
 - 1 Portable
 - 6 Pit Toilets (2 being installed by the CRD)
 - 6 New Washroom Buildings
- Facilities will be open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., year-round or seasonally. They will be for the benefit and use of all park/trail users.
- Facilities will be intended for one user at a time, with lockable exterior doors.
- Facilities will meet accessibility standards wherever possible.
- The proposed implementation timeline is seven (7) years, 2019 – 2025. However, due to significant financial implications the timeline may be extended to a ten (10) year implementation period.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was noted:

- The District is working with a number of area clubs to develop an agreement to open these facilities to the public when not in use by the club.
- There are currently eight (8) such facilities in Saanich.
- The District will assume operational and maintenance costs for those times that the facility is opened to the public.
- Facilities would be built only in those identified areas located within the Urban Containment Boundary and Sewer Enterprise Area.
- With regard to potential safety concerns, is there a demand or need for washrooms to be open until 11 p.m.?

- Saanich Police had provided staff with some helpful feedback with regard to personal safety and potential vandalism. Staff have made revisions accordingly.
- Facilities brought on-line under this plan will be secured by a contractor, which is the current operating procedure.
- It is significantly cheaper to utilize existing facilities as opposed to building new.

2019 PARKS CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

Gary Darrah, Manager of Park Planning and Design, provided the committee with a status update on the division's current capital projects. The following was highlighted:

- Gyro Tennis Courts
 - Required a total rebuild from the base up.
 - Project will be completed in 2019
 - Upon completion there will be one (1) tennis court as the second court was constructed on-top of a sewer line.
- Gore Memorial Peace Park
 - Pathway and plaza have been completed, staff are currently working on the water fountain feature.
 - Project will be completed in time for Remembrance Day ceremony.
 - The re-imagining of this space will help to set the tone for future works along Shelbourne Ave.
- Reynolds Playground Renovation
 - Old Park and structures were demolished.
 - Construction of new play area is underway.
- Mt. Douglas Park – Whittaker Trail
 - Ongoing erosion and sediment issues resulted in significant damages to the trail and surrounding natural area.
 - Staff utilized water bars and native planting to remediate (diverting water and run-off) and stabilize the heavily eroded slopes.
 - Staff have laid new trail mediums resulting in a better walking surface for park users.
- Annual Trail Program
 - Staff have undertaken improvements efforts on more than 3km of trails.
 - New trail connections established, including: Cherry and Roy Roads; Lambrick and Maltwood.
 - Work will continue into the late fall.
- Gorge Waterway Railing
 - All of the railing segments have been replaced with new posts and chain.
- The Glanford Park field renovation has been completed. Sand based substrate has been removed.
- Future capital projects include:
 - Mount Douglas Summit enhancements and repairs
 - McMinn Park beginner bike park
 - Construction of a new washroom at McMinn Park
 - Various ongoing signage updates and installations for interpretive, way-finding, regulatory throughout the District.

- Ongoing furniture replacements and new installations
- Various irrigation system installations and replacements
- Washroom Plan renovations and retrofits

HISTORY OF HOULIHAN PARK

The Senior Manager, Parks provided the committee with a brief history of Houlihan Park, including previously consider concept plans. The following was highlighted:

- Several concept plans have been brought forward for Council’s consideration over the years.
- Council has not funded or approved any of the proposals.
- Significant opposition from the immediate neighbours.
- A request to install a memorial bench was brought forward, staff engaged neighbours who expressed opposition to the installation of a bench.
- The park is not included or identified as a priority in the Division’s work plan.
- There are significant number of previously identified priorities competing for resources.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was noted:

- Additional amenities exist within the vicinity of this park.
- Saanich has over 115,000 residents, why do the persons neighbouring the park get to speak on behalf of all residents.
- The area could assist the District in meeting and exceeding their tree planting goals.
- Parking is already limited in the area. Accommodating an increase in parking would prove difficult.
- The committee could bring the item back for further consideration at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- The committee could make a recommendation for Council’s consideration.

FUTURE ITEMS

Member P. Haddon inquired if the committee could receive an update on recent Council activity with regard to trees and the urban canopy.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Councillor Taylor, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary