

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
November 24, 2021 at 4:07 pm

Present: Councillor Judy Brownoff (Chair), Ted Austin, Kathleen Burton (via Teams), Leigh Campbell, Pamela Carroll, Pat Danforth (via Teams), Amy-Jade Louie

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks; Tiana Solares, Senior Manager, Recreation; Gary Darrah, Manager, Parks Planning and Development; Becky Goodall, Park Planner Designer; Lynn Merry, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Annie Djioetsa, Lyndsay Edgar and Dexter Owen

Guest: Cara Gibson, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Society

MINUTES

MOVED by T. Austin and Seconded by L. Campbell: “That the minutes of the June 23, 2021, September 13, 2021 and October 27, 2021 Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meetings be approved.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S REMARKS

Council has approved the committee appointments. Currently there is a vacancy for a Youth Representative on the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee. Further advertising will take place to fill vacancies on all committees.

Recently, Councillor Brownoff was a speaker at the International Federation of Aging conference and talked about Saanich’s programs in parks, recreation and community services for older adults.

2022-2024 PARKS AND RECREATION FEES AND CHARGES

The Senior Manager, Recreation presented on the 2022-2024 Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges noting:

- Fees and charges have not increased since 2020.
- The sale of annual passes resumed in July 2021 at the 2020 rates.
- Staff are proposing an increase of 2% per year for three years for recreation fees and rental rates; this is a manageable increase which will help offsets costs for the municipality.
- Room rentals dropped off completely due to COVID but is expected to pick up in 2022.
- Local market conditions were considered to ensure Saanich fees are in line with other municipalities.
- A 1% increase is proposed for ice rental rates as it was at the highest market rate in the region.
- Racket sports is proposed to increase by 3% as the market will bear such rates.
- Annual reviews to evaluate rates will continue as part of the budget process and there is an ability to reduce rates if needed.

- Proof of vaccination continue to impact revenue.
- Recreation Centres are currently operating at normal capacity.
- The intent is to maintain the 60% subsidization rate.
- A review of golf services was done last year and outlines a five year plan to set rates.
- Despite a six week closure due to COVID, over 48,000 rounds were played in 2020 and again in 2021.
- Initial increases for green fees from between 3%-10% are proposed; this would amount to an approximate \$3 increase per round; a 1.5% increase is proposed through 2024-2025.
- The annual pass will be phased out although current pass holders will have the opportunity to purchase the pass at the 2022-2023 rate for one additional year (2023-2024).
- A flex pass will be introduced in 2023 which will replace the annual pass; the flex pass will require a \$350 upfront payment and will include a discount on rounds.
- The flex pass will keep rates competitive and modernize the pass system to be in line with industry standards.
- Renovations on the Club House are almost complete and the space will be rentable soon.
- Food and beverage services will be contracted out.
- Based on an environmental scan, there will be no change to park permit fees, other than commercial rates.

MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by T. Austin: “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee endorse the 2022-2024 Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges.”

CARRIED

FOOD TRUCKS PILOT PROJECT – RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Senior Manager, Parks, Manager, Parks Planning and Development and the Park Planner Designer presented the Food Truck Pilot Project (PowerPoint on file) noting:

- The Food Truck Pilot Project ran from July 1-September 8, 2021.
- A lottery system was used to choose the food trucks that would participate in the pilot; in the end, all vendors that applied had the opportunity to participate.
- In order to permit food truck operations, Temporary Use Permits (TUPs) were registered on each of the proposed locations; TUPs are valid for three years and may be renewed for an additional three year term.
- Vendors were required to be self-sufficient for water and power, use generators that complied with the Noise Bylaw and provide their own garbage, recycling and compost bins.
- Business licenses were issue free of charge.
- There were some issues around scheduling and with larger rigs fitting into allocated spaces; the space allocated for the Gorge Waterway was too small for the bigger rigs.
- Surveys ran throughout the summer with only 22 responses; responses were generally favourable with suggestions for increased advertising and ensuring vendors know when special events are taking place so that they can plan accordingly for product.
- Staff recommend continuing the program with the following recommendations for 2022:
 - Vendors pay for their business licenses.
 - Utilize Beckwith and Cadboro-Gyro Parks more.
 - Increase advertising.
 - Reduce the number of vendors participating to ensure scheduling is manageable. The more vendors the fewer opportunities that can be offered to them.
- Garbage was not a concern.

MOVED by K. Burton and Seconded by A. Louie: “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends to Council to continue the Food Truck Program as outlined in the recommendations in the report of the Manager of Park Planning and Development dated September 23, 2021.”

CARRIED

CECELIA CREEK RAVINE FALLS DAYLIGHTING

The Manager, Parks Planning and Design presented the Cecelia Creek Ravine Falls Concept (PowerPoint on file) and commented:

- In 2020, Council directed staff to report on options to achieve the vision of the Cecelia Creek Falls Park and funding options with partner organizations.
- Daylighting the creek was investigated in 2009 and the estimated cost would be \$150,000-\$200,000 with an estimated annual maintenance cost of \$3,500-\$5,000.
- The plan was never implemented due to the high costs and other priorities.
- A 600 mm storm drain carries water through the Inverness road allowance; water would be diverted through the park.
- A sign has been erected in the park.
- Because of the elevation, there would be a need to excavate approximately 10 feet to get to the creek; it is very expensive to excavate.
- Options are to maintain the status quo, focus on an interpretative installation and minor park improvements or installation of a dry creek bed closer to the surface to commemorate the historical creek.
- This area will be studied as part of Saanich’s Stormwater Management Plan.
- The benefits of the project do not outweigh the significant costs and site disturbances required.
- It is not funded in the five year capital plan.
- Other sources of funding such as grants may be available; \$15,000 in a developer amenity contribution is currently available however it is not nearly enough to fulfil the original plan for daylighting.
- Rain gardens are not recommended due to the need for irrigation to supplement watering in the summer.
- There is potential for redevelopment in the area which may add to the community amenity funds.
- A detailed costing of options has not been done.

The committee made the following comments:

- The creek may have be the site of historical Indigenous use which may have implications for interpretation and excavation.

MOVED by K. Burton and Seconded by L. Campbell: “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommend that Council direct staff to:

- **Consider an interpretive installation and minor park improvements using the Community Amenity Funds; and**
- **Explore the opportunities and costs of the creation of a dry creek bed to commemorate the historical creek.”**

CARRIED

BIRD FRIENDLY CITY

C. Gibson, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Society (SLCHNS) and the Senior Manager, Parks made the following comments:

- There is an opportunity to apply through Nature Canada to become a Bird Friendly City; this aligns with Saanich's Natural Intelligence program.
- Saanich already meets many of the criteria for the designation including restoring nature to ensure bird populations thrive.
- SLCHNS and Saanich Parks has formed a Bird Team to increase the awareness of birds in the city.
- The community would be engaged to name a City Bird.
- The Nature House windows are being updated and SLCHNS will be doing education around bird collisions.

MOVED by K. Burton and Seconded by L. Campbell: "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommend that Council:

- 1. Pass a motion to formally nominate Saanich to become a Bird Friendly City and provide a letter to Nature Canada with the motion as part of the Saanich application; and**
- 2. Direct staff to initiate a community engagement in partnership with the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Society to name a City Bird."**

CARRIED

POP UP DOG PARKS

MOVED by T. Austin and Seconded by A. Louie: "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee supports that staff review and report back on Pop Up Dog Parks for 2022 including the budget needs."

The committee made the following comments:

- Parks with shade should be considered.
- Pop Up Dog Parks provide a social aspect for dog owners.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m. The next meeting is January 26, 2022

Councillor Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary