

**Minutes of a Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) Meeting
Held via Zoom - Thursday, January 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

Attending: Tom Demeo

Allan Douglas
Erik Eriksson
Iris Churchill
Bill Green
Michael Lynch
Manno Theos
Craig Rushton (Ex Officio)

Regrets:

Mary Crowley
Carolyn Janes

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Acknowledgements

The group acknowledged that the land on which the meeting is conducted is the Unceded territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.

Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission meeting on September 8, 2022, were adopted as read. All in favor. CARRIED

New Business

Staff Announcement:

Craig will be leaving and transitioning Susan back into her role! Thanks Craig ...it has been a pleasure! We have appreciated your experience, expertise and sense of humour!

CVRD Sports Fields Study Update -

- the City makes decisions but our Advisory group should be able to provide input
- CVRD is doing a Sports fields study that includes reps from various sports organizations and stakeholders (eg. School Board) Council was looking at equity, distribution/access to sports fields
 - Turf report – preliminary draft report presented to Council this past week
 - Melanie added : the study will be presented in draft form with opportunity for feedback from sports organizations; data is still being collected re: winter sports use
 - Eric suggested that we, as an Advisory Group do not have political agendas...seeing the big picture is important and not just special interests

Filberg Center Updates

- Application submitted for grants for **accessibility** (eg stage ramp in upper conference hall, and door accessibility in 4 locations

- Connections with Evergreen - Iris and Allan attended a meeting with Evergreen ; Iris is CRA Board Chair and Allan is on Board
- Evergreen Society is very active 46 groups
- Parking is a big concern for Filberg Centre, Sid Williams, Native Sons Hall; thoughts about City purchasing adjoining property for parking
- We must consider that these facilities are shared by entire Comox Valley and not just Courtenay
- These issues need to be driven by the Community Strategic Plan
- The City is looking at a parking study but is not on the City 4 year Plan at this point. City has a “ no pay parking “ bylaw. Parking is not eligible for provincial grants etc.

Seniors Games - bid for hosting the BC Senior Games was declined

Old Business

Outdoor Pool & Aquatic Services Review (with CVRD)

- Presentation from consultants to City Council last night which will be reviewed to then go out and get public’s opinion on some of the options consultants present
- After the analysis....a couple of options were presented...
- Development of a plan for next 25 years and look at present facilities

With the 1st phase of the study complete, the consultant has prepared the attached draft Comox Valley Aquatic Services Needs Strategy. The report draws upon the information provided by the community engagement process and furthers it by considering the following areas:

- Benefits of the different types of aquatic services and activities offered by both indoor and outdoor pools.
- Operating a pool as close to full capacity as reasonably possible from an economic and environmental sustainability point of view.
- Current level of aquatic services in the Comox Valley
- Aquatic trends in aquatic strategies: equity and inclusion, sustainability, health and safety and participation trends.
- Projected demand for aquatic services in the Comox Valley.

The vision for determining recommendations are identified but are not limited to the following:

- No overall increase in water area/capacity is required.
- Desire for enhanced leisure and wellness experiences.
- New/better facilities will respond to some latent demand and increase annual swims marginally.
- Alignment with universal accessibility requirements.
- Alignment with broader environmental sustainability objectives and corporate climate action plans.

The key evaluation criteria for evaluating and prioritizing the various options and assigned prioritized weightings are summarized below.

Principle and Criteria	Criteria Weighting
1. Community Health and Well-being	1
2. Environmental Sustainability and Mitigation	2
3. Accessible and Inclusive	
3. a) Equitable distribution and access	2
3. b) Proximity to public transit	3
4. Service Excellence	
4. a) Service quality	4
4. b) supports regional growth	2
5. Financial Responsibility/Sustainability	
5. a) Project Capital Cost	5
5. b) Operating Cost	3
5. c) Asset life expectancy	3
5. d) Future expansion capability	1
5. e) Land ownership	2

The following pool capital investment options are provided the draft report:

Option	Description	Estimated Budget	Capital	Prioritization Score
1. Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to existing locations Outdoor pool & change rooms end of life and needs capital investment Sports Centre and Aquatic Centre require capital renewal investment 	Total \$16.5 M: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1 M (Outdoor Pool) \$7.5 M (Sport Centre) \$8.0 M (Aquatic Centre) 		51 – Outdoor Pool 62 – Indoor Pool
2. Consolidation at Aquatic Centre Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor pool and Sports Centre Pool replaced as additions to existing CV Aquatic Centre 			
2.A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Wellness Expansion at CV Aquatic Centre 	\$25.8 M		76

2.B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Outdoor Pool Expansion at CV Aquatic Centre 	\$12 M	78
2.C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Wellness and Outdoor Pool Expansion at Comox Valley Aquatic Centre 	\$35 M	82
3. Build Out At New Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New facility at new site (consolidation of all 3 existing pools) 	\$87.9 M (does not include cost of new site)	76
4. New Outdoor Pool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New outdoor pool at new site or existing site 		
4. A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Outdoor pool at new site 	\$16.1 M (does not include cost of new site)	65
4. B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Outdoor pool at existing site 	\$18.2 M	56

The Comox Valley Aquatic Services Needs Strategy provides for the following recommendations:

- Recommended #1 Indoor Pool Option: Wellness Expansion at Comox Valley Aquatic Centre (2A – weighted score 77)
- Recommended #2 Outdoor Pool Option: Outdoor Pool Expansion at Comox Valley Aquatic Centre (2B – weighted score 78)
- Recommended #3 Combined Indoor / Outdoor Pool Option: Wellness and Outdoor Expansion at Comox Valley Aquatic Centre (2C – weighted score 82)
- **Wellness and Outdoor Expansion at Comox Valley Aquatic Centre (Option 2C) is the recommended option. According to the report, it confers the most benefits to the CVRD, the City, the region’s residents, and to the environment. It also supports all five priorities of the Comox Valley Recreation Commission and the City of Courtenay Strategic Priorities.**

Next Step : Public Engagement and Feedback

Other Business:

- **Regional Parks Study** (with CVRD) - Has passed and Advisory committee is being formed with municipalities and district to provide input to Regional Parks Commission and inform Implementation Strategy
- **Initiatives for increasing diversity of the committee** such as engaging with youth. Discussion captured in October 2022 minutes.
- **Stan Hagen Park renaming** – RCCS Staff are awaiting Judy’s input into best date to aim for based on when her daughter is back in town. Ongoing.

Next meeting – February 9, 2023, at location to be determined.