

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting

Date: April 6, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Location: Council Meeting Room - City Hall

*We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the
Unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, the traditional
keepers of this land.*

*Attendance: Michael Lynch, Allan Douglas, Erik Eriksson, Carolyn Janes, Mary
Crowley, Bill Green, Susie Saunders, Councillor McCollum, Tom Demeo*

Regrets: Iris Churchill

Agenda

Adoption of Minutes

- Adopt January 12, 2023 meeting minutes

New Business

Welcome back Susie!!!

- **Hurford Hill Park**

Discussion regarding dogs off leash at Hurford Hill Park, and owners not cleaning up after dogs. People are experiencing concerns with unleashed dogs. Staff will review signage protocols and standards. Parks Bylaw restricts off leash dogs. City is updating parks and open spaces bylaw and will include items such as sheltering, dogs, smoking etc.

Requesting signs that indicate that dogs must be on a leash.

- **Comox Valley Accessibility Forum (Nancy/ Susie)**

Nancy is working with City committees re: accessibility at public facilities and parks in Courtenay and the region. Consultation meetings on 4 dates will be held. Allan will forward PRAC the info.

- **Strategic Cultural Plan (Susie)**

City has hired a consultant lead development of Cultural Strategic Plan for City. Engagement with community groups will begin in May and also public consultation. Plan complete by end of the year.

- **Outdoor Court Usage motion (Susie). – motion passed by Council**
THAT Council direct staff to prepare a report assessing current usage, and outlining options which would make optimal use of our outdoor courts.

- **Sports Field Study update (Susie)**
Draft has been presented to CVRD. Artificial turf is one of the recommendations, priority is to have a second turf field at Vanier because tournaments can be hosted with 2 fields. Staff agree with that recommendations. Allocation of fields is a key issue. Studies indicate that we have enough fields, but allocation is an issue.
CVRD will host a Community discussion in June re: ice rinks, aquatics etc.
 - [z3 20230210 SR Recreation Sports Field Strategy Final Report UPDATED.pdf \(comoxvalleyrd.ca\)](#)
 - [Comox SFS Technical Appendix.pdf \(comoxvalleyrd.ca\)](#)

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- **2023 Budget (Susie), April 12 Council meeting**
City budget that will be presented April 12.

- **CVRD Recreation Commission Capital Planning**
Melanie McCollum:CVRD Plan re: Rec and Aquatics (relocation/outdoor pool etc.) At this point, developing timelines and potential options. E.g. close the Sports Pool at Vanier? Current aquatic capacity in Valley is about 40% despite low user costs. Shorter term concern re: shortage of ice. Sports pool near Vanier has been repaired at a reasonable cost.
Discussion about reinstating the School District Swim Program...costs (transportation etc.) have become a real challenge for District and schools.
 - [Microsoft Word - Rec Commission Strategic Planning report out 2023.docx \(comoxvalleyrd.ca\)](#)

Old Business

- **Outdoor Pool & Aquatic Services Review (with CVRD)**
Concerns expressed about a low response to the draft report, perhaps due to the length of the report. There will be another opportunity for public input and the final report will be taken back to Council in next couple of months. . Erik added that consultation with First Nations would be a good idea.

- **Regional Parks Study (with CVRD)**

No updates

- **Initiatives for increasing diversity of the committee such as engaging with youth**

Previous discussion re: our PRAC Committee including a more diverse demographic group with different perspectives (students, parents with young kids, Indigenous etc.). Perhaps include Focus groups that focus on specific items. Look at length of PRAC Committee terms of appointment.

Stan Hagen Park naming

No date yet

- **Lawrence Burns Park -**

Land has been cleared but no future planning direction at this point

Next meeting – July 6, 2023, location to be determined.