

Minutes of a Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting

Held at Florence Filberg Centre – Soroptomist Lounge, September 14th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Attending: Mary Crowley
Allan Douglas
Erik Eriksson
Bill Green
Michael Lynch
Carolyn Janes
Melanie McCollum (Council Representative)
Susie Saunders (Ex Officio)

Regrets: Tom Demeo
Iris Churchill

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 Traditional Territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.

Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes

MINUTES The minutes of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission meeting on Thursday, July 6th, 2023, were adopted as read. **Carried**

New Business

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TERMS OF REFERENCE

Council resolution January 17, 2022:

THAT Council direct staff to review the Terms of Reference of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, and provide Council with options that will support diversity of Members on the Commission.

Questions arose from members regarding Terms of Reference:

- Youth Interest Groups as part of this Council?
- Increase diversity of PRAC. Is there a segment of the population who are not represented on this Council?
- Update Terms of Reference (length of term, how appointments are made etc.)
- Question as to whether City Council “values” our input
- Is there still a need for PRAC or something different?
- Terms of reference indicates 1 meeting/month. Propose 1 meeting every 2 months

IMPACT OF HOMELESS ON RECREATION

Discussion had regarding the impact of homelessness on parks and recreation in the City of Courtenay. Discussion covered topics including impact on access to facilities, parks, and sense of safety.
Specific items:

- Reviewed Provincial legislation on Substance Use in parks
- City is actively working with Province on to secure permanent and purpose-built supportive housing and shelter.
- City Parks and Open Space Bylaw is being updated and will include language regarding sheltering in parks.
- Potential to support sport groups and coaches through provision of training such as how to deal with safe needle disposal etc.
- Our Commission needs to continue expressing these concerns to Council

**KASSY CESSFORD
RECOGNITION**

Council has a resolution to update the Freedom of City and recognitions.
Council has authority to recognize individuals.

AIRPARK PARKING

Paddling alteration does not have accessible parking spot. Could one be added.
Staff confirmed there is one accessible parking spot in the parking lot.

SUPERSTORE CONSTRUCTION

Road and path at the back of Superstore has been closed due to construction.
Question if it will be reopened for bikes as it has created risk for pedestrians and bikers.

**PRMP IMPLEMENTATION
PLAN**

Parks and Recreation Master Plan priorities will be presented to Council so that it can be built into City budget.

Old Business

AQUATIC STRATEGY

Public engagement re: Outdoor Pool completed and will be reported back to Council in Fall / Winter.

CULTURAL STRATEGIC PLAN

What We Heard Report presented to Council September 13, 2023.
Approximately 700 survey responses received.

Key findings from engagement process were: expanding and enhancing space for arts and culture, support for arts and culture and technical expertise in arts, Indigenous culture, and funding.

Next step is to develop vision, strategic priorities, and implementation plan.

Next Meeting

Thursday, November 2nd at 6:30 PM, location to be determined.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.