

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

Minutes of the **PARKS & FACILITIES COMMITTEE** Meeting
Monday, January 24, 2005 at 7:00 pm
Central Saanich Municipal Council Chamber

PRESENT: Councillor Robert Thompson, Acting Chair
Mayor Allison Habkirk
Councillors: Graham, Haddon (arrived at 7:25 pm), King and Mason
Gary C. Nason, Administrator
Trish Flanders, Municipal Clerk
Hope V. Burns, Director of Planning & Building Services
Bonnie McKenzie, Manager of Community Services

ABSENT: Councillor Korol

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The Administrator, Mr. Gary C. Nason, noted the addition to the agenda of the following late item:

- Update on Strategic Facilities Planning Workshop, to be included as Item 2;

176.05 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MASON
NO SECONDER
That the Agenda for the Parks & Facilities Committee Meeting held on January 24, 2005 be approved as amended.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Peninsula Recreation Commission (PRC) Re: Strategic Plan

Mr. Tim Chad, Chair of the Peninsula Recreation Commission, introduced Mr. Doug Henderson - Administrator for Panorama Recreation, Mr. Don Hunter - Consultant and Ms. Pauline Penner, Central Saanich Community Representative, and gave a brief overview of the process taken to date with respect to the PRC's Strategic Plan.

Mr. Don Hunter, Consultant – 502 Lands End Road, referred to the informational presentation which was given at the November 4th, 2004 Tri-Municipal Council Meeting and gave a comprehensive overview of the two major strategic areas/recommendations which have been identified, as follows:

1. Pool Expansion and Lobby Renovation
 - Pool: add 7000 sq.ft. of leisure pool and viewing area;
 - Lobby: add 4000 sq.ft. to create direct link to arena; add food service area, multi-purpose space, modified front desk
2. Link Building (Arena Expansion Retrofit and Additions)
 - add and/or renovate 10500 sq.ft. on two levels between arenas; add multi-purpose/social space on upper level; add user support spaces on lower level;

Funding Options for Recommendations 1 and 2:

- based on 2006 construction prices, the total cost for recommendations 1 and 2 as noted above would be \$8.66 million
- there are opportunities to apply for infrastructure grants in the amount of \$2 million and reduce the amount to be borrowed
- the total current debt of \$624,000 will retire between 2010 and 2012.

Options to be considered:

- a) do not proceed with projects;
- b) wait for current debt retirement before proceeding with projects (2006 cost of \$8.66 million would increase to \$12.67 million in 2010 and \$15.34 million in 2012); or
- c) proceed with projects in 2006 and experience higher debt payments for 5-6 years.

Mr. Hunter briefly overviewed the eight remaining strategic areas, and responded to several questions from members of the Committee, particularly with respect to:

- the availability of Federal/Provincial infrastructure grants to help offset the costs of the proposed expansion and renovation projects;
- the challenges with relying on projected construction industry costs and annual inflationary rates to forecast the total cost of the proposal;
- the proposed expansion of services, notwithstanding the survey results which indicate that this community is satisfied with the current level of service that is offered by Panorama Recreation; and
- the reluctance to financially commit the District for these projects.

Ms. Pauline Penner, Central Saanich Community Representative to the PRC, stated that in terms of a future referendum, the financial aspects of the proposal will likely present several challenges and any increase in debt will not likely be supported by the community.

Mr. Chad asked that the Committee seriously consider taking this issue to referendum in November 2005 and supporting a joint infrastructure grant application.

In discussion around the table, some members of the Committee stated that they were uncomfortable with Peninsula Recreation going further into debt, and advised of their preference to be debt free, or at the very least to be closer to debt retirement, before proceeding to a referendum. The Committee then requested that Staff provide clarification on the Loan Authorization Bylaw approval process and the various referendum options for the proposal, and report back to a future meeting.

177.05 MOVED BY MAYOR HABKIRK
 NO SECONDER
 That It Be Recommended To Council:

That the presentation from representatives from the Peninsula Recreation Commission (PRC) and Staff be received for information, and Staff be requested to provide clarification on the Loan Authorization Bylaw approval process and related referendum options for the facility upgrading projects proposed by the Commission.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

178.05 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR GRAHAM
 NO SECONDER
 That It Be Recommended To Council:

That the Peninsula Recreation Commission (PRC) be advised that at this time Council is not comfortable with proceeding to referendum in the immediate future on the proposed Panorama Recreation facility upgrading projects.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

179.05 MOVED BY MAYOR HABKIRK
 NO SECONDER
 That It Be Recommended To Council:

That the Peninsula Recreation Commission (PRC) be advised that it is Council's position that the retirement of at least a substantial portion of the current debt for the Panorama Recreation facilities (tennis/admin; arena; pool) should be a pre-condition to proceeding to referendum and further borrowing for the proposed facility upgrading projects which are outlined in the Commission's Strategic Plan.

CARRIED
OPPOSED: COUNCILLOR THOMPSON

Councillor Haddon assumed the Chair at 7:50 pm.

2. Central Saanich Horse Owners' Association Re: Request for Equestrian Facility – Oaks Property

- a) Correspondence dated March 1, 2004 from the Val Hughes, Secretary - Central Saanich Horse Owners' Association Re: Request for Equestrian Facility – Oaks Property (previously received at the December 20th, 2004 Regular Council Meeting).

Councillor Haddon advised that she requested this item be placed on this evening's agenda in order to seek approval to approach the North & South Agricultural Society for the purposes of discussing whether the Horse Owners' Association's need for equestrian facilities could be accommodated through the use of existing facilities that are owned by the Society.

180.05 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MASON
 NO SECONDER
 That It Be Recommended To Council:

That the Chair of the Parks & Facilities Committee be requested, in further consultation with the Central Saanich Horse Owners' Association, to explore other potential options for addressing the various issues and concerns expressed by the Association in its most recent correspondence to Council, including approaching the North & South Saanich Agricultural Society and other jurisdictions or agencies as deemed appropriate regarding potential utilization of existing riding rings and equestrian facilities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Habkirk requested that the Chair also explore with several of the municipalities referenced in the Association's recent correspondence what partnerships or facility access arrangements have been put in place in these jurisdictions to address the needs of their respective local equestrian communities.

3. Strategic Facilities Planning Workshop

The Administrator reminded members of the Committee of the Strategic Facilities Planning Workshop which is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, January 26, 2005 from 5:30 – 9:00 pm in the Fire Training Centre.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion, the Parks & Facilities Committee Meeting held on January 24, 2005 adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Councillor Michele Haddon, Chair

Recorded By: Trish Flanders
Municipal Clerk