

Peninsula Recreation Commission

MANDATE AND PHILOSOPHY

A.1 Commission Mandate

The Peninsula Commission was established in 1976 by the enactment of Bylaw No. 314 of the Capital Regional District along with subsequent amendments to that bylaw and letters patent. Those amendments are Bylaw No. 330 of the Capital Regional District. These were rescinded in 1996 with the enactment of Bylaw No. 2397 when Central Saanich began supporting the arena. Central Saanich became a full partner in 1997 with the enactment of Bylaws 2472 and 2473 covering participation in the pool and community recreation. In 2002, Bylaw 3008 was enacted to combine the three local services (Arena, Pool, Community Recreation) into one “Saanich Peninsula Recreation Service”.

The letters patent and the bylaws, among other things, set forth the following terms of reference:

That the Commission has the authority to:

- generally administer and operate the community recreation, arena and pool functions as well as the equipping, managing and operating of a major recreation complex for the participating municipalities of the District of Central Saanich, the District of North Saanich and the Town of Sidney;
- prepare annual operating budgets for those functions under its control for presentation and approval by the Capital Regional District;
- operate the various leisure and recreational programs and facilities in a manner the Commission deems advantageous to the residents of the participating municipalities.

Complete copies of letters patent, bylaws and amendments are located in the Appendices Section of the manual, and are identified as Appendix A.

A.2 The Role of the Commission

With the legal requirements outlined and the various bylaws in mind, the role or the function of the Commission is generally seen as follows:

The Commission shall:

1. be concerned with the development of a broad program of recreation activities that will provide opportunity for people of all ages to use their leisure and recreational time in a wholesome and satisfying manner;
2. be concerned with policy and procedures pertaining to the operation and maintenance, and programming and staffing of the Panorama Recreation Centre, playing fields, parks and any other

recreation facilities that are under the control of the Commission, or of other properties with the written consent of the owners or authorities thereof;

3. in the interest of a well-balanced, coordinated approach to recreation within the participating municipalities and within its jurisdiction, cooperate with and encourage all organizations, public, private, civic, and social, which are supporting, promoting and working for recreation in its broadest sense;
4. hear and consider representations by any individual, organization or delegation of citizens with respect to recreation and act on such recommendations arising from such hearings as the Commission deems to be in the best interest of all citizens of the service area;
5. maintain a close liaison with the School District and other community organizations in the acquisition and development of joint recreation facilities and grounds;
6. study and approve all budget documents prior to their presentation to the Capital Regional District Board and examine all budget performance statements;
7. make as its primary aim, the provision of quality recreation services to the participating communities at a reasonable cost;
8. make every attempt to keep abreast of changes and trends in the area of leisure and recreation services.

A.3 Mission Statement

The Mission Statement guiding the Commission's undertakings is:

Panorama Recreation promotes individual and community wellness by providing active living opportunities in an effective and efficient manner reflecting the express needs of our communities.

From this statement, the Commission's goals are:

1. Make available a wide range of services
2. Maximize participation
3. Provide high quality services in a respectful, responsive, fair and consistent manner
4. Provide services at a cost which will not be a barrier to any significant portion of our citizens
5. Maintain an effective and fiscally responsive organization.

A.4 Objectives and Principles

It is the objective of the Commission to provide recreation activities and leisure facilities to the citizens of the participating municipalities regardless of age, sex, religion, race or economic status.

In the pursuit of this objective, the Commission will generally follow these basic recreation principles:

1. Recreation is a basic human need as are education, health and safety services, and, as such should be available to all.
2. Public recreation is a municipal function reflecting agreement among people that it is desirable to provide certain recreation services through taxation and in the final analysis, the level of service provided by local government is determined primarily by the expressed will of the people.
3. It is the right of every citizen to participate in leisure pursuits of their choice; however, it is the responsibility of the Commission to provide a climate that encourages participation in leisure and recreation activities for all people regardless of their ability.
4. The best interests of people are served when and where they are involved in the planning of leisure and recreation services.
5. Participants in recreation programs must have a responsibility to the program and its leader.
6. Where a choice must be made in allocating limited leisure and recreational resources, increasing the range of recreation opportunities will normally receive higher priority than increasing the quantity of existing services.
7. The volunteer should be given sufficient assistance and recognition to encourage his or her involvement.
8. Programs and facilities are to be operated in a manner that will provide fair and equitable opportunities for all interests at a reasonable cost to the tax payer and participant. The Commission recognizes the right of citizens to participate in leisure and recreational pursuits of their choice. It is a known fact that certain pursuits are of greater value to the individual and to the community than others might be. In this view, the Commission is committed to encouraging broad participatory opportunities and since participation is considered as having a higher value than spectatorship, steps will be taken to encourage individual and group participation in leisure and recreation programs.

A.5 Philosophy

The Commission's philosophy is that recreation should serve as a major factor in the quality of life for all residents of the area.

A.6 Purpose

The purpose of the Commission is to provide leisure and recreation activities and facilities to the citizens of the participating municipalities regardless of age, sex, religion, race or economic status.

A.7 Principles and Objectives

1. That public recreation is a municipal function justifying partial support through taxation for the provision of services which can be enjoyed by the vast majority of the population.
2. Services shall also be supported in part by the participant groups or individual rather than the community as a whole.
3. In order to allow the fullest and most economic use of the Commission facilities, no group or individual shall be given exclusive rental of any room or facility for an extended period of time.
4. The community has a right to profit from use of facilities or organization of programs where public resources are utilized by profit motivated individuals, groups or companies. Competition with private enterprise should not necessarily be avoided if it is in the best interest of the taxpayer.
5. The cost of administering the collection of revenue shall not be disproportionate to the revenue which accrues or the advantage gained.
6. The values of programs or services of the Commission shall not be determined solely by the amount of revenue produced or by the number of participants involved.
7. The overriding principle used by the Commission when judging services or fees and charges policy is whether all citizens who have paid for the facilities and program are allowed to use such resources at their discretion without artificial barriers which discriminate on the basis of age, sex, colour, education, income, occupation or religion.
8. It is recognized that it is totally impractical to provide recreation services exclusively through tax support. The rate structure, therefore, is not considered as a means of assessing fees and charges. Rather, it provides a method in which a variety of recreation services can be subsidized.
9. In order for the tax load to remain at an acceptable level and the quality of recreation service to remain at a high level, the facilities and programs must operate with a high degree of efficiency coupled with periodic reviews of methods of increasing incomes.