

**Capital Regional District
Sooke & Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes of a meeting held Wednesday, May 4, 2011
SEAPARC Leisure Complex, 2168 Phillips Road, Sooke, BC**

Mission Statement:

*“Sooke Parks & Recreation Commission creates recreational opportunities for the public through the planning, development, provision and operation of recreational facilities, programs and activities with a focus on the people of the Sooke Electoral Area”
(Mission Statement adopted October 16, 1991)*

Present: Commissioners: J. Perkins (Chair), J. Evans (Sooke Director), M. Hicks (JDF Director),
B. Berger, D. Bishop
Staff: L. Hutchings, SEAPARC Manager, L. MacDonald, Recording Secretary
Absent: P. Grove, L. Christie
Public: 6
Press: 0

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order 6:32 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED by Director Evans, **SECONDED** by Director Hicks that the agenda be approved with the following additions:

5. a) Staff News:

- Ice Allocation meeting
- Project #26319 SEAPARC Leisure Complex Upgrade, cost overrun

CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF April 16, 2011

MOVED by Director Evans, **SECONDED** by Director Berger that the minutes of April 16, 2011 be approved. **CARRIED.**

4. DELEGATION

a) Debbie Quayum – Skate Park Lighting

Debbie Quayum, RCMP Corporal Scott Hilderley, Brandon Nairn and Curtis Matthias addressed their concerns regarding inadequate lighting at the Skate Park.

Ms. Quayum detailed the costs involved in installing plexiglass and wire guards around existing lights standards. She found that the materials are sold locally and are relatively inexpensive (\$196 per sheet and \$49.99 for wire guards). Ms. Quayum distributed two articles for information purposes entitled “Commercial Street Lights” and “Skate Park Lights Deemed a Success.”

RCMP Corporal Scott Hilderley serves as the Community Prevention Education Continuum (CPEC) Program Coordinator in Sooke. The RCMP detachment management have identified the Skate Park as one of the most problematic areas in Sooke. Through time and deterioration of the park it has become a centre for drug and alcohol use and a place for the criminal element to meet. In an effort to take back the park for its intended users, Crpl. Hilderley has met with CPEC volunteers who have offered to help clean up the graffiti. A mural contest is planned with a theme of healthy choices for kids. Home Hardware has agreed to donate the paint. Corporal Hilderley pointed out several examples in Sooke where improved public spaces have resulted in less vandalism including Broomhill Park, Village Foods bus stop and the rear wall of Evergreen Centre. He argued that security lighting will deter crowds from gathering in the park after dark. Corporal Hilderley provided the Commission with an article entitled “Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.”

Brandon Nairn, a skateboard park builder, suggested 3-4 light poles would be required to provide adequate lighting in the park. Curtis Matthias pointed out the many positive aspects of skateboarding and how the issues at the park can be fixed if action is taken now.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

b) Yvonne Black, Sooke Fine Arts Society re: rental fees

MOVED by Director Evans, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Hicks that the correspondence be received and filed. **CARRIED.**

6. REPORTS

a) Staff Report

Staff News

Recreation Programs

The Easter "Eggstravaganza" event, led by Recreation Assistant Darcy Smith, was a great success with several local businesses providing support and donations for the two large Easter egg hunts.

A number of arena dry floor programs and drop-in activities are being offered including lacrosse, ball hockey, soccer and roller hockey. A number of new fitness programs are starting in May including Taekwondo (Olympic style), MIJO Boxfit and Nia Dance Fusion.

Aquatic Programs

The SEAPARC Sharks Swim Club (a monthly registration program with 3 classes per week) currently has 22 registrants.

The Grade 2 swim lessons sponsored by the Sooke Lions Club had 153 participants this year.

The Aquatic Programmer and the Program Services Manager are attending the Recreation Facilities Association of BC (RFABC) Conference in Abbotsford in May.

Administration

The Commission reviewed the Sooke Fine Arts letter requesting an adjustment in the Sooke Fine Arts Show rental fees for 2011 and the period of 2012-2016. The Society is forecasting a decrease in revenue this year due to the loss of major sponsorship and provincial gaming grants. Director Evans pointed to the popularity of the event which provides significant social and economic benefits for the Sooke and Juan de Fuca region.

MOVED by Director Evans, **SECONDED** by Director Hicks that the 2010 rental rate charged to the Sooke Fine Arts Society be applied again in 2011. For the years 2012 through to 2016, the rental rate charged in 2010/2011 shall be increased by 2% per year on top of any incremental increase in rental fees. **CARRIED**

As part of the SEAPARC Site Master Plan public consultation process, the SEAPARC Manager reported on the suggestions and feedback he'd received from attendees of the District of Sooke Open House on April 14, 2011.

The SEAPARC Manager provided an update on progress being made with regard to the Skate Park including site visits, \$1,200 in concrete repairs proceeding, a ¼ pipe being priced and the installation of new "code of behavior" signage.

The annual Ice Allocation meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, May 25 in the Multi-Purpose Room. Commissioners Bishop and Berger will represent the Commission on the Ice Allocation Committee.

A new compressor has been ordered at a cost of \$21,000 to replace a 34 year old unit. The compressor was scheduled to be replaced in 2012. Funds came from the equipment replacement budget.

Director Hicks noted that during the Sooke Figure Skating Club's annual show there were difficulties with the arena sound system. The SEAPARC Manager noted that the system is being looked into and operating instructions will be posted for new users.

The SEAPARC Manager reported on expected cost overruns on Project #26319, SEAPARC Leisure Complex Upgrade of approximately \$10,000. Costs were higher than originally projected due to change orders and additions, HST and additional project management fees. A Staff Report detailing the cost overrun will be presented at the June Commission meeting.

MOVED by Director Evans, **SECONDED** by Director Hicks that \$11,000 be transferred from the Capital Reserve Fund to cover the extra costs involved in Project #26319, SEAPARC Leisure Complex Upgrade **CARRIED.**

b) Youth Member Report

c) Chair's Report

The Commission entertained comments on holding a Commission Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Director Hicks suggested he host a social and barbeque at the Arbutus Cove Guest House in late June or early July.

d) Director's Report

Director Evans reported the work on the new Throup Road extension is underway with survey work proceeding.

Commissioner Perkins will make a written request to the District of Sooke that the lighting needs of the Skate Park be taken into consideration by the project planners, that a street light be placed in front of the Skate Park and that SEAPARC may wish to pursue installing additional light poles in the park itself.

Director Hicks welcomed Derek Bishop as the new Commissioner representing the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area. Derek has been a resident of Sooke for 12 years and has two children who play hockey in Sooke.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Lacrosse Box

Commissioner Berger updated the Commission on the status of the proposed lacrosse box. Commissioner Berger recently met with Dave Lockyer, Secretary-Treasurer, School District 62 and Mr. Lockyer suggested using the existing Skate Park lease as a basis for a lacrosse box lease agreement. A sub-committee including Commissioner Berger, Commissioner Grove, Commissioner Bishop, Jim Govan - SEAPARC Facilities Operations Supervisor and a School District 62 staff member (yet to be named) will be formed. Efforts will be made to reduce construction costs by soliciting donations of labour and material. The Sooke Builders Association have agreed to donate their time and labour to build the box. A site plan will be done in the near future.

MOVED by Director Hicks, **SECONDED** by Director Evans that \$5,000 be transferred from the Capital Reserve Fund to create a lacrosse box contingency fund.

CARRIED.

8. NEW BUSINESS

The Commission discussed the issues involved in improving lighting in the Skate Park including type, amount and timing of lighting. It was agreed that if lighting is to be installed, a cut off time for use of the park would be need to be set. The SEAPARC Manager noted that the Lexan shields used on lighting in past were repeatedly destroyed. With the new extension of Throup Road, it is expected that street lighting will be improved and there will be a higher traffic flow in front of park. The SEAPARC Manager will request input from the CRD Risk Management staff on lighting of the park and report back at the next Commission meeting.

9. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned 8:07 p.m.

Jim Perkins, Chair

Lynn MacDonald, Recorder