

Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee Meeting

Held at City of Penticton Committee Room A
171 Main Street, Penticton, B.C.

Friday, November 18, 2016
at 2:00 p.m.

Present: Andrew Jakubeit, Mayor
Judy Sentes, Councillor
Ron Ramsay, Chair
James Palanio, Vice-Chair
Ezra Cremers, Organized Field Sport Representative
Roland Curnow, Organized Field Sport Representative
Sharon Devlin, Member at Large
Peter Dooling, Member at Large
Gary Denton, Member at Large

Staff: Jeff Lynka, Parks Supervisor
Lori Mullin, Recreation & Culture Manager
Lorraine Williston, Corporate Committee Secretary

1. Call to Order

The Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee was called to order by the Chair at 2:04 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee adopt the agenda for the meeting held on November 18, 2016 as amended (refer to item 5.1 & 5.2).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1 Minutes of the October 20, 2016 Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee Meeting

Concerns were raised over minutes being presented to Council before the Committee has adopted them as Council does not receive the adopted version. Members were concerned that the minutes going to Council were incomplete. The minutes did not include points expanded upon by some members. Councillor Sentes stated this concern has been brought up in other committees and the Corporate Officer is looking at amending the process. It was also suggested meetings be recorded. By consensus, the committee agreed that future

meeting minutes be emailed and approved in context by the committee prior to Council receiving them and committee adoption.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee adopt the minutes of the October 20, 2016 meeting as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3.2 Minutes of the November 3, 2016 Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee Meeting

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee adopt the minutes of the November 3, 2016 meeting as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Business Arising from Prior Meetings**

4.1 Commercial Use in Parks – Discussion Update

The Recreation & Culture Manager reviewed the draft Parks & Recreation Master Plan recommendations, current mandate of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee and the recommendation forwarded to Council to direct staff to investigate the timing and cost of developing a policy for commercial uses in parks and expand the Terms of Reference. Council has endorsed the recommendation and Urban System provided staff with a proposal that was presented to the committee for review. The proposal included defining the scope of commercial use in parkland and building a draft policy. Urban System's fee would be \$21,100 for project initiation and review, policy development and community engagement. It was noted there could be a \$1,000 savings if staff provided assistance with benchmarking and if the committee was willing to assist in policy research. Discussion and questions followed.

Gary Denton asked the committee to reconsider their last recommendation as he is concerned it's the wrong place to start. Mr. Dooling expanded on his description and importance of parks and provided examples of types of parks and noted we are addressing public parks, not an amusement park or burial park for example. We need to affirm the definition of public parks and look at the core parks in the City of Penticton. Discussion followed.

Main Motion:

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee affirms the definition of a public park as follows:

'A Public Park is an unencumbered tract of land (natural, semi-natural, grassy lands, beach lands etc.) wherein the land title (surface rights, and perhaps sub-surface rights, above-surface rights) is held by a public entity (federal, provincial, territorial, regional district, city or village) for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the people and for the protection, conservation, preservation of the natural, physical, historical and cultural resources thereon.'

Amendment:

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee affirms the definition of a public park as follows:

'A Public Park is an unencumbered tract of land wherein the land title is held by a public entity for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the people and for the protection, conservation, preservation of the natural, physical, historical and cultural resources thereon.'

CARRIED
James Palanio, Opposed

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee directs that Urban Systems includes the definition of a Public Park in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan as follows:

'A Public Park is an unencumbered tract of land wherein the land title is held by a public entity for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the people and for the protection, conservation, preservation of the natural, physical, historical and cultural resources thereon.'

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Parks Supervisor suggested Urban Systems provide feedback on the definition of a park. The Parks Classifications provided in the report already identify to a greater detail the various types of parks and described uses.

Discussion followed on the commercial use of parks policy. The Chair stated the master plan should be completed first and then a policy developed. Gary Denton stated that now that a park has been defined, we need to define the purpose of a park followed by uses. A suggestion was made that a policy could be developed from within the committee. Peter Dooling noted we should await the results from the public feedback regarding the first draft of the master plan.

By consensus the committee was in agreement to not proceed with developing a policy until commercial uses in parks has been dealt with. The Mayor reminded the committee a draft master plan is still needed and to focus on reviewing the public input and refining the master plan before working on the policy. Gary Denton stated another way to approach the challenge of determining if commercial development in parks is acceptable, but not the only way, is to discuss why a large-scale (water slide) development in Skaha Park is opposed by the majority of Penticton residents. If we can clearly identify the reasons why this development proposal is so unpopular, we can establish what criteria needs to be met before commercial uses are permitted. Mr. Denton stated there are literally hundreds of residents who have articulated in writing their reasons for opposing commercial development in Skaha Park over the past sixteen months and those letters (over 700 to date) can be found online on the Save Skaha Park Society website under Letters to the Editor. Mr. Denton personally thinks the recommendation concerning large-scale developments in parks is simpler than it has been made out to be. Large scale developments should not be a permitted use in all lands zoned Park, full stop. Mr. Denton further stated, if large-scale developments are not a permitted use then a zoning change would be required prior to approval of such a development and a recommendation that a referendum (albeit non-binding) should be held as a gauge of the public's support of any large-scale development proposed, prior to the public hearing required for any change in zoning.

4.2 Draft 1 Master Plan – Public Feedback and Open House Update

The Parks Supervisor noted approximately 130 people showed up for the Open House. The Recreation & Culture Manager stated there was a lot of interest in sports amenities, trail usage, the Channel Parkway and commercial uses. Urban Systems will be collecting all the public input, online and paper submissions. Submissions will be cut off on Nov. 30th. A summary of the submissions will be provided by Dec. 15 for review by the committee. The Chair asked that a copy of all the submissions be provided for review. The Recreation & Culture Manager stated Urban Systems will also be working on the 2nd draft of the master plan and the committee should be thinking about what other things need to be changed.

5. New Business

5.1 General Process of the Committee

Ezra Cremers brought forth his concerns about what is this committee's role in the master plan. He felt that the committee was being lead and not leading formation of the master plan. Is it to develop more of a vision on interconnectivity of trails? Have we missed our fundamental purpose? Mr. Cremers stated a meeting with Urban Systems should have happened right after the benchmarking portion was completed. The Recreation & Culture Manager stated the master plan is in draft form and there is still an opportunity to rewrite certain sections.

5.2 Conflicts of Interest

The Chair expressed his concerns over things this committee will come up with that the City will not be able to abide by due to previous agreements made and feels the City has a conflict of interest. Discussion followed. The Mayor provided a brief overview of the amended agreement with Trio that was presented to Council at their Nov. 1 Council meeting.

James Palanio left the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee to be determined.

7. Adjournment

The Parks & Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee adjourned the meeting at 4:26 p.m.