

**Parks and Recreation Advisory
Committee Meeting
to be held at
City of Penticton, Room A
171 Main Street, Penticton, B.C.**

**April 11, 2019
at 3:00 p.m.**

1. **Call Regular Committee Meeting to Order**
 2. **Introduction of Late Items**
 3. **Adoption of Agenda**
 4. **Adoption of Minutes**
 - 4.1 Minutes of the March 14, 2019 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting 1-3
 5. **Delegations**
 - 5.1 Coyote Cruises
 - 5.2 Penticton Oxbows – Friends of the Oxbows 4-6
 6. **Business Arising from Prior Meetings**
 - 6.1 Site Walk at Skaha Park Date
 7. **New Business**
 - 7.1 Council Initiative from March 19, 2019 7-18
- 180/2019 **It was MOVED and SECONDED**
 THAT Council refer the following to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee for review of suitability and costs and provide comments/recommendations back to Council:
- The potential for adding lights (e.g. motion) and outdoor fitness equipment at Gyro Park.
- CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
- 7.2 Skaha Lake Engagement Strategy Review – JoAnne Kleb and Anthony Haddad on table
 8. **Council Outcome**
 9. **Next Meeting**
 10. **Adjournment**

Minutes



Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting

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

Thursday, March 14, 2019
at 2:00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Kimberley
Isaac Gilbert, Chair
James Palanio, School District 67, Vice-Chair
Tyson Bull
Donna Ritchie
Gary Dean
Lesley Chapman
Robert Ross
Peter Osborne
Laura Harp
John Archer

Staff: Bregje Kozak, Director, Recreation and Facilities
Len Robson, Public Works Manager
Anthony Haddad, Director of Development Services
Ben Johnson, Manager, Special Projects
Caitlyn Anderson, Deputy Corporate Officer

1. **Call to Order:**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee was called to order by the acting chair at 2:03 p.m.

2. **Adoption of Agenda:**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee adopt the agenda for the meeting held on March 14, 2019 as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **Adoption of Minutes:**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the February 14, 2019 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Business Arising from Prior Meetings:**

4.1 Election of Committee Chair and Vice-Chair

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee elect Isaac Gilbert as Chair.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee elect James Palanio as Vice-Chair.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **New Business:**

5.1 Background Documents: Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Parks Land Protection and Use Policy and Park Dedication Bylaw No. 2018-37

The Director of Development Services provided a high-level summary of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and how it will be useful to the committee to develop the Skaha Lake Master Plan. Questions were raised on the Esplanade Park and the River Channel Parkway and if there was, a master plan created yet.

The Director of Development Services provided a high-level summary of the Park Dedication Bylaw and mentioned it is the highest protection the City of Penticton has. Questions were raised on the licence to use at Skaha Lake Park and the difference between licence to use and lease.

The Director of Development Services provided a high-level summary of the Park Land Protection and Use Policy. Questions were discussed about the different dedicated parks.

5.2 Skaha Lake Master Plan

The Director of Development Services provided an overview of Skaha Lake Park, including the scope and deliverables. The Manager of Special Projects will be the project manager to steer this master plan. To create the master plan, all potential stakeholders must be included and they were discussed. Ones to potentially add are: Penticton racing canoe club, kite surfers, wind surfers, stand up paddle boarding, Travel Penticton, Okanagan Nation Alliance, and dog owners. If there are any more that had been missed, they are to be brought forward to the next meeting.

A site visit will be scheduled in early April to walk around Skaha Lake.

Ben Johnson left the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

6. **Council Outcome:**

Council received the minutes of the February 14, 2019 at their meeting held on March 5, 2019.

7. **Next Meeting:**

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

8. **Adjournment:**

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee adjourn the meeting held on Thursday March 14, 2019 at 3:46 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Certified Correct:

Caitlyn Anderson
Deputy Corporate Officer



Friends of the Oxbows

- 4 -

Friends of the Oxbows
c/o 313 Brandon Avenue
Penticton, BC
V2A 3S7

16 March 2018

Mr. Anthony Haddad
Director, Development Services
City of Penticton
171 Main Street
Penticton, BC
V2A 5A9

Dear Mr. Haddad

Subject: Park status for the Penticton oxbows

I am writing to you today to request that the Penticton oxbows be included in the forthcoming Parks Dedication By-law.

As you may know the Friends of the Oxbows (FOTO) have been working for the past 10 years or so to see the Penticton oxbows protected and rejuvenated. So far, with our groups support, the City helped clean up the Brandon Avenue Oxbow by removing accumulated storm drainage sediment. At the Warren Avenue Oxbow, FOTO has been able to influence the developers of the locatee lands to modify their construction footprint in favour of riparian protection and enhancement. We feel there is an opportunity with the City's Parks Dedication By-law to do much more by affording legal protection for all the oxbows. That in turn can lead to other agencies, such as Ducks Unlimited Canada, being willing to assist with further rejuvenation and management of those wetlands.

It is our understanding that the city boundary was established as the middle of the old river channel, with the land to the west of that line being controlled by the federal government as part of the Penticton Indian Reserve IR 1, and the land east of the line as City property. The City's Official Community Plan variously indicates the oxbow wetlands are "parks" and some of the adjacent uplands are noted as Development Permit Areas, though most of the city-side upland is already developed. On the oxbow sides of the property lines of most lots adjacent to the oxbows there is a narrow right-of-way, which in many cases is used by the land owners as if it was part of their property.

Over 85% of the wetlands that were once found in the Okanagan Valley have been lost since settlement by Europeans began. Penticton at one time had extensive wetlands adjacent to the slow-moving and meandering Okanagan River. As development and settlement of the Penticton area progressed, all of those wetlands were filled in, drained or heavily modified. When the Okanagan River was channelized, the loops and twists of the old river channel were cut off from the new river and left as oxbows or stranded wetlands. They have since been used for stormwater management, and a host of other uses that continue their degradation as wetlands and natural areas. As water conservation and the protection of important natural areas are increasingly becoming critical

environmental and social issues within the Okanagan, we believe the City can take a leadership role by more actively managing the remaining wetlands within their jurisdiction.

Through our input to the Parks Master Planning process we fostered recognition of the fact that, in addition to being significant habitat for rare, at-risk and other species, the oxbows were important potential park or natural park areas. We believe the City can, with small effort, declare the upland portions of the oxbows within the City limits as parks. Though they may not function as other city parks do, in that access to them needs to be limited to protect their important natural features, certain forms of more passive recreation are possible.

Managed walking paths now exist within the City park that includes the Loco Landing Oxbow and within easements connecting Ayres Crescent and Falcon Court to the adjacent oxbow. There are also existing, unofficial, but well used paths connecting Industrial Avenue, Okanagan Avenue West and the Warren Avenue Oxbow, all on City lands. The Warren Avenue Oxbow portion of the latter pathways in particular has potential for the creation of observation blinds on City property.

FOTO believes cleaning up most of the oxbows east of the Channel Parkway and getting water flowing through all of them is a significant enhancement priority. Managing trespass use of the riparian habitats by adjoining land owners, replanting some of those habitats with native plants, and managing invasive species within all areas of such habitats are also priorities.

Much of the land on the City-side of the oxbows has already been developed, while most land on the west side of the oxbows within the Penticton Indian Band reserve remains more or less natural. We have seen evidence that there is considerable interest by the Penticton Indian Band to manage their oxbow wetlands for conservation. We believe it may be possible then for the City and the Penticton Indian Band to work together to develop all those wetlands as a joint natural area park.

We believe the time is right for some more concrete action on the part of the City to protect and manage all the oxbow wetlands. We propose that the City determine, if needed, the legal limits of private property interests that are adjacent to the oxbows. Once that is completed those that are City properties should be established as parks or parks/natural areas, included as such in the City's Parks Master Plan, and included in the Parks Dedication By-law. Work should then begin to properly manage and enhance those wetlands, in partnership with the Penticton Indian Band, conservation agencies and other government agencies.

Thanks in advance for considering our proposal. Please contact us at any time for further discussion as may be needed. We look forward to progress in our joint efforts to have the Penticton oxbows protected and managed for the benefit of the people of the City, the Penticton Indian Band, and the province.

Yours truly,



Ray Halladay, Chair
Friends of the Oxbows

Protection and management of Penticton oxbows
Delegation and Proposal by the Friends of the Oxbows
22 January 2019

Wetlands were never particularly abundant in the dry Okanagan Valley, but those that were here have been heavily impacted by the growth of the human population over the past 150 years. The city of Penticton has grown up on a large alluvial fan formed by Penticton, Ellis, and Shingle creeks since the last Ice Age. As that fan built up it led to the creation of the two separate lakes we see today, namely Okanagan and Skaha. A low gradient river, the Okanagan, continued to connect those two lakes, and formed extensive wetlands along its path. Periodically, however, the Okanagan River and its tributaries overflowed their normal courses, and as settlement proceeded in our city, caused considerable damage through spring floods. In the early 1950s that problem was solved once and for all by the channelization of the Okanagan River, and by flood-proofing Penticton and Ellis creeks. The channelizing of the Okanagan River created new wetlands, or oxbows, where the old river channel once meandered back and forth over its old flood plain.

Wetlands are amongst the most productive habitats in nature, and particularly so in our arid environment. The Penticton oxbows provide habitat for a large range of species throughout the year, including habitats for endangered species. The oxbows are also used as receiving environments for management of storm water drainage from our city. All is not well with the oxbows, however, because they are silting in and eroding. They are no longer being re-energized each year during freshet, so silts are not being moved downstream, and no new silts are being added to their banks during flooding, resulting in bank instability. The Friends of the Oxbows believe there is much to be gained by re-vitalizing our oxbow wetlands. With periodic cleanups they can continue to provide detention for storm water, habitat for wildlife right in the city, they can become a salient feature for our tourist economy, and they can be used for passive outdoor recreation, which is a generally good thing for the health of our citizens.

The Friends of the Oxbows believe that non-government conservation agencies can be enlisted to help rejuvenate our oxbows. We also believe that if the City acts to enhance protection of the oxbows from the perspective of its jurisdiction, the Penticton Indian Band may do the same on lands under its control. With some form of enhanced legal protection for the oxbows, non-government agencies likely will invest in oxbow management.

Our proposal is to: 1) delineate the lands within the City's control as Natural Areas Parkland; 2) work with the Penticton Indian Band to develop legal protection for the oxbow lands in its jurisdiction; and 3) approach non-government conservation agencies to assist with development and implementation of conservation plans for the rejuvenation of the Penticton oxbows.

As always, the Friends of the Oxbows are prepared to help in whatever capacity we can to help protect and manage these important remnant habitats within our city.

Gyro Park – Fitness Equipment and Lighting

Council Resolution 180-2019



Resolution 180/2019

Please be advised that Council at their Regular Council meeting held on Tuesday, March 19, 2019, passed the following resolution:

16.2 From Councillor Kimberley on March 5, 2019

180/2019

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council refer the following to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee for review of suitability and costs and provide comments/recommendations back to Council:

- The potential for adding lights (e.g. motion) and outdoor fitness equipment at Gyro Park.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Master Plan



- **City-wide park** - City-wide parks draw residents and tourists from a broad area. People may visit these parks due to the beaches, natural features, built facilities, cultural features and opportunities offered. City-wide parks draw people who specifically travel to spend time “in the park”, for activities as diverse as water and beach activities, special events, picnics, sports, tourist attractions and recreation. These parks include a wide range of recreational amenities such as playgrounds, spray parks, walkways, sports amenities, and concessions and attractions. Current mean size is 2.51 ha, largest size is 15.97 ha, and smallest size is 0.28 ha. Examples: Okanagan Lake Park, Rotary Park, Gyro Park, Lakawanna Park, Kings Park, Skaha Park



Park is widely used as a public gathering space

- Annual events include: Peach City Beach Cruise, Canada Day, BC Day, Peach Festival, Farmers Market, Granfondo, Elvis Festival, Music in the Park

Master Plan

City-wide parks

- **Gyro Park** - special events have impacted tree health in the park (50% of mature trees removed in past 16 years); the park needs improvements for more day-to-day uses including play and more seating as per the Downtown Revitalization Concept vision of a 'North Park', and large events need to be relocated elsewhere

Capital Development

- 4.2.3 Upgrade amenities in existing parks, considering options in the following parks as described in more detail above and in section 7: IAP2 Inform surrounding residents of proposed improvements (e.g, sign in the park), Consult with residents on improvements that affect the functioning or uses within the park:
- Gyro Park – tree planting, play, more seating

Fitness Equipment

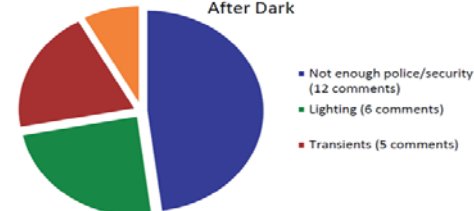
According to the community survey, 7% of households include someone who used the outdoor fitness equipment within the previous year. This is a significant number for this type of facility. Most of those who used the fitness equipment (88%) were satisfied with it.

Fitness parks are a relatively new amenity in parks and they tend to be successful in locations where there are already many people and/or where there are programmers who can hold sessions there. The fitness equipment has definitely been a good fit within Skaha Park. There were several comments requesting additional fitness equipment.

4.5 Safety and Security in Parks

The first step in the analysis was to include questions about personal safety in parks on the community survey. The positive news is that the most respondents were more satisfied with personal safety in parks during the day (91% satisfied, 344 of 378 respondents to this question) than with any other outdoor recreation topic. **Less positive was that personal safety in parks after dark received the second-most unsatisfied responses (45% satisfied, 161 out of 292 respondents to this question not satisfied), for outdoor recreation.** Lack of satisfaction with personal safety in parks after dark was higher for those living with children (66% not satisfied), female respondents (65% not satisfied), and those aged 60 and over (62% not satisfied). **Comments on this topic most frequently mentioned not enough police/security, inadequate lighting, and transients.**

Comments Related to Public Safety in Parks After Dark



Gyro Park – North Green

- 2014 Process
- Downtown Revite Committee
- Design Charrette & Public Engagement
- Council Oct 6, 2014 – Carried Unanimously
 - Concept plan
 - Support Phase 1- Road Works
 - Considered in 2015 Budget Process



Gyro Park – North Green

- More People Downtown
- Flexible use
- Increase Seasonal use of Space
- Support Downtown Businesses
- Road & Park now at same level
- East-West Pedestrian access / Road transition
- Temporary Closure for Park Use / Events / Festivals
- Playground for family activity
- Seating / Benches
- Lighting for year round use & increased Safety
- Bandshell – washroom upgrades
- Parking remains



Gyro Park – North Green



Gyro Park – North Green



Gyro Park – North Green



Fitness Equipment - Cost

Skaha Lake Fitness Equipment

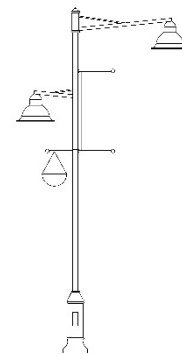
- Installed in 2013
- Total Cost \$45,000
 - Equipment Cost \$28,000
 - Landscape & Concrete Base Cost \$17,000
 - Grant \$25,000
- 6 – 8 pieces of Equipment

2020 Estimated Costs = \$65,000



Lighting Upgrades - Cost

- Safety or Decorative?
- Cost Range - \$4,000 to \$50,000
 - \$4 K – Building Spot Lights
 - \$50,000 – 10 Street Light s
- Historical Complaints – Light Pollution



Staff Recommendation

THAT the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends to Council that should future funding become available for outdoor fitness equipment, that staff, in consultation with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee identify a suitable location for the installation;

AND THAT Council consider additional safety lighting for Gyro Park as part of the 2020 budget deliberations.

