



**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT**
Minutes - Final

Municipal Hall
1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, B.C. V9A 3P1

**Environment, Parks and Recreation
Advisory Committee**

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

6:30 PM

Esquimalt Council Chambers

Present 5 - Chair Lee Mauro
Member Jesse Baltutis
Member Kyler Nurmsoo
Member Shona Redman
Member Ryan Badowski

Regrets 3 - Member Nathanael Jones
Member Elyse Norgaard Kituri
Member Jamie Proctor

Council Liaison Present: Councillor Jacob Helliwell

Staff: Steve Knoke, Director of Parks and Recreation Services
Robbie Young, Manager of Parks
Dan Henderson, Manager of Facilities
Jeff Byron, Manager of Recreation
Steph Reid, Recreation Coordinator
Victoria McKean, Committee Coordinator/Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lee Mauro called to the Environment, Parks, and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting to order at 6:43 PM once quorum was met.

2. LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Member Baltutis, seconded by Member Badowski: That the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

4. STAFF REPORTS

1) [24-440](#) Committee Membership Update

Victoria McKean, Committee Coordinator, provided an overview of the memorandum and the recruitment process for the Committee that is currently underway.

2) [24-444](#) Anderson Park RFP Award

Robbie Young, Manager of Parks, gave a presentation on the Anderson Park RFP, highlighting project timelines, internal staff review of submissions, an overview of the recommended design, and community feedback on the proposed upgrades.

Staff provided the following responses to questions from the Committee:

- As the RFP is within budget for the Anderson Park project, funds will be allocated to other improvements such as benches, picnic tables, bike racks, and tree planting.
- The recommended proposal was at the higher end of the proposals received but was of a similar cost of other submissions and was rated much higher than other proposals.
- Residents and community members who were consulted on the recommended proposal were in support of the design.
- Staff will explore options to include another strider within the design during negotiations with the proponent and will also explore accessibility features.

3) [24-445](#) Public Art Update

Steph Reid, Recreation Coordinator, gave a presentation on public art pieces that have been installed or have been selected for installation over the summer, highlighting the Sea-can beautification project, wall mural at Esquimalt Recreation Centre, and the street mural at Munro Street and Bewdley Avenue. The presentation detailed the artistic inspiration and merits of each Public Art Piece.

Committee Discussion:

- Committee members expressed appreciation for murals and similar public art pieces in Esquimalt, noting that they are a huge benefit to the Township.
- In response to questions from the Committee, staff advised that murals are designed to withstand outdoor conditions and can last between three to five years depending on factors such as traffic and location. Staff advised that there is a plan for the ongoing maintenance or future replacement of public murals.
- Committee members expressed their interest in expanding the current scope of the street mural to be located at Munro Street and Bewdley Avenue to encompass the entire intersection as it both enhances the beauty of the area and acts as a traffic calming measure.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

1) [24-446](#) Presentation from the South Island Climbing Association

Chris MacLelland, Chair and President of the South Island Climbers Association (SICA), provided a presentation on the history and scope of the Association, highlighting that next year they will be celebrating 30 years of climbing in Esquimalt at Fleming Beach, noting that Esquimalt serves as a model of municipal support. The Association is interested in collaborating with the Township to host a celebratory event next year to mark this milestone.

Committee Discussion:

- Responding to questions from the Committee, staff advised that Fleming Beach is a highly specialized area which requires permits for use. The Township, through Alpine Solutions, conducts routine inspection of the climbing hardware at the beach, testing it for corrosion and ensuring that the hardware will not fail and replacing hardware as needed. Staff noted that the signage at Fleming Beach will be updated and replaced.
- Responding to a question from the Committee, SICA representatives noted that Fleming Beach is widely known throughout the climbing community and is featured online and in several booklets. Staff noted that information about climbing at Fleming Beach is on the Township's website.
- The Committee expressed their support of a celebration to mark 30 years of climbing at Fleming Beach, noting that it contributes to Esquimalt's uniqueness and quality of life.

2) [24-442](#) BC Hydro EV Charging Stations Program Proposal

Steve Knoke, Director of Parks and Recreation Services, gave a presentation on the BC Hydro EV Charging Stations proposal on behalf of BC Hydro, noting that questions and comments from the Committee will be provided to BC Hydro.

Committee Discussion:

- Committee members noted that the proposal would be a positive addition to the Township and aligns with climate action goals.
- Responding to questions from the Committee, staff advised that BC Hydro considered multiple locations within the Township for this proposed project and found that the proposed location at Archie Browning Recreation Centre was the best fit. Many factors informed their decision including, but not limited to, power source location and suitability, proximity to amenities and services, demand and use projections based on regional data, and accessibility during special events and other closures.
- Responding to questions from the Committee, staff advised that this would be a significant investment in Esquimalt by BC Hydro, and the Township's contribution would be limited to stall painting, asphalt patching, snow clearing, and assisting to expedite repairs and inspections which would not

have a large impact on the Township's operations. Staff advised that BC Hydro would determine and collect charging fees, and enforcement of parking infractions would not be carried out by BC Hydro and would have to be discussed by the Township. Staff noted that there is a fee for EV vehicles parked in charging stations after they are fully charged.

- Committee members raised a question about the number of proposed EV charging stations, being twelve, and wondered if this was too many and if a reduced number would be a better fit for the location. Staff noted that they will pass this information along to BC Hydro.

- Committee members voiced their support for supporting EV parking in the municipality, but also recognized the loss of traditional parking. Committee members emphasized the importance of a holistic approach involving active transportation to address climate goals while continuing to serve the community.

3) [24-443](#) Letter from the Victoria Regional Pickleball Association

Steve Knoke, Director of Parks and Recreation Services, informed the Committee that Council has also received the letter from the Victoria Regional Pickleball Association and noted that pickleball was very well attended in Esquimalt and the Township expects to continue to provide the same level of service in the coming year.

Committee members expressed interest in exploring the possibility of having dedicated pickleball courts in Esquimalt.

6. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Jeff Byron, Manager of Recreation, provided an overview of Recreation activities in Esquimalt, including statistics related to programming, classes, events, clubs, and other metrics related to recreation services and facility use.

Robbie Young, Manager of Parks, provided an update on the Green Shores and the Multi-Use Swimming Dock projects.

Steve Knoke, Director of Parks and Recreation Services, provided an update of the work done by the departments over the summer, highlighted various events held in Esquimalt, and advised the Committee that Bill Brown, Director of Development Services, will return to the Committee to discuss park development.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Member Nurmsoo, seconded by Member Redman: That the

Environment, Parks, and Recreation Advisory Committee be adjourned at 8:01 PM. Carried Unanimously.

LEE MAURO, CHAIR
ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THIS 27th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024

VICTORIA MCKEAN
RECORDING SECRETARY
CERTIFIED CORRECT