



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, January 22, 2025

6:30 PM

Esquimalt Council Chambers

Present 7 - Member Jesse Baltutis
 Vice Chair Nathanael Jones
 Member Elyse Norgaard Kituri
 Member Kyler Nurmsoo
 Member Jamie Proctor
 Chair Shona Redman
 Member Ryan Badowski

Regrets 1 - Member Lee Mauro

Council Liaisons: Councillor Duncan Cavens
 Councillor Tim Morrison

Staff Present: Steve Knoke, Director of Parks and Recreation
 Robbie Young, Manager of Parks
 Dan Henderson, Manager of Facilities
 Jonah Ross, Staff Liaison/Recording Secretary

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Staff Liaison called the Environment, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting to order at 6:31 PM.

The Staff Liaison recognized and acknowledged the Songhees and Kosapsum Nations, on whose traditional territories we live, we learn, and we do our work.

2. **LATE ITEMS**

There were no late agenda items.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Member Norgaard Kituri, seconded by Member Jones: That the agenda be approved as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

The Staff Liaison opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Member Redman was the only nomination received for the role of Chair.

Moved by Member Jones, seconded by Member Norgaard Kituri: That Member Redman be declared as Chair. Carried Unanimously.

Chair Redman opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Member Jones was the only nomination received for the role of Vice Chair.

Moved by Chair Redman, seconded by Member Baltutis: That Member Jones be declared as Vice Chair. Carried Unanimously.

5. MINUTES

- 1) [25-039](#) Minutes of the Environment, Parks, and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting held on May 22, 2024.

Moved by Member Jones, seconded by Member Nurmsoo: That the minutes of the Environment, Parks, and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held on May 22, 2024 be adopted as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

- 2) [25-036](#) Minutes of the Environment, Parks, and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held on September 25, 2024.

Moved by Member Jones, seconded by Member Baltutis: That the minutes of the Environment, Parks, and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held on September 25, 2024 be adopted as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

6. STAFF REPORTS

- 1) [25-042](#) 2025 Meeting Schedule

Moved by Member Jones, seconded by Member Norgaard Kituri: That the 2025 Meeting Schedule be received. Carried Unanimously.

- 2) [25-041](#) Informational Documents for Committee Members

Moved by Member Baltutis, seconded by Member Jones. That the Informational Documents for Committee Members be received. Carried Unanimously.

- 3) [25-033](#) Initiative Impact Assessment - Parkland Placement Acquisition and Management

The Manager of Parks presented a PowerPoint, and responded to Committee questions regarding the initiative.

Committee comments included:

- Exploring opportunities to improve connection of parklands through the

Active Transportation Network is of interest.

- Climate adaptation and mitigation considerations could be highlighted in this initiative.
- Engaging school districts as potential stakeholders would be beneficial given their large land base and provision of publicly-accessible green spaces.
- Policy frameworks could provide guidance on prioritizing native plant species which can survive the dry summer climate.
- Interest in exploring the full range of policy tools which could assist in park land acquisition.

4) [25-035](#) Community Engagement - Dock Consultation

The Manager of Parks gave a presentation regarding the Township's ongoing Dock Consultation, and upcoming engagement opportunities. The Manager responded to questions regarding the feedback process, and scoring criteria for potential dock locations.

Committee comments included:

- Prioritize locations within more established parks, as they are already well-used and equipped with appropriate facilities.
- Providing access to services at a new dock, such as paddle board rentals, may provide opportunities to boost tourism in the Township.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

1) [25-037](#) Recreation Facilities Staff Presentation

The Manager of Recreation Facilities presented a PowerPoint, and responded to questions regarding financial planning, fees and charges, and facility repairs.

2) [25-038](#) Gorge Park Entrance Concept Discussion Staff Presentation

The Manager of Parks presented a PowerPoint and responded to questions regarding design options, potential costs, and active transportation infrastructure.

Committee comments included:

- Interest in including the pump track through the trees in future designs.
- Prioritizing the single-lane design option for vehicles entering the park will improve alignment with the Active Transportation Network by reducing conflicts with the bike lanes.
- Considering options to incorporate a drop-off area at the entrance for vehicle passengers would be beneficial.

3) [25-040](#) Director's Report

The Director of Parks and Recreation provided a verbal update to the Committee regarding potential future uses for the temporary Fire Hall facility, progress made on the development of a turf field, and Recreation program attendance levels.

Staff provided the following responses to Committee questions:

- The Green Shores Project at Gorge Park is nearing completion, with work planned for cedar fencing and installation of an accessible Mobi-Mat; inspection and certification of the site by the Stewardship Centre of BC is anticipated for early spring.

Committee comments included:

- Considering long-term environmental risks of turf field breakdown is recommended, given the related challenges which are ongoing in the region.
- Interest in receiving photos of the temporary Fire Hall facility at a future meeting to assist in discussion of potential future uses.
- Pursuing opportunities to grow programs for women in sport would be beneficial given the high demand.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Member Nurmsoo, seconded by Member Baltutis: That the Environment Parks and Recreation meeting be adjourned at 8:04 PM. Carried Unanimously.

SHONA REDMAN, CHAIR
ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THIS 23rd DAY OF APRIL, 2025

JONAH ROSS
RECORDING SECRETARY
CERTIFIED CORRECT