



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

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

**Environment, Parks and Recreation  
Advisory Committee**

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Wednesday, April 22, 2026

6:30 PM

Esquimalt Council Chambers

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**Present** 8 - Chair Shona Athey  
Vice Chair Kyler Nurmsoo  
Member Jesse Baltutis  
Member Ilee Cabrera  
Member Shona Lawson  
Member David Nicol  
Member Jamie Proctor  
Member Elyse Norgaard Kituri

**Regrets** 1 - Member Kayan Panthaki

**Council**

**Liaisons:** Councillor Duncan Cavens  
Councillor Tim Morrison

**Staff:** Steve Knoke, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Robbie Young, Manager of Parks  
Dan Henderson, Facilities Manager  
Victoria McKean, Committee Coordinator/Recording Secretary

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Athey called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and acknowledged with respect the Songhees and X<sup>w</sup>sepsəm Nations on whose traditional territory we live, we learn, and we do our work.

**2. LATE ITEMS**

There were no late items.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

#### 4. MINUTES

- 1) [26-152](#) Minutes of the Environment, Parks, and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held on January 28, 2026

Moved by Member Nurmsoo, seconded by Member Nicol: That the Minutes of the Environment, Parks, and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held January 28, 2026 be adopted as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

#### 5. STAFF LIAISON UPDATE

The Director of Parks and Recreation Services and the Manager of Parks provided an update on the following items:

- Esquimalt High School Turf Field;
- Dock Network Grant application;
- BC Hydro Level 3 Chargers;
- Public Art at the Pavilion - First Nations and Japanese Art collaboration;
- Green Shores Project and Rain Garden at Esquimalt Gorge Park;
- GHG Reduction Building Retrofit Study;
- Ocean Networks Canada Oceanographic Radar proposal;
- Replacement of the Archie Brownie arena floor;
- Recreation Strategic Plan; and
- Buccaneer Days.

#### 6. STAFF REPORTS

- 1) [26-145](#) Gatherwell x Esquimalt Sauna Proposal

Johnathan Chawla, Gatherwell, presented a PowerPoint to the Committee.

Committee comments included the following:

- There is a strong cold water swimming community in Greater Victoria who may enjoy using this amenity;
- This program may benefit the proposed Dock Project;
- Concern was expressed about the cost to rent the saunas; Esquimalt is socially and economically diverse and it was suggested that other pricing models be considered to reduce barriers to access.
- Support was expressed for the creation of third spaces, promoting social interaction, and activating the public sphere;
- Staff was encouraged to consider this proposal within the context of the Zoning Bylaw, and evaluate what level of commercialization is appropriate for Esquimalt's parks - guidelines may be helpful in managing future requests or projects.

2) [26-146](#) West Bay Interpretive Platform and Pollinator Park

Vanessa Brownley, Habitat Acquisition Trust, and Rozlyne Mitchell, West Bay Residents Association presented a PowerPoint to the Committee.

Committee comments included the following:

- Support was expressed for this proposal as it may add valuable community space connecting the Songhees Walkway and West Bay Walkway;
- Educational signage at the base of and along the walkway may assist with welcoming visitors up to the platform and pollinator park.

3) [26-147](#) Gorge Park Haiku Walk

Derek Peach presented a PowerPoint to the Committee.

Committee comments included the following:

- Appreciation was expressed for this proposal as it is an interesting way to integrate other forms of art into this public space and fits well in Gorge Park's Japanese Gardens;
- There may be opportunity to collaborate with schools in Esquimalt to feature the poetry of students within our community;
- This is a project that could be developed, and funded over time;
- The use of natural materials such as rocks is a wise decision to minimize the amount of non-natural materials in our natural spaces.

4) [26-155](#) COPLAY Strategic Plan

Kabir Hosein, COPLAY, presented a PowerPoint to the Committee.

Committee comments included the following:

- This is an interesting, worthwhile initiative and staff was encouraged to consider how the Township may assist in increasing awareness of this initiative.

5) [26-157](#) WESTSONG Sensory Garden

Maria Hendrix and Michelle McDermott presented a PowerPoint to the Committee.

Committee comments included the following:

- The location seems very appropriate to provide unique opportunities for connection that are accessible;
- It was suggested that the Capital West Accessibility Advisory Committee, of which Esquimalt is a member, may benefit from receiving this presentation;
- Support was expressed for this proposal as a way to demonstrate how designing accessible spaces can positively enhance our community and is a

great advocacy opportunity for the Township to support.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Member Nurmsoo, seconded by Member Lawson: That the meeting be adjourned at 8:25 PM. Carried Unanimously.

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SHONA ATHEY, CHAIR  
ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND  
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
THIS DAY OF , 2026

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VICTORIA MCKEAN  
RECORDING SECRETARY  
CERTIFIED CORRECT