

Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee  
Agenda for Meeting to be held on  
Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 7pm at Ladysmith Little Theatre

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*The goal of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee is to provide advice and recommendations to Council regarding the establishment and implementation of Parks, Recreation and Culture priorities in the Town of Ladysmith.*

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1. Agenda Approval
2. Minutes
  - a. Minutes of the meeting held March 21 2018
3. Referred by Council
4. Unfinished Business
  - a. Aggie Signage
5. New Business
  - a. Ladysmith Youth Strategy
6. Department Update (current projects and regional activities)
  - a. Regional Recreation Update
  - b. BC Summer Games Update
7. Master Plan Discussion

**Minutes of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee  
Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 7pm (Saltair Community Centre)**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tim Richards, Chair  
Gord Horth  
Bruce Mason

Roger Kimmerly  
Tim Godau  
Councillor Duck Paterson

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Clayton Postings  
Julie Tierney

**REGRETS:**

Tara Pollock  
Jim Allair

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**AGENDA**

*Moved and seconded:*

**2018-04: That Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee approve the agenda for the meeting with the following addition: Davis Road Dog Park  
*Motion carried.***

**MINUTES**

*Moved and seconded:*

**2018-05: That Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the January 17, 2018 meeting as presented.  
*Motion carried.***

**TOUR**

T. Godau hosted the meeting at the Saltair Community Centre and provided a tour of the facility.

**DELEGATION**

**Ladysmith Youth Plan** – S. Glenn, Community Programs & Services Supervisor provided an overview of the process, emerging trends, and timeline.

**REFERRED BY  
COUNCIL**

**Aggie Natural Playspace** – The committee reviewed the proposed plan and provided feedback into possible additions to the design, proposed options for supplying water for the stream that would eliminate a cistern as well as alternatives if the water feature is deemed too costly.

*Moved and seconded:*

**2018-04: THAT the Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee support in principle the draft design for the natural playspace at Aggie propose that Council consider requesting the consultant to add additional vertical play poles, grassy knolls, and benches.**

*Motion carried.*

**UNFINISHED  
BUSINESS**

N/A

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Davis Road Dog Park** – C. Postings confirmed that the recommendations for added amenities will be considered as future capital projects. The

recommendations to improve operational items such as drainage and signage will be completed as resources become available.

**UPDATES**

**Parks, Recreation & Culture Update** – BC Summer Games volunteer applications are being accepted at their website:

<https://www.bcgames.net/cwch2018s/DesktopDefault.aspx>

**Arts & Culture Update** – The Ladysmith Theater is presenting “Once Upon a Mattress” from April 12 to May 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:10PM**

**Next Meeting will be held at 7:00pm, April 18, 2018 at Ladysmith Little Theater.**



Aggie Hall &  
Fields









# ACCESSING ACTIVITIES - TRANSPORTATION & FUNDING

## THE CHALLENGE

- Youth are frustrated by barriers to participating in cultural, recreational, job, and volunteer opportunities
- Limited public transit available within Ladysmith or surrounding areas
- Parental “taxis” are not available for all youth
- Many families can’t afford fees for participation
- Youth cannot easily access nearby Nanaimo for work or fun
- Transportation is a barrier to building community ties with Stz’uminus

## POSSIBILITIES

- ⑥ Run a local small bus or a van on a regular schedule to access after-school activities and sports venues
- ⑥ Include surrounding communities in the circuit for youth from Yellowpoint, Cassidy, etc.
- ⑥ Run a local small bus or van twice on the weekends to Nanaimo - for fun, volunteering, and work
- ⑥ Run a water taxi or ferry to join Ladysmith and Stz’uminus communities
- ⑥ Create low cost/no cost social, educational or fun activities
- ⑥ Advertise financial support initiatives via youth-serving organizations
- ⑥ Increase scholarships and subsidies, assist with applications





# ADVOCATING FOR YOUTH VOICE

## THE CHALLENGE

- Because they can't vote or pay taxes, youth's opinions are not heard compared to other citizens
- Town planning - new subdivisions, parks and trails - does not include a youth voice in the design process so their ideas and needs are not considered
- Effective youth council and advocacy groups have been formed in the past, but have not survived
- A decision-making strategy that includes the youth voice is difficult to sustain over time as projects change and youth move on and are replaced with younger peers and new ideas
- Minority groups such as LBGTQ have limited voice

## POSSIBILITIES

- ⑥ Create a sustainable framework for youth to have a voice in governance - flexible, open, and adaptable; decision-making must include listening to youth and involving their ideas
- ⑥ Finding youth voice involves training them on leadership and research inquiry. Engage youth in research projects where they seek to involve others and create connections to community. Volunteerism is very important for involving youth in community projects.
- ⑥ Support/expand leadership training so youth learn how to present and carry ideas forward:
  - Toastmasters
  - LYP Facilitation Training
  - Inclusive Leadership Training Camps
  - Ambassador Program
  - Rotary Interact Club





# BUILDING YOUTH SPACES

## THE CHALLENGE

- Youth have limited non-institutional indoor spaces that provide a healthy, casual environment to meet with others
- With the exception of the skate park, youth do not have an outdoor space where they are permitted to hang out
- The local corner store by the school, youth reported as a safe and inclusive hangout space, has closed
- Youth often are not included in the process of designing or developing public spaces
- Youth are seen as loitering if they are not engaged in work or structured activities, yet relaxed peer socializing is needed as an alternative to isolation and screen time

## POSSIBILITIES

- ⑥ Youth are looking for safe, relaxed, fun, and non-institutional indoor and outdoor venues to hang out in: spaces without shame or rejection; not isolated from the community; open 7 days a week from early morning until late at night
- ⑥ Include games, open-mic, sofas, music, inexpensive food
- ⑥ Build upon and realize the results of the PlaceMaker Project
- ⑥ Attending adults build safe, caring, respectful environment around youth, with minimal oversight
- ⑥ Allow bonfires and gatherings at Transfer Beach
- ⑥ Educate adults about how youth need undemanding free time





# CREATING A COMMUNICATION HUB

## THE CHALLENGE

- Youth are unaware of the cultural, recreational, job and volunteer opportunities available in the community
- Websites, email, Facebook are not well used by youth
- According to the survey results collected, only 60% of youth in Ladysmith participate in activities

## POSSIBILITIES

- ⑥ Maintain a central online hub with timely information on EVERYTHING that youth could participate in: activities, sports, events, projects, volunteering, job ops...
- ⑥ Include financial info on subsidies, funding, scholarships with discreet application process
- ⑥ Hold a Community Services, Activities and Opportunities Fair twice a year which brings together all the possible service providers of the activities listed above
- ⑥ Use instagram as the social media tool (83% prefer it over Facebook or email)
- ⑥ Use student councils at schools to help disseminate information through the hub to the youth community
- ⑥ Appoint a youth media liason to promote collaboration between youth and community organizations
- ⑥ Success of any initiative launched by the new Ladysmith Youth Plan will depend on timely and effective communication





# INCREASING PARTICIPATION AND VARIETY

## THE CHALLENGE

- Engagement drops after age 11 when youth no longer have as many programs and activities to choose from and tend to lose interest in participating
- Current organized activities are aimed at younger children
- The sustainability of youth programs is impacted and programs are often cancelled once youth grow up and move on

## POSSIBILITIES

- ⑥ Many youth prefer special projects rather than committing to weekly scheduled activities (exception for those involved in competitive activities)
- ⑥ Offer opportunities for novices to try entry level recreation, culture and sports activities without embarrassment
- ⑥ Offer more adrenaline enhancing activities such as rock climbing, ATV use, ocean kayaking, etc.
- ⑥ Involve youth in more community projects, supported by an effective mentoring network that guides them in self-directed learning projects
- ⑥ Offer more variety of non-school activities
- ⑥ Increase drop-in sports like basketball
- ⑥ Have more community arts-based courses and projects e.g., public art
- ⑥ Expand outdoor activities, include exploration of ocean, nearby forests





# REFRAMING SCREEN TIME

## THE CHALLENGE

- A 2015 North American study found that teens 13-18 average nine hours of screen time per day (computers, iPads and smartphones)
- Youth, parents, and educators are all struggling with the time spent “on screen” in our society, and how to navigate the decisions about responsible use
- Cyber-bullying, anxiety associated with online status, gaming addiction is on the rise
- Increased screen time with more online courses in new secondary curriculum feels overwhelming
- Students say that face-to-face conversations are becoming more difficult

## POSSIBILITIES

- ⑥ Host dialogues or open forums that invite youth, community members and parents to explore the current challenges and opportunities related to screen time
- ⑥ Expand options such as computer clubs and special programs that involve positive use of computers e.g., videography
- ⑥ Support youth in their discussions with educators regarding their experience related to online learning





# RESPONDING TO DIVERSITY

## THE CHALLENGE

- Intolerance and hostility have become present in social and mainstream media
- While Aboriginal students at LSS acknowledge that things have changed for the better since their parents and grandparents attended school in Ladysmith, exclusion and racism persist
- Many respondents from LSS and Stz'uminus Secondary suggest that the communities remain divided
- Youth from financially-challenged families have difficulty accessing activities and events; they are more vulnerable to bullying; and many need a basic food program
- Some members of the LGBTQ youth community describe a state of discomfort in a small town where everyone knows one another

## POSSIBILITIES

- ① Ensure that all advisory and decision-making groups regarding youth future in our community has Stz'uminus representation
- ① Decide on new ways to bridge the divide between the communities e.g., initiate "Reconciliation", bringing youth from two sides to discuss learning and sharing respective cultures
- ① Create a partnering class at LSS and Stz'uminus Secondary that moves back and forth between the two communities
- ① Develop a powerful and compelling VISION that will harness imagination and energy





# STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

## THE CHALLENGE

- Service clubs, community groups, parents, schools and youth themselves have much to offer but there is no unified strategy
- Community organizations often work in silos, rather than together to maximize positive impacts on youth

## POSSIBILITIES

- ⑥ Identify the roles and responsibilities of community agencies; clearly communicate who is responsible for what and describe their area of service
- ⑥ Pool resources and planning to make the most of professional services for youth
- ⑥ Explore a collaborative approach by service clubs in funding sports and cultural activities, holding events, and creating volunteering opportunities
- ⑥ Ensure representatives of organizations serving youth are included throughout the implementation of LYP to build shared commitment
- ⑥ Explore the idea of creating new forms of youth governance and representation in Town decision-making
- ⑥ Use the long-established service structures to host events where youth can practise leading e.g., a communal meal
- ⑥ Create more meaningful, community-supporting work experience e.g., community and parks stewardship





# SUPPORTING MENTAL WELLNESS

## THE CHALLENGE

- Anxiety is on the rise for youth and adults everywhere, not just in Ladysmith
- Youth with anxiety and depression have difficulty finding the right counselling support; youth reported a stigma if peers knew they were seeking help
- Support needs to be timely and accessible while fitting their personal level of need
- Resources are stretched beyond capacity yet are being reduced; issue in both Ladysmith and Stz'uminus
- Youth ages 11-13 are even more under-served in counselling support than older youth

## POSSIBILITIES

- ① Increase number of mental health counsellors
- ① Ensure discreet ways for youth to access counselling
- ① Ensure that youth are aware of and have access to the different services available
- ① Interconnect services of schools, Island Health, and community resource agencies
- ① Use youth-friendly language - not too clinical
- ① Provide hotline crisis counselling 24/7
- ① Increase access to adult mentors who could just listen