

Minutes of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee
Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 7:00pm
Frank Jameson Community Centre

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gordon Filewych
Dave Mack
Bruce Mason
Terri Merritt-Worden

Jane Nettleton
Councillor Jeff Virtanen

STAFF PRESENT:

Chris Barfoot, Lead
Kim Cheang, Minute Taker
John Knutson – Guest Speaker

REGRETS:

Colleen Butcher
Jacqueline Huard

Mitchel Lowe
Pamela Walker

**CALL TO ORDER AND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Councillor Virtanen called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and acknowledged with gratitude that the meeting was taking place on the unceded territory of the Stz'uminus First Nation.

AGENDA

2025-11:

That the Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee approve the agenda for the meeting as presented.

Motion Carried.

MINUTES

2025-12:

That the Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the June 18, 2025 meeting as presented.

Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

Welcome New Members

- New members were introduced, and each provided a brief background.

Elect Chair and Co-Chair

- The election of Chair and Co-Chair was deferred to the next meeting.

2025-13:

That the Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee defer the election of Chair and Co-Chair to the next meeting.

Motion Carried

Guest Speaker – John Knutson

- J. Knutson provided an overview of the Hill Top (also known as Brown Drive) area, including its origins, naming history, and development background.

Recreation Needs Assessment

- The regional recreation initiative is now in its fifth year, having begun with a slow rollout.

- Requisitions are based on usage metrics, such as the percentage of paid program participation from the Frank Jamseson Community Centre and other regional facilities.
- Public consultations for the recreation needs assessment are currently underway.
- Committee members raised inquiries about usage balance and concerns around equitable local access, particularly from the Nanaimo area.

Lot 108 Update

- The tender for outdoor fitness equipment (Phase 1) has been finalized and will be issued once a contractor is selected.
- A tennis court is planned as part of the sports field development in future phases.

OLD BUSINESS

Rutti Park Plan – Open House survey update

- The committee agreed to proceed with Option 3 for the park design.
- Full feedback from the open house and survey were shared with the committee.
- A final implementation plan for Rutti Park is expected before the end of year.

Emergency Access Lane through Brown Drive Update

- Staff provided an update on Council's directive to exhaust all alternative solutions before proceeding with the project.
- Development Services staff have engaged with BC Hydro property owners to examine slope/grade constraints and alternative access solutions in coordination with the Fire Department.

PRC UPDATES

- A printed copy of the update was included in the agenda package.
- C. Barfoot provided a brief verbal overview.

NEXT MEETING

7:00pm on Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at FJCC.

ADJOURNMENT

2025-14:

That the Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee adjourns this meeting at 8:25pm.

Motion Carried


Chair (Jane Nettleton)


Corporate Officer (S. Bouma)