



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF COURTENAY

BRIEFING NOTE

To: Council

File No.: 6120-02

From: Director of Recreation and Cultural Services

Date: September 28, 2017

Subject: Parks and Recreation Master Plan Consultation Update

ISSUE:

City staff have consulted with 151 participants as part of 8 focus groups and 2 community workshops to gather public recommendations for consideration in the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. To date over 600 surveys have been completed as well. As such, staff believe that this level of engagement requires an update to Council.

BACKGROUND:

In 2016 staff hired Urban Systems to begin a process that will lead to the creation of a parks and recreation master plan to replace the last one done in 1994.

The process began with a thorough evaluation of the condition of the City's parks and recreation assets. Thousands of data points were collected along with the condition of trails, parks, furnishings, buildings, sports fields, and playgrounds. This work was then used as a foundation for the next phases of the Parks and Recreation Plan process.

The inventory and analysis phase included the identification of trail gaps, the number and classification of parks, as well as recreation programs and services. The recommendations from this report along with the public input gathered through the consultation phase will inform the final master plan. The master plan recommendations will include aspirational statements as well as possible changes to levels of service with budget implications. Council will be able to affirm the recommendations or refer them back to staff for adjustment at the draft stage or prior to the final adoption of the master plan. The implementation of recommendations that have cost implications will also be a council decision through staff reports as required.

Over a four day period, City staff and consultants met with the public through eight focus groups and two community workshops. Mayor and council were invited to attend any of the sessions that would fit their schedules.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

The following is a listing of the organizations invited to offer feedback through the focus group sessions:

Recreation Advisory Groups:

CRA Board members, Evergreen Club Executive, Youth Advisory, Accessibility Committee, Early Years, Boys and Girls Club.

Indoor Recreation:

Squash Club, Recreation Instructors, Special Needs Rec, Cozy Corner Preschool, Blue Devils Swim Club, Senior Badminton.

Permanent Recreation Staff:

21 staff members were able to attend.

Cultural Groups:

CV Art Gallery, CV Community Arts Council, DCBIA, Sid Williams Theatre, Museum, CV Multicultural Society, Simms Concert Series, Elevate the Arts, Strathcona Symphony, K'omoks First Nation, CYMC, CV Pride, CV Farmers Market Assoc., VI Regional Library, HMCS Quadra.

Outdoor Recreation and Associated Groups:

CV Road Runners, K'omoks First Nation, Cycling Coalition, Project Watershed, CV Triathlon Club, Comox Bay Sailing Club, Courtenay Marina Society, CV harbour Authority, Glacier Machinery Club, CV Paddlers, Active Comox Valley, CV Mountaineering, Nordic Pole Walkers, Fish and Game Club, CV Cougars, LUSH Valley, CV Horseshoe Club.

Sports Fields and Courts:

Lawn Bowling Club, Raiders Football, CV Tennis Club, CV Baseball, CV Slo-pitch, Sports and Social Club, CV Lacrosse, CV United Soccer, CV Pickle Ball Association, CV Kickers Rugby, CV Youth Basketball Assoc., CV Field Hockey League, Evergreen Club Slo-pitch, Dawn to Dawn Soccer, Special Olympics, 55+ BC Games.

City Staff:

Public Works Services, Parks, Recreation, Planning and Development Services, Asset Management Technical Services, Engineering, Legislative Services, Finance, CAO, and Strategic Initiatives.

Municipal Partners:

CVRD, Town of Comox, Village of Cumberland, City of Courtenay, School District 71, 19 Wing Comox, K'omoks First Nation, Black Creek Community Centre, North Island College.

Community Workshops:

In addition to an open invitation to the community, the following groups were invited to the workshops:

Elementary, middle and high school PAC's and Phys. Ed teachers, Courtenay Rotary Club, Strathcona Sunrise Rotary Club, CV Monarch Lions, Kinsmen, Kiwanis Club, Soroptimist Club

Over the winter of 2017/2018 the results of the analysis and community feedback will be tabulated into a draft plan for council consideration. The draft will also be shared with the community for ongoing feedback with the final plan scheduled for the spring of 2018.

The resulting master plan will be a tool for staff and council decision making, and will set the stage for Council's consideration of levels of service, and the public's willingness to pay. It will be presented to council for adoption when the process is complete.

Respectfully submitted,



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Director of Recreation and Cultural Services