

**The Corporation of the Village of Cumberland
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

**March 18, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Council Chamber, 2675 Dunsmuir Avenue**



Council Present: Mayor Vickey Brown
Councillor Jesse Ketler
Councillor Troy Therrien

Regrets: Councillor Neil Borecky
Councillor Sean Sullivan

Staff Present: Michelle Mason, Chief Administrative Officer
Rachel Parker, Corporate Officer
Rob Crisfield, Manager of Operations
Courtney Simpson, Manager of Development Services
Annie Berard, Chief Financial Officer
Ryan Parton, Acting Manager of Parks & Recreation

1. Call to Order

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and recognized the unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation and offered gratitude for the care and stewardship of this land since time immemorial.

2. Agenda

2.1 Agenda for Committee of the Whole meeting, March 18, 2024

Motion 24-048

Moved by: Therrien

Seconded by: Ketler

THAT the Committee approve the Agenda for the March 18 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Carried Unanimously

3. Reports

3.1 Third-Party Events Assessment Criteria

Discussion took place good processes in place, on review of previous years events to resolve issues and negative impacts with organizers, and option to focus on locally produced events.

Discussion took place on permitting event-associated camping in the Village Park parking lot, which would reduce unauthorized camping on streets and impacts, and provide the ability for the organizer to manage the site. Camping in the parking lot could further push regular users out and impact access to the playground. It was generally agreed to permit camping in the parking lot when the Lake Park campground is closed.

Discussion took place on the impact of the grass turf at Village Park of continuous events through the spring and summer and to leave breaks to allow the turf to recover as well as to leave weekend park use time of five weekends from April to September for resident-use. Staff noted that the field impacts are cumulative over the long term and that vehicle and RV access to the field is limited particularly during wet weather. It was noted that dogs should not be permitted as part of camping on the field.

Discussion took place on criteria or priority of permitted events with possible priority to community fundraising events and events that donate to park and trail maintenance. Increased municipal fees for park and trail use was discussed to manage impacts on parks services with an increase fee per participant.

Discussion took place on system for higher fees for greater impact on parks and trail system, incentivizing lower impact activities, and limiting event growth, and requirement for event reporting on participant registration.

Discussion then took place on impacts of large children groups from pre-schools and public schools and fees for pre-school use as well as limits to areas for use to reduce environmental impacts, the possibility of School District No. 71 contribute to the service in some way.

3.2 Review of Outstanding Action Items and Council Policies

Discussed the need for Transportation Master Plan to be incorporated as a priority, reviewed Co-Op housing item, speed reduction in the Village, single use plastics ban, antenna policy and school active transport.

3.3 2024 Community Grant Program Applications

Discussion took place on the grant guideline restriction for re-allocation of funds, the climbing boulder project, that grant funds could be used to leverage other funds, and whether the Village could retain any granted funds until the fundraising was completed for that project.

Members noted the benefits of the Child Development Centre program to reach families not currently accessing services. Discussion took place on retaining \$1,000 in the event a request was made for support of Indigenous Peoples Day event.

Moved by: Therrien

Seconded by: Ketler

That the Committee recommend that Council allocate 2024 community grants as follows:

\$3,000 to the Beaufort Family Health Society,

\$4,000 to the Comox Valley Child Development Association, and

\$2,000 to the Rotary Club of Cumberland.

Carried Unanimously

3.4 Communications Strategy

Discussion took place on benefits and challenges of managing Village social media Facebook and Instagram pages, concern about staffing resources necessary to do so, and the value of an e-newsletter. Staff was asked to review staffing resources required for social media and report back to Council.

Motion 24-049

Moved by: Ketler

Seconded by: Therrien

THAT the Committee recommend that Council approve the additional expenditure of \$3,000.00 in the Legislative Services advertising budget, to be funded through General Financial Stabilization Reserve and THAT Council direct staff to bring forward an amendment to the adopted 2024-2028 Financial Plan Bylaw to reflect this expenditure.

Carried Unanimously

4. Question Period

5. Adjournment

Motion 24-250

Moved by: Therrien

Seconded by: Ketler

THAT the Committee of the Whole adjourn the meeting.

Carried Unanimously

Mayor

Certified Correct by Corporate Officer