



**Minutes of a Meeting of the Peninsula Recreation Commission  
Held Thursday, January 22, 2026, in the Panorama Boardroom  
1885 Forest Park Drive, North Saanich BC**

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**PRESENT**

COMMISSIONERS: N. Paltiel (Chair), P. DiBattista (Vice-Chair), K. Frost, S. Garnett, V. Kreiser, C. McNeil-Smith, P. Murray, R. Windsor

STAFF: S. Meikle, Senior Manager; K. Beck, Manager, Program Services; L. Gregg, Manager, Facilities and Operations; S. Davis, Manager, Administrative Services; D. Toso, Administrative Secretary (Recorder)

Also Present: Christine Culham, Chief Administrative Officer, District of Central Saanich; Fernando Pimentel, Deputy Director, Finance Strategic Capital Planning, District of Central Saanich

Regrets: Commissioner Jones

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

**1. Territorial Acknowledgement**

Chair Paltiel provided a territorial acknowledgement.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED** by Commissioner DiBattista, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Garnett,  
That the agenda be approved  
**CARRIED**

**3. Adoption of Minutes of November 27, 2025**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Garnett, **SECONDED** by Commissioner DiBattista,  
That the minutes of the November 27, 2025, meeting be adopted.  
**CARRIED**

Discussion ensued regarding:

- The engineers confirmed prior to the energy recovery piping being installed in the arena that they will not affect the snow load capacity of the roof.
- Staff are continuing discussions with the local first nations regarding visual representation at the Centennial Park Sport Box and engaging engineering to confirm weight bearing capacity of the building. Staff are also working on procuring artwork and planning an opening celebration and ceremony.

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### **4. Chair's Remarks**

The availability for both drop-in activities and the sponsored skating opportunities through the winter break was outstanding. The feedback received was very positive so kudos to staff for keeping things running smoothly during an operationally very busy time.

If the Commission has specific questions or considerations for Scott regarding options for borrowing for capital projects, send these through Denise, Steve and myself.

### **5. Presentations/Delegations:**

**5.1 Peninsula Minor Lacrosse Association (PLA)** – President Simon Upshon, Vice-President Rod Senior, Micah Claxton, Terri Hull and others spoke to the Association's history and operations on the Saanich Peninsula:

- A not-for-profit organization serving approximately 200 youth ages 5-17 across peninsula and coastal islands.
- Operates on a cost-recover basis only.
- Approximately 30% of membership is Indigenous youth from four WSANEC First Nations communities.
- Historically, PLA used the previous box at Centennial Park for free and initiated the covered box project.

PLA respectfully requests fee waivers or grandfathered access and continued collaboration to ensure the Centennial Park Sport Box remains accessible and affordable.

A letter from Chief Abraham Pelkey requesting continuing no-fee access to the Centennial Park Sport Box was also shared with the Commission.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Lacrosse season is April to June. During the off season, no fees are collected but programming remains available. Paying for facility us threatens ability to run programming.
- Fields are not an option for box lacrosse.
- The previous box was nearing end of life and becoming unusable. The intent is to support lacrosse as the primary user; however, the grant funding was based on multi use and equitable access is important.
- Fees are needed for cost recovery of the debt for borrowing for this facility.

The PLA delegation left the meeting at 6:49pm

### **6. Commission Business**

#### **6.1 Facility Rental Fee Adjustment Request**

S. Meikle spoke to Item 6.1:

Staff recognize the context of this request presents unique circumstances not experienced by other user groups. Demand has increased across multiple sport groups and following the Facility Allocation policy, PLA meets the highest level of use criteria as a not-for-profit youth organization with deep roots in the First Nations communities on the Peninsula.

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Fee increases should align with the user groups registration timelines; this didn't happen with PLA. Staff is prepared to work with PLA to find solutions and are seeking direction from the Commission.

**MOVED** by Commissioner Kreiser, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Garnett,  
That the Peninsula Recreation Commission decline the approval of the waiving of fees.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Sport box usage breakdown.
- Fees and scheduling accommodations.
- PLA's fees to date.
- Staff are actively working through the limitations of booking software to improve the clarity of times available for walk-up use and bookable use.

**MOVED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Windsor,  
That the recommendation that the Peninsula Recreation Commission decline the approval of waiving fees be tabled.

**CARRIED**

Discussion ensued regarding:

- The onus is on the group to inquire about fees; however, helping PLA make this transition is reasonable.
- Central Saanich did not intend for PLA to have free access on an ongoing basis at the multi-sport box.

**MOVED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Murray,  
That the fees from September 1 to December 31, 2025, be waived.

**CARRIED**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Windsor, **SECONDED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith,  
That the tabled motion be lifted.

**CARRIED**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Windsor, **SECONDED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith,  
That the main motion be amended by adding the words "from January 1, 2026" after the word "fees."

**CARRIED**

Discussion ensued regarding:

- Alternative 2, phased approach.
- Affect on youth sport and First Nation communities.
- PLA registration fees and season timelines.
- Sponsorship, board advertising and/or other fundraising opportunities.
- PLA's historical practice of block booking then releasing dates not needed for games.
- The children that may miss opportunities.

The question was called on the motion as amended:

**That the Peninsula Recreation Commission decline the approval of the waiving of fees from January 1, 2026.**

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**CARRIED**

**Opposed:** Commissioners DiBattista, Paltiel

Motion Arising:

**MOVED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Kreiser,  
That staff be directed to negotiate a proposal with Peninsula Lacrosse Association and bring it back to the Commission.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- In-kind partnership agreements.
- Commission support of local First Nations communities.
- Viewing this request in context of the sport box project.
- Revenue from board advertising vs. cash donations.

The question was called on the motion arising:

**That staff be directed to negotiate a proposal with Peninsula Lacrosse Association and bring it back to the Commission.**

**CARRIED**

**6.2 2025 Operating Surplus**

S. Davis spoke to Item 6.2.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- More comprehensive year-end financials will come to the commission in March.
- Increasing capital reserve over time.

**MOVED** by Commissioner Murray, **SECONDED** by Commissioner DiBattista,  
That any operating surplus first be used to transfer \$41,517 back to operating reserves, and that any remaining operating surplus be transferred to the capital reserve.

**CARRIED**

**6.3 Verdier Daycare Development Update – Verbal**

S. Meikle reported that:

- In December 2025, funding was approved for the construction of a residential building at 1183 Verdier Ave; the project completion date is March 2028.
- There is still a desire for PRC to operate a daycare onsite.
- Staff will work towards bringing a fulsome financial and service delivery analysis back to the Commission in late Spring.

The report was received for information.

**6.4 Peninsula Recreation Commission Meeting Dates for 2026**

S. Meikle spoke to Item 6.3.

Discussion ensued regarding:

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- Given the expedited budget process because it is an election year, and an August meeting is likely, the schedule should be amended to confirm the August date by removing “at the call of the chair.”

**MOVED** by Commissioner McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Windsor,  
That the proposed 2026 Commission meeting dates be approved as amended.  
**CARRIED**

C. Culham and F. Pimentel left the meeting at 8:13 pm

**7. New Business**

There was none.

**8. Motion to Close the Meeting**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Windsor, **SECONDED** by Commissioner DiBattista,  
That the meeting be closed for Labour Relations in accordance with Section (90)(1)(c) of the  
Community Charter. [1 item]  
**CARRIED**

The Commission moved to the closed session at 8:14 pm.

**10. Rise and Report**

The Commission rose from the closed session at 8:18 pm without report.

**11. Adjournment**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Windsor, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Garnett,  
That the meeting be adjourned at 8:18 pm.  
**CARRIED**

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CHAIR

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RECORDER