



**Minutes of a Meeting of the Peninsula Recreation Commission
Held Thursday, August 27, 2026, in the Panorama Boardroom
1885 Forest Park Drive, North Saanich BC**

PRESENT:

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

STAFF: S. Meikle, Senior Manager; K. Beck, Manager, Program Services; S. Davis, Manager, Administrative Services; L. Gregg, Manager, Facilities & Operations; G. Harris, Acting General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services; M. Medland, Financial Services Advisor; D. Toso, Administrative Secretary (Recorder)

Regrets: Commissioners Jones, Murray, Windsor, McNeil-Smith

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

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Commissioner DiBattista provided a territorial acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Commissioner Stock, SECONDED by Commissioner Garnett,
That the agenda be approved.
CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes of June 25, 2026

MOVED by Commissioner DiBattista, SECONDED by Commissioner Garnett,
That the minutes of the June 25, 2026 meeting be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Chair's Remarks: There were none.

5. Presentations/Delegations: There were none.

6. Commission Business

6.1 2027 Budget Review and Approval Process – Panorama Recreation

S. Davis spoke to Item 6.1.

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- The budget presented tonight is the provisional budget and includes debt servicing costs for both the proposed Central Saanich facility and the arena accessibility improvement project. Should either or both of these projects not move forward or be delayed the budget will be amended to remove those debt servicing costs and the requisition will be reduced

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accordingly. Any resulting amendments to the budget would be presented to the Commission early in the new year prior to final approval by the CRD Board in March 2027.

- Wage increases due to the collective agreement do not apply to contractors.
- General increases in insurance are occurring across the board, in addition to increases due to a new cyber security rider.
- Commendation to staff on budget presentation.
- Heat Recovery system savings will be more accurately projected after a full year of operation of the system but may be tempered by future increases in utility rates. The system is currently in week 3 of commissioning.
- Legal costs have stabilized.
- The CRD Executive Leadership Team has reviewed the information presented tonight; the provisional budget will go before the Board on September 23, 2026.
- Crystal Pool closure is not expected to have significant impact on attendance and revenue.
- Communications allocations is a CRD centralized service with full-time staff onsite; allocations for Human Resources include two full-time staff based at headquarters.
- Targeted increases in fees, rather than a shift to a higher user-pay ratio, were included in this year's budget to mitigate requisition increase. Removing debt servicing related to larger capital projects that are yet to be confirmed reduces the increase to requisition for the current year as follows:
 - Excluding the facility in Central Saanich and including the arena: 6.03%
 - Excluding the arena improvement project and including the facility in Central Saanich: 5.88%
 - Excluding both the arena and Central Saanich projects: 4.67%
- Question raised concerning the impacts of recently announced tariffs. The operating budget is not expected to be greatly impacted given local purchasing of goods and services and the capital project budgets contain contingency for the uncertainty of the impacts of tariffs.
- Most grant revenue is associated with provincial childcare subsidy. Staff are consistently seeking other grant opportunities for programming and for larger projects.
- Maintenance purchasing has been smooth; changes to paper towel dispensing are having a positive impact.
- Clarification that lines 7 and 8 of the budget, CRD allocations for Human Resources and Communications, include wages and benefits not reflected in line 1.

**MOVED by Commissioner Rintoul, SECONDED by Commissioner Stock,
The Peninsula Recreation Commission recommends the Committee of the Whole
recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:
That Appendix A, Operating & Capital Budget 2027-2031 – Panorama Recreation, be
approved as presented and form the basis of the Provisional 2027-2031 Financial Plan.**

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- This is the provisional budget, not a commitment to capital projects yet to be approved.
- The operating budget for the recreation facility in Central Saanich is not included in the budget as the project is not expected to be complete until 2030/31.
- While a cap on increases closer to 3 to 4% is preferred in the current economic climate, this is a good budget considering the requisition increase without the capital project(s) noted earlier.
- Projected requisition increase over the next five years is concerning because of community feedback about economic pressures.

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The question was called on the motion:

The Peninsula Recreation Commission recommends the Committee of the Whole recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

That Appendix A, Operating & Capital Budget 2027-2031 – Panorama Recreation, be approved as presented and form the basis of the Provisional 2027-2031 Financial Plan.

CARRIED

Opposed: Garnett

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Commissioner Paltiel, SECONDED by Commissioner Riddell,

That the Peninsula Recreation Commission ask for staff to review and report back on:

- 1) What constitutes the CRD overhead allocations with an analysis of any cost saving measures connected to the CRD overhead allocations; and**
- 2) A requisition equity formula based on location and program proximity.**

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Just as the Commission recently considered requisition to user pay ratio, looking at means beyond population to calculate requisition is also an important consideration for the future Commission.
- The need for the Commission to be mindful of where it is willing to invest capital funds and the impact those decisions have on equity for residents throughout the sub-region.
- On point 1, specifically looking at budget lines 6 through 9.
- Due to the implications of point 2, it would have been better to receive it as a Notice of Motion and have the full Commission in attendance - 3 alternates are here tonight.
- Brentwood Bay residents – specifically parents with young children, have very limited access. For example, a mom travelling one hour on a bus with a stroller is not happening. As a result, many residents may be paying significant tax and not getting services in return.
- Sport Box in Centennial Park should be acknowledged in discussions of regional equity.
- The motion is simply asking staff to bring back information that would be helpful for future commission discussions.

MOVED by Commissioner Rintoul, SECONDED by Commissioner Garnett,

That the motion be severed into its two parts.

CARRIED

The Chair called the question on part one of the motion:

That the Peninsula Recreation Commission ask staff to review and report back on what constitutes the CRD overhead allocations with an analysis of any cost saving measures connected to the CRD overhead allocations

CARRIED

Discussion ensued on part two of the motion:

- The expenditure decision about a recreation facility in Central Saanich is more about tax room and the current state of the world than about regional equity.
- Given the growth over the last 20 years under this funding model, a review is appropriate.
- Prices for everything have increased since COVID, putting pressure on all residents.

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The Chair called the question on part two of the motion:

That the Peninsula Recreation Commission ask for staff to review and report back on a requisition equity formula based on location and program proximity.

DEFEATED

Opposed: Stock, Kreiser, Rintoul, Garnett, Frost

6.2 Recreation Facility in the District of Central Saanich – Verbal Update

S. Meikle provided the following update:

- Sidney Council considered the revised scope borrowing authorization bylaw on August 10 and resolved to gather further public input and defer decision to the September 14, 2026 meeting.
- North Saanich Council's next meeting is September 21, 2026. The additional information requested by North Saanich will be sent by Commissioner DiBattista.
- Approximately \$55,000 has been spent on design work and legal services to develop a memorandum of understanding.

6.3 Arena Accessibility Improvement Project – Verbal Update

- Staff completed the request for proposal process for architectural and engineering services and has awarded the contract to Faulkner Browns.
- The Commission approved prioritizing Arena B changerooms and lobby renovations. The consultant will provide a phased approach that will avoid having to undo work done to move to the next phase.
- An option analysis would come back to the Commission in February/March 2027.
- Staff plan to remain as operational as possible through renovation.
- Staff are exploring food service options as the previous concession vendor cannot continue operating.

7. New Business: There was none.

8. Adjournment

**MOVED by Commissioner Frost, SECONDED by Commissioner Stock,
That the meeting be adjourned at 7:12 pm.**

CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDER