



**Minutes of a Meeting of the Peninsula Recreation Commission
Held Thursday, September 24, 2026, in the Panorama Boardroom
1885 Forest Park Drive, North Saanich BC**

PRESENT:

COMMISSIONERS: N. Paltiel (Chair), K. Frost, S. Garnett, V. Kreiser, S. Riddell (for R. Windsor)

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

Guests: L. Cunningham (EP); S. Duck

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

EP=Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Commissioner Paltiel provided a territorial acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED by Commissioner Kreiser, SECONDED by Commissioner Frost,
That New Business [Item 10] be moved to Item 8 with three items added and that the
agenda be approved as amended.**

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes of August 27, 2026

**MOVED by Commissioner Kreiser, SECONDED by Commissioner Garnett,
That the minutes of the August 27, 2026 meeting be adopted.**

CARRIED

- 4. Chair's Remarks:** As this is the last meeting of this board, I want to thank staff and Commissioners and acknowledge that every facility this Commission stewards sits on the territory of the W̓S̓ÁNEĆ people. I've come to appreciate that this table is unlike any other in the region. We have three municipalities, North Saanich, Sidney, and Central Saanich, working together, setting aside boundaries to form resources as a single community. Respecting each other here as equals is part of what makes this happen and it's the most valuable thing that we produce as a Commission. I appreciate that we're continuing to look to building and working together as a board and as an organization.

This is one of the oldest communities by age and every budget cycle, somebody reasonably doing their job asks whether we can continue to hold recreation as a line item. And I understand that instinct, but I don't think this is a cost centre, this is health infrastructure. Whether it's someone in Aquafit class who is less likely to fall, a senior that's less isolated

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or a youth that's having outreach and an opportunity to make friends, being connected, independent and dignified for five, ten, or more years is preventative healthcare – and one of the least expensive preventative healthcare measures that anyone can do in this region. And while the savings don't show up on Island Health's ledger, the cost shows up on ours, so as we look at the opportunities before this board both tonight and in the future, it's important to look at the benefits of connecting W̱SÁNEĆ nations, our aging populations and, perhaps most importantly, the ecosystem around that population in recruiting healthcare, services, commercial enterprise and sustaining what we have that makes this place special.

It has been a sincere privilege to work with the team here, the individuals that have come together and adapt and respond to the changing needs and opportunities – you are doing a tremendous and ambitious amount of work. I thank you for everything you do and for the privilege of serving as commissioner and chair.

- 5. Presentations/Delegations:** L. Cunningham spoke about the need for a wheelchair viewing platform in Arena A, both for her father and for the many elders and community members with limited mobility who struggle to attend games. Understanding there is a long-term capital plan in place, short-term solutions, such as temporary wood or aluminum options, should be considered. Ms. Cunningham is happy to fundraise or sponsor such efforts and asks for continued communication and openness and understanding for private funding.

Ms. Cunningham left the meeting at 6:16 pm.

6. Commission Business

6.1 Financial Statement of Operations – Second Quarter of 2026

S. Davis spoke to Item 6.1.

- Removing the Hovey Road project \$940,000 to capital reserves.
- The Heat Recovery project is complete, commissioned and expected to be slightly under budget.

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- A full year of operations of the heat recovery system will be needed to accurately project savings and future budget amounts.
- Staff received appreciation and commendation for their work.

This report was received for information.

6.2 New Policy: Accessible and Inclusive Recreation

K. Beck spoke to Item 6.2.

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Amending item 3.5 Guide and Service animals to accommodate emotional support or therapy animals with certification, such as for military or ex-military personnel.
- Policy will be reviewed annually.

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- No external funding structure exists for inclusion support for kids outside of childcare programs. Once the policy is in place, there is more work procedurally to come to look at ways to provide support. Meanwhile, the Leisure Assistant pass is available.
- The policy formalizes what is in place so there are no immediate impacts to operations or the community.
- The approved policy will be published on our website, and any processes will be clearly identified alongside the programming information.
- Gender neutral washrooms are located throughout the facility. Recreation facilities are seeing an increased demand for single-stalled private use washrooms and changerooms, a trend that will inform future arena design.

**MOVED by Commissioner Kreiser, SECONDED by Commissioner Riddell,
That the new Accessible and Inclusive Recreation policy be approved.
CARRIED**

6.3 Remuneration for Peninsula Recreation Commissioners

S. Meikle spoke to Item 6.3.

- With the removal of the Central Saanich project, the requisition will be adjusted for final budget approval in April to 6.03% excluding commission remuneration or 6.37% including remuneration.

Discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Budget impacts
- For future consideration: remuneration should be revisited and considered as a non-elected official member benefit.

**MOVED by Commissioner Kreiser, SECONDED by Commissioner Garnett,
That the Peninsula Recreation Commission recommend that Commissioners not receive per meeting remuneration under the CRD Board Remuneration and Travel Expense Reimbursement Policy.
CARRIED**

6.4 Municipal Consent for Loan Authorization Bylaw – Verbal Update

S. Meikle spoke to Item 6.4:

- The loan authorization request for the recreation facility in Central Saanich did not receive municipal consent.
- Commission had approved up to \$1,000,000 from our capital reserves to support the design and the work to this point. Staff spent approximately \$60,000.
- The demonstrated need for better access to recreation facilities on the South peninsula still exist. Staff will continue to look for options.
- Through this process, staff noted the lack of awareness in council and the community of how the tri-municipal sub-regional model works and the budget efficiencies this model creates. Also there is a need to communicate the benefits of easy access to recreation and wellness programs and facilities. Staff will work on highlighting these benefits and creating greater awareness for the future.

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7. Correspondence

7.1 Minimum Service Level Policy

S. Meikle spoke to Item 7.1:

- Staff met with Mr. Hannah and shared factors that are considered when allotting time in the pool to various groups and activities, including the principle behind our allocation policy of balancing the needs of all in the community.
- Mr. Hannah felt that no further follow up was required.

7.2 Temporary Wheelchair Viewing Platform

S. Meikle spoke to Item 7.2:

- All signage has been updated in the arena.
- Any adjustments to the platform will require fire and building permits.
- Chairlifts are challenging with the arena stairwells but may be possible.

8. New Business

8.1 Staff recognition and commendation

- Great work with the inflatable at the special event at Mary Winspear recently.

8.2 The ammonia leak and waterslide closure at Oak Bay Recreation

- Panorama's waterslide is included in the capital plan for replacement in 2030 as part of our asset management program.
- The ammonia leak was caught early by their system, and the facility was closed out of an abundance of caution.

8.3 W̱SÁNEĆ representation on the Peninsula Recreation Commission

- Work is still being done between the CRD and the W̱SÁNEĆ nations.
- Panorama staff are working on building relationships with the nations in a number of different ways, the sport box is a prime example, increasing the visibility, awareness of the nations on the peninsula through artwork, and other means.

9. Motion to Close the Meeting

**MOVED by Commissioner Garnett, SECONDED by Commissioner Frost,
That the meeting be closed for personal information in accordance with Section (90)(1)(b)
of the Community Charter [1 item].
CARRIED**

The Peninsula Recreation Commission moved to the closed session at 7:04 pm.

10. Rise and Report

The Peninsula Recreation Commission rose from the closed session at 7:16 pm without report.

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11. Adjournment

**MOVED by Commissioner Frost, SECONDED by Commissioner Garnett,
That the meeting be adjourned at 7:16 pm.
CARRIED**

CHAIR

RECORDER