



The Village of
PORT CLEMENTS
"Gateway to the Wilderness"

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7:00 PM, Monday, November 6th, 2023
Minutes of the Committee of the Whole

Present:

Mayor Scott Cabianca
Councillor Brigid Cumming - via conferencing
Councillor Kazamir Falconbridge – via conferencing
Councillor Dennis Reindl

Not Present:

Councillor Wayne Nicol

CAO Marjorie Dobson
Deputy CAO Elizabeth Cumming

Members of the public: Marilyn Bliss, Maureen Bailey, Elizabeth Stewart, and Dave Unsworth

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 PM

Mayor Scott Cabianca: I call to order this committee of the whole meeting of the Council of the Village of Port Clements being held on the traditional territory of the Haida People.

1. ADOPT AGENDA

2023-11-264- Moved by Councillor Reindl,
THAT the Committee adopts the November 6th, 2023, Committee of the Whole Agenda as presented.
CARRIED

Councillor Cumming joined the meeting at 7:03 PM

2. REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS

D-1-Community Park Development/Millennium Park

- *Discussion started with identification of specific items under the topic of the Community Park/Millennium Park that need to be addressed: Community Park Washroom, St. Mark's Church, Sports Courts, etc. There was general agreement of the desire to maintain the parks and add/enhance them, and that having a functional park is for everyone's benefit.*
- *Discussion around the Millennium Park identified work has been done in the park with tree topping, birdhouses, and generally doing okay with what it has. Question on whether it could serve as a youth facility or return of music nights/hangout, but not discussed in detail. Elizabeth Stewart identified that Vibrant Community Commission (as a member), has interest in getting activity going in St. Marks and have found challenges with potential issues (structural, insurance, etc) with what they were thinking of. Elizabeth Stewart interest in Winter Bazaar to be held in St. Marks, if can get Council approval (potentially December 23rd). Suggestion to ask to do it in the pub or Community Hall, but St. Marks preferred for a small activity (easier to decorate, organize, etc) as well as a beautiful space (when decorated, and music playing, etc). Would need more organization and coordination as well as review of the facility with Public Works. Conversation went into upcoming activities with the Recreation Commission intending to do a caroling activity in St. Marks. General agreement that it would be wonderful to have more use of St. Marks, and that the public and commission have to bring ideas to the table while Council will look at reducing red tape.*

- Discussion around the Community Park broke away into a few main areas: Community Park Washrooms, ATV/BMX/Vandalism issues, BMX track/trail, Old Concession Stand, Bandstand.
- Discussion of Community Park Washrooms identified that the current state of the washrooms is not suitable – insulation issues means that it does not function in the winter, it is unfinished on the inside – would be nice to have something like in Daajing Giids. However, this was countered that washrooms are similar to those at the Farmer’s Market in Daajing Giids, which are also not winterized and close after October 1st for the winter, it also has a concrete floor and unfinished inside. Discussion evolved to consideration that one of the washroom areas could be overhauled and winterized as a practical solution as people needing to use the washrooms are still going to the Community Park. One suggestion to have an outhouse instead. Suggestion that at some point at least should get finishing cement for the floors so they can be easier washed. The Community Park Washrooms has been brought up for more than 10+ years, so there is a strong desire for it.
- Discussion of ATV/BMX/Vandalism issues identification that enforcement is a challenge. Question of if possible to have a caretaker up in the Community Park, however, that occurred when their was a house up at the community park for the caretaker to stay in (at times the CAO or Deputy CAO). That building was removed 20+ years ago. There is a sign for “no motorized vehicles” but it has been vandalized to be the wrong way around. Disagreement of whether vandalism has severely increased since no longer having caretaker in park, and issue seems to fluctuates – some years good, others bad, depends on the youth in the community. Suggestions to install cameras, acknowledgement that cannot provide 24/7 monitoring. Additional suggestion to have livestream monitoring (have it on youtube or something) for public to oversee and report issues. However, no general conclusion on this topic.
- Discussion of BMX/trail area revolved around desire to attract youth/families to Port Clements, and to have them in an area where they would not be doing damage to other infrastructure (more contained). Originally there was a BMX area built by volunteers that has since been overgrown. Discussion of this also included identification of trail building/pump-track project and society that pursues those kinds of projects (has conditions such as a local board director). Potential for walking trail network that extends into the forest. Concern for safety in area behind the mudbog as it is not as visible.
- Discussion around the Old Concession Stand mostly revolved around the potential of removing the current structure and building new and better concession stands (especially to meet Canada Day Vendor’s needs). Disagreement on whether Old Concessions stands need replacement or renovation, but majority discussed replacement with a new facility. In particular an insulated building with running water, electricity, and individual cubicle/areas for multiple vendors. One suggestion was a open structure with pull down roof/shelter for bad weather – but general need for counters, clean area, place to wash hands, electricity. The Old Concession Stands have been on the radar for a while, so there is sustained interest in it.
- Discussion of a Bandstand (also referred to as a bandshell/bandstage/Clamshell bandstage/stage, etc) identified that it would be a great enhancement to the Community Park, even if it was only used for 1-2 events a year (could be multi-purpose for music/theater/etc). It would be good for it to be connected to a Community Park PA System (there used to be one that worked well, but not anymore). It would be nice if it was something like the stage at the Edge of the World Music Festival, but smaller, potentially could be an expensive project so it would be better to keep it simple. There was some consideration of potential location – on the hill between the playground and parking lot, or where the hockey arena was by the sports courts, or the upper piece of land overlooking the baseball diamond. The gazebo/shelter between the baseball field and playground was initially intended to be a band stage but it evolved in the project.

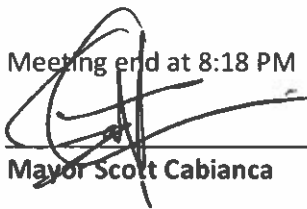
- *Other ideas brought up but not discussed in detail: dog park, race track oval could be rehabilitated, replacing areas of turf (grass) with clover in low-use areas, end of the race track oval could have a temporary ice rink or roller rink that can turn into an ice rink, pool (and hot tub & sauna) to tie into supportive housing, removing the old firemen's training structure and generally cleaning the left entry area to the Community Park.*
- *Discussion included question on how to proceed forward, do they seek bids from contractors first or find the money first (grant, etc), or do the plan/proposal first? General agreement that need a plan that is compatible with money/grant – need to find available grants, working with the grant writer to find them, and have plans that meet their requirements/conditions for funding. Identification that staff have an upcoming meeting with the Grant Writer scheduled.*

2023-11-265--Moved by Mayor Cabianna,

THAT the Committee recommends to Council that Council follow up with Andrew Hudson (the Grant Writer) about the concession stands, community park washrooms and stage.

CARRIED

Meeting end at 8:18 PM



Mayor Scott Cabianna



CAO Marjorie Dobson

