



MEETING OF THE NORTH VANCOUVER RECREATION & CULTURE COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 4:30 pm

VIA TEAMS

MEETING AGENDA

I. Call to Order - Indigenous Acknowledgement

- "On behalf of the Commissioners and those present, I express my gratitude to the Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation, and we appreciate the opportunity to learn, live and share experiences on these traditional and unceded territories. North Vancouver Recreation & Culture is committed to building relationships with First Nation communities and this acknowledgement is one small step in honoring their culture, history and stewardship of the land."

II. Approval of the Agenda

III. Adoption of the Minutes of the Last Meeting Attachment

IV. Mandate and Strategic Plan Vision, Values and Goals Attachments

V. Director's Update Attachment

VI. Other Business

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 4:30 pm via Teams.

VIII. Adjournment



Meeting of the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission

Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at 5:00 pm

Via Teams

MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners in attendance: Councillor Lisa Muri, DNV (Chair)
Mayor Linda Buchanan, CNV (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Angela Girard, CNV
Mayor Mike Little, DNV
Dr. Leanne McCarthy, CNV CAO
David Stuart, DNV CAO
Heather Turner, Director of Recreation & Culture

Staff: Mike Hunter, Deputy Director
Jennifer Wilson, Manager, Strategic Initiatives
Christine Walker, Acting Manager of Recreation
Karen Pighin, Cultural Services Supervisor
Veronica Labrosse, Executive Assistant

I. Call to Order – Indigenous Acknowledgment

Chair Muri called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm and provided the following Indigenous Acknowledgement:

- "On behalf of the Commissioners and those present, I express my gratitude to the Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation, and we appreciate the opportunity to learn, live and share experiences on these traditional and unceded territories. North Vancouver Recreation & Culture is committed to building relationships with First Nation communities and this acknowledgement is one small step in honoring their culture, history and stewardship of the land."

II. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Commissioner Buchanan; **seconded** by Commissioner Little

THAT the meeting agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

III. Adoption of the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Buchanan; **seconded** by Commissioner Little

THAT the minutes of the May 23, 2024 meeting be adopted.

Carried

IV. Arts & Culture Grants Appeal

Commissioner Turner advised that Karen Pighin, Cultural Services Supervisor, and Peter Zednik, Arts & Culture Grants Review Committee Chair, were in attendance.

K. Pighin spoke to the Belweder North Shore Polish Association's history and their appeal, and the Arts & Culture Grants Appeal Committee's consideration. Chair Muri asked if there were any questions and none were received.

Moved by Commissioner Little; **seconded** by Commissioner Buchanan

THAT the Commission approve the recommendation of the Arts & Culture Grants Appeal Committee to maintain the 2024 grant as initially awarded to the Belweder North Shore Polish Association in the amount of \$7,500.

Carried

Chair Muri thanked K. Pighin and P. Zednik for their attendance.

V. Mandate; Vision, Goals and Commitments

Commissioner Turner spoke to the report and discussion ensued.

In light of clarifying questions and suggested revisions, Chair Muri asked that the motion be amended to reflect that the Commission is receiving the report for information, and that it will be brought back to a future meeting for Commission consideration.

Moved by Commissioner Little; **seconded** by Commissioner Buchanan

THAT the motion be amended to receive the report for information;

AND THAT a revised draft of the Mandate; Vision, Goals and Commitments be presented to the Commission for consideration at a future meeting.

Carried

Moved by Commissioner Little; **seconded** by Commissioner Buchanan

THAT the report be received for information;

AND THAT a revised draft of the Mandate; Vision, Goals and Commitments be presented to the Commission for consideration at a future meeting.

Carried

VI. Arts Strategy

Chair Muri invited questions and comments from Commissioners.

Following the discussion, Chair Muri asked that the motion be amended to add that along with the draft Arts Strategy being received for information, it will be discussed at a future meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Buchanan; **seconded** by Commissioner McCarthy

THAT the motion be amended to receive the report for information;

AND THAT a revised draft Arts Strategy be discussed by the Commission at a future meeting.

Carried

Moved by Commissioner Buchanan; **seconded** by Commissioner McCarthy

THAT the report be received for information;

AND THAT a revised draft Arts Strategy be discussed by the Commission at a future meeting.

Carried

VII. Director's Update

Commissioner Turner spoke to items in the report.

VIII. Other Business

Chair Muri asked if there was further business and there was none.

IX. Next Meeting

Chair Muri advised the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 4:30 pm via Teams.

X. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Buchanan; **seconded** by Commissioner Little

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Carried

Approved:

Recorded by:

Lisa Muri, Chair

Veronica Labrosse, Executive Assistant

Date



Commission Meeting Date:

September 10, 2024

Author: Heather Turner, Director of Recreation & Culture

Subject: Mandate and Strategic Plan: Vision, Values and Goals

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the Commission approve the Mandate (Attachment 1) and recommend approval to both City Council and District Council;

AND THAT the Commission approve the Strategic Plan: Vision, Values and Goals (Attachment 2).

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Recommended Mandate
2. Recommended Strategic Plan: Vision, Values and Goals
3. Current Mandate (excerpt from the Establishing Bylaw)
4. Current Strategic Plan

BACKGROUND:

The mandate of the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission (NVRC) is set by Councils of the City (CNV) and District (DNV) and outlined in the Bylaws. The Commission has proposed a number of changes to the Mandate as shown in Attachment 1; Commission approval is required, followed by approval by both Councils.

In addition, the Strategic Plan requires renewal and has been the subject of Commission discussions in 2024. The renewal process was planned for 2020 though was delayed due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and then further delayed until implementation of the Commission's governance structure changes which occurred in early 2024. The new Vision, Values and Goals require approval by the Commission and will then be shared with Councils and widely communicated.

DISCUSSION:

Mandate

The Commissioners have determined that a number of changes are desired in the NVRC Mandate. Some of the revisions are to have greater alignment with the Strategic Plans of the municipalities and others are a shift in role. The notable shifts are for NVRC, an entity of the CNV and DNV, to be the:

- **Leader** of processes to identify needs for indoor and outdoor services, facilities and venues, and to be the primary liaison to outdoor facility and venue user groups;
- **Coordinator** of recommending fees for outdoor facilities and venues to be consistent with indoor fees, and to ensure coordinated consultation with user groups;
- **Provider** of input into park, playground and plaza design to support recreation, arts and sport;
- **Supporter and provider** of a variety of neighbourhood and community events to connect residents and showcase arts; and the
- **Lead convenor** of consultation and information-sharing with and between those interested in arts, sport and recreation services.

While some of these functions have been within NVRC's role to an extent, the Commissioners recommend that NVRC have a broader mandate related to outdoor recreation, to be the lead contact for organizations and individuals related to arts, recreation and sport for all municipal matters, and to approve all municipal grants that support arts, recreation and sport. In addition, inclusion of a statement regarding reducing barriers to participation is recommended in order to elevate this priority.

Strategic Plan

The Commission has a Strategic Plan that is aligned with the municipal plans and focuses priority-setting and resource allocation. The Strategic Plan is supplemented with an annual plan of initiatives, actions and focuses that help to realize the Vision and Goals. The Values articulate what will guide decision-making and the way NVRC staff work with others and internally. The new Vision, Values and Goals are the result of numerous Commission discussions in 2024.

The new Vision includes two main components: one related to individuals, and the other related to the livability and vibrancy of communities. The Goals include:

- Focus on reducing barriers to provide opportunities for all individuals and families to improve their health and wellbeing;
- Facilitation, through both support and direct provision, of a continuum of experiences that enhance both individual quality of life and enrich communities;
- Intention to connect individuals to one another and enable all residents to feel welcome and included;
- Influencing the understanding of the value to all of community recreation and arts; and
- Maximizing the benefits of the partnership between the CNV and DNV to the municipalities and residents.

COMMUNICATION AND CONCURRENCE:

Following Commission approval, the Mandate requires approval by both Councils which will be sought this fall. Ultimately, the Establishing Bylaws and Delegation Bylaws will need to reflect revisions to the Mandate.

The Strategic Plan is within the authority of the Commission to revise and approve as needed. The Plan will be shared with Councils, staff, service partners, related organizations and the public.

CONCLUSION:

The Commissioners have identified desired revisions to the Mandate of NVRC and the Vision, Values and Goals. These are critical steps in strengthening the partnership between the CNV and DNV related to the joint planning and delivery of recreation and arts, and in clarifying the role and focus of the NVRC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'H. Turner', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Heather A. Turner
Director of Recreation & Culture



Mandate of the North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission

The District of North Vancouver and City of North Vancouver are committed to partnering to ensure the provision of equitable, accessible, diverse and affordable recreation and arts services and experiences for residents of North Vancouver, and mandate the Commission, on their behalf to:

- a. Deliver and facilitate accessible recreation and art opportunities that positively impact personal growth, improved health and wellness, connection with others, and enhanced family cohesion for all North Vancouver residents;
- b. Reduce barriers to enable all residents the opportunity to participate in public services and programs;
- c. Foster a healthy arts system that enriches the community, provides opportunities for individual experiences and enhances, showcases and celebrates the unique character of North Vancouver;
- d. Operate and maintain Core Facilities;
- e. Provide recommendations to the municipalities regarding priority indoor and outdoor facilities, spaces and amenities needed to support public participation in arts, recreation and sport;
- f. Lead the development of plans, evaluation, strategies and policies related to recreation and arts services, spaces, operations, processes and fees in response to changing needs and priorities;
- g. Approve municipal grants to support arts, recreation and sport, and provide recommendations on applicable grant programs and policies; and
- h. Provide relevant professional expertise and support to fulfill the municipalities' roles and visions.



Strategic Plan: Vision, Values and Goals

Vision

All residents are inspired and enabled to be active, creative and connected to their community, and the livability and vibrancy of North Vancouver are enhanced through a network of equitable and accessible opportunities and places to recreate, celebrate, play, create, learn and connect.

Values

- We strive to provide low-barrier access for all
- We value other service providers and complement their efforts
- We value inclusivity, collaboration and engagement
- We are innovative, creative and bold
- We act with integrity, ensuring respectful relationships and supportive environments
- We strive for the highest standards of service and stewardship of resources
- We value data, community insight and professional expertise to inform decision-making

Goals

- Provide low barrier opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and families
- Facilitate a continuum of arts and recreation experiences that enhance individual quality of life and enrich the livability and vibrancy of communities
- Foster community connections and a sense of belonging
- Enable all residents to value the benefits of community recreation and arts
- Realize the full potential of a successful City and District partnership

- (q) “Recreation Services” means those fitness, sport, social recreation, aquatic, arena and outdoor activity and other recreation programs and services that may be engaged in offered by the Commission, as provided in the approved Commission budget from time to time;
- (r) “Schedule of Facilities” means the list of Core Facilities attached hereto as Appendix “A”, as may be amended from time to time by the District and the City in accordance with section 19 herein; and
- (s) “Service Provider” means any public, not-for profit, or private organization responsible for delivering Community Programs at any Facility, and, if applicable, responsible for delivering Recreation Services or Arts Services at any Facility.

PART 2

THE COMMISSION

Mandate

- 2. The District and the City are committed to the joint delivery of quality recreation and arts services to residents of both municipalities, and mandate the Commission, on behalf of the District and the City, to:
 - (a) plan, develop, evaluate, and jointly and seamlessly deliver, within the approved funding of any budget year, an appropriate array of quality Recreation Services and Arts Services in the District of North Vancouver and City of North Vancouver to meet the needs of District and City residents regardless of age, ability, gender or economic status. In carrying out this mandate, the Commission will act in the best interest of the District and the City and in the best interests of residents of both municipalities;
 - (b) implement the North Vancouver Cultural Plan adopted by the City and the District in 2002 (or subsequent plans related to arts and culture approved by the District Council and the City Council) and to undertake periodic reviews of the said North Vancouver Cultural Plan; and
 - (c) administer the Arts Grants.

Powers, Duties and Functions of Commission

- 3. The parties agree that the powers, duties and functions of the Commission are as set out in the District’s and City’s companion North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission Delegation Bylaws No. 7988, 2014 and No.8381, 2014, respectively, as amended from time to time.

North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission Delegation Bylaws

- 4. The City agrees that it will not adopt any bylaws to amend its Delegation Bylaw No. 8381, 2014 without first consulting with the District, and the District agrees that it will not adopt any bylaws to amend its Delegation Bylaw No. 7988, 2014 without first consulting with the City.

North Vancouver Recreation & Culture Commission

Strategic Plan

This plan does not list all that the North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission should continue to do, but focusses instead on what needs to change over the next five years to move us forward.

MANDATE

The North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission is an entity of the City and District of North Vancouver; created to fulfill the municipalities' responsibilities for recreation and culture. These responsibilities include the provision of quality recreation and culture experiences, operation of community recreation facilities, capacity building of relevant recreation and culture organizations, management of the public art programs and oversight of the community arts grants.

VISION

Recreation and Culture are vital to North Vancouver becoming the most vibrant, diverse, active, creative and connected community.

MISSION

The North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission improves the health and well-being of all North Vancouver individuals, families and communities and inspires residents through quality recreation and culture opportunities.

Recognizing that we are integral to the health and wellness solution, the North Vancouver Recreation and Culture Commission will work with other service providers to proactively and intentionally respond to indoor and outdoor recreation and culture needs, with a focus on those who would benefit most, including youth, those who are under-served, and those with barriers to accessing quality recreation and culture opportunities.

Public Recreation includes...

... all those activities in which an individual chooses to participate in their leisure time, and is not confined solely to sports or physical recreation programs, but includes artistic, creative, cultural, social and intellectual activities, and ... is a fundamental human need for individuals of all ages and interests and for both sexes and is essential to the psychological, social and physical wellbeing of each Canadian;

(Also,) ...recreation is an essential social service in the same way that health and education are considered as social services, and that recreation's purpose should be (a) to assist individual and community development, and (b) to improve the quality of life, and (c) to enhance social functioning.

Source: Adapted from the National Recreation Statement which was endorsed by all provincial, territorial and federal governments

VALUES

These values act as a moral compass; providing a lens through which all decisions are evaluated.

- We are **inclusive**
- We are **innovative, creative and bold**
- We strive for the **highest standards** of service and **stewardship of resources**
- We act with **integrity**, ensuring open, respectful relationships and supportive environments

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

These strategic directions provide focus and direction for improvements to what we do.

- A. **Optimize human, fiscal and physical resources and systems:** We will commit public resources in an efficient, responsible and sustainable manner that maximizes benefits to the communities we serve.
- B. **Proactively respond to recreation and culture needs:** We will understand and respond to citizen needs for public recreation and cultural services by being proactive, flexible and intentional and also ensure that we target the under-served.
- C. **Extend our effectiveness through collaboration:** We will build and utilize our ability to collaborate in order to maximize the reach and benefit of the public recreation and cultural services.
- D. **Enhance understanding of the scope and impacts of our services:** We will communicate and promote the true value of our services as a social service.

GOALS

These goals represent the ways we will respond to the strategic directions and the strongest Strategic Direction linkage, recognizing that most goals relate to more than one Direction. Achieving them measures our success in implementing this plan and moving forward over the next five years.

Strategic Direction	Goal
Optimize Human, Fiscal and Physical Resources and Systems	Strategically align fiscal resources & administrative systems
	Revitalize facilities
	Enhance human resources & volunteerism
	Plan for staff succession
Proactively Respond to Recreation and Culture Needs	Integrate recreation and culture services and structures
	Target needs; especially the inactive and under-served
	Encourage and enable healthy living and sustainable choices
	Extend and enhance our service reach
	Connect people to nature
Extend our Effectiveness through Collaboration	Enhance and embrace our capacity to collaborate
	Build broader networks of collaboration
Enhance Understanding of the scope and Impacts of our Services	Create awareness of public good and breadth of services
	Affirm North Vancouver Recreation & Culture as integral in municipal planning & decision-making

Commission Meeting Date:

September 10, 2024

Subject: Director's Update

Optimize Human, Fiscal and Physical Resources and Systems

- a) New swim lesson program:
 - Fall registration for the new Lifesaving Society swim lesson program for school-aged children went smoothly. This success is attributed to the extensive preparatory work in advance of registration including easy-to-read conversion charts, assessment tools, FAQs, swimmer evaluations, on-deck conversations with families, email support and information booths.
- b) Phase II of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) plan includes:
 - Staff cultural and Pride celebrations;
 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation recognition in September;
 - Work begun on an updated employee survey (to be completed by Q4 2024); and
 - An RFP is underway to secure support in the evaluation and delivery of the current IDEA priorities.
- c) Data collection and analysis:
 - Migrated data dashboard to Microsoft platform; this allows increased efficiency, analysis, collaboration and data visualization while reducing costs.
 - Implemented PerfectMind DataLake (data collection service) to streamline integration of participation data with the data dashboard. Data analysis supports service planning and resource allocation.
- d) Indoor/Outdoor Recreation & Sport Facility and Amenity Assessment:
 - A report will be presented to the Commission at the October meeting. The report is being refined to provide a more strategic perspective on community needs and will be aligned with the updated NVRC Mandate and Strategic Plan Vision, Values and Goals.

Proactively Respond to Recreation and Culture Needs

- a) Summer Camps:
 - Provided 323 full-day and part-day camps for children and youth 5-16 years old. These included indoor, outdoor and speciality camps. Just under 5,000 spots were booked over the 10-week period.
 - In order to support children with varying abilities in NVRC camps, Inclusion Leaders were hired and placed in camps to support over 45 children.
 - Testimonial: "I just wanted to thank you again for coordinating an inclusion worker for [my child] and for making it possible for her to

participate in day camp. I also wanted to pass along some feedback for the camp staff and Erica, in particular. As a parent of a child with a disability, whenever we look to try a new activity or environment there is a lot of pre planning, debating, advocating, discussion... and of course a great deal of worry. The older [my child] gets, the larger the gap between her and her typically developing peers and true inclusion seems increasingly difficult. I wanted to commend Spencer and Erica for making [my child's] experience at camp so seamless. From the morning energetic greetings that had her skipping off to join them to the updates and information that they provided to let us know how much fun she was having, we couldn't have asked for more. It was clear to me that she was included, safe and most importantly having fun. We ended camp last Friday with a list of phone numbers and parent contacts for fellow campers who were asking for future play dates with [my child]! Please pass along my sincerest respect and thanks to the camp staff. [My child] is already asking when she can see Erica again. We can't wait for next summer and hopefully some familiar faces!"

- Following recruitment in the schools and leadership training opportunities in the spring, approximately 75 volunteers were placed in 37 camps across eight facilities as well as other summer programs for a total of 5,099 volunteer hours. Some of these volunteers will continue into the fall supporting programs.
- b) Community Art Program:
- NVRC is presenting *Boys with Braids*, a photography exhibition from Tsleil-Waututh Nation artists, until the end of the year at Delbrook and Lions Gate Community Recreation Centres (CRCs). The photographs celebrate cultural diversity, challenge stereotypes and promote inclusivity through the powerful narrative of boys and men who embrace a spiritual connection through the beauty and significance of braiding their hair. New artwork was also installed in August at Ron Andrews CRC, Parkgate Community Centre and Centennial Theatre. This program showcases local artists to the community.
- c) The Live & Local Pride event returned to the Civic Plaza on August 1 to kick off Pride weekend. The event included drag performances, comedy, story time, games and crafts. It was well-attended by local families and members of the queer community.
- d) Staff have incorporated the Commission's feedback into a revised scope for the Arts Strategy. This strategy will focus on elements common to both the City and the District. It will provide foundational information to support and guide further planning that each municipality may want to undertake to achieve their individual goals and priorities. A consultant with expertise in arts strategies will be retained to facilitate the process and prepare the strategy. The Commission will receive updates at key milestones in the process.

Extend our Effectiveness through Collaboration

a) New public art:

- In collaboration with the City and District, developers and local First Nations, three new Indigenous public artworks are being added to the collection this year:
 - *Return of the Orca*, by Tsleil-Waututh Nation artist Jonas Jones, is a red cedar pole that is located in Whey-ah-Wichen (Cates) Park. The funding from Destination BC and Indigenous Tourism BC and selection process were coordinated by the Nation.
 - *The Sisters*, by Squamish Nation artist James Harry, has recently been installed at the Cressey Century building on 15th Street adjacent to Lions Gate Hospital. The sculpture tells the story of the two sisters that were immortalized into the mountain peaks, also known as The Lions.
 - *Wolf, Bear, Heron and Woodpecker*, by Tsleil-Waututh Nation artist Olivia George, are Indigenous images featured on the windows above the four fire truck bays at the new Maplewood Fire & Rescue Centre. Each of the animals possess strengths that are central to firefighting. The animals are presented within a unifying crest motif that symbolically represents the Tsleil-Waututh people, with the message that we are stronger together.

b) Newcomer welcome:

- Staff hosted several groups of new immigrants from Impact North Shore at information sessions and a facility tour at Harry Jerome CRC. In total, 33 newcomers and seniors were in attendance over two sessions. An additional presentation was held virtually for newcomer parents (connected through the school settlement workers) in conjunction with the North Vancouver School District and Impact North Shore.

c) Celebration:

- Staff and volunteers from NVRC, Capilano Community Services Society and North Vancouver District Public Library collaborated to host the 2nd annual Party on the Plaza event at Lions Gate CRC. There was a BBQ, entertainment, big games and art activities; approximately 350 people of all ages attended.

Enhance Understanding of the Scope and Impacts of our Services

a) Lynn Creek area activities:

- Staff have been actively engaging with the Lynn Creek community in anticipation of the new Lynn Creek CRC opening this fall. All of the community engagement activities have taken place at Seylynn Park with a variety of outdoor programs including Camp Seylynn Park Daytrippers Outdoor (11-13 years), Camp Seylynn Park Outdoor (6-10 years), Camp Sport Outdoor Early Years, and adult fitness offerings.
- In addition, NVRC has hosted three Live & Local events and nine Pop-ups at the park, connecting with over 600 community members. These events

provided an opportunity to share renderings of the new facility spaces and gather valuable feedback on desired programs and services. This community engagement has been instrumental in fostering a strong connection with residents and building excitement for the upcoming CRC.

b) Marketing & promotion:

- There have been ongoing promotional efforts for the Live & Local summer events series, changes to school-age swim lessons, fall registration, outdoor fitness, summer camps and volunteers. There were promotions for North Vancouver Pride celebrations and the Party in the Plaza at Lions Gate CRC on August 8.
- Campaigns are underway to support preschool registration for spots still available, hiring of ice arena staff and instructors, opening of Lynn Creek CRC, Parkgate Community Recreation Centre's 25th anniversary, John Braithwaite Community Recreation Centre's 20th anniversary, pottery services changes, the second *Artists & Musicians Performance Series (AMPS)* concerts presented by Centennial Theatre and the November 8 production of *Bear Grease*, an Indigenous retelling of the popular musical *Grease*, also presented by Centennial Theatre.

c) Recognition:

- A public art piece by Blessing Hancock installed in Lions Gate Village in 2022, [*Alluvii*](#), has been nominated for an international award. The North Shore News published a story on the nomination: [North Van public art installation shortlisted for international award](#). There was another article in the North Shore News on July 18 about NVRC's Live & Local summer event series: [Free concerts to grace intimate venues across the North Shore](#).



Heather A. Turner
Director of Recreation & Culture