

Closure of Parksville Community Centre

On October 5, Parksville Council announced their intention to work with the Boys and Girls Club of Central Vancouver Island (BGCCVI). As part of this announcement, the agreement with the Parksville Community Centre Society (PCCS) when it expires on December 31, 2020, will not be renewed.

As part of this decision, the City is exploring possible meeting space options in other facilities. With any future lease of the Parksville Community Centre (PCC), the City will retain the right to access the facility for events such as elections, all candidates' forums and an emergency reception centre. The Oceanside Emergency Support Services and Oceanside Community Safety offices will continue to operate from the PCC. The BGCCVI have indicated a willingness to work with existing groups where programs would be synergistic to those offered by the BGCCVI.

The City of Parksville recently submitted a funding application to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (Child Care Capital and Community Services) for substantial renovations to the PCC to accommodate new licensed childcare spaces as well as associated child, youth and parent programming at the Parksville Community Centre. We expect to be notified in March and should our application be successful, at that time, Council will set the terms for a long-term lease with the Boys and Girls Club of Central Vancouver Island. Renovations would start in April and the facility would open to the community in September. There is a shortage of childcare spaces and a proven need in our community and region for support services such as those offered by the Boys and Girls Club.

In 2016, Council expressed growing concerns about significant cost increases each year to operate the facility. The City engaged KPMG to conduct a comprehensive business analysis of the PCC followed by a facilitated strategic planning session with the PCCS board and senior City staff, intended to assist the board with its business plan and future success. Over the years, City staff has provided ongoing assistance to the PCC in such areas as building issues, maintenance, grant applications and accounting assistance.

The City recognizes the decision to close the Parksville Community Centre as a rental facility is a substantial shift for our residents. The increasing operating costs and annual subsidies provided by the City have been a concern and consideration for previous Councils. The annual cost to the City to operate the PCC is no longer sustainable. We will continue to work with the PCC to ensure a smooth closure.

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For more information:

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