

Letter to Parksville Residents from Mayor Ed Mayne

On behalf of the City, I wish to address misinformation about the Parksville Community Centre and most importantly reiterate the PCC will continue to serve the community for many years to come. On a temporary basis until September, Island Health will use the PCC as a vaccination clinic for Parksville-Qualicum Beach residents.

We recognize the change in use from a rental facility is a shift for our residents but truly believe this will be better for our community. Please allow me to explain the reasoning for our decision. Council followed the direction of the community; we took guidance from the Mayor's Roundtable and the survey which asked residents what they wanted. The five priority objectives derived from resident input were:

- Economic development
- Community safety
- Affordable housing
- Recreation
- Healthcare (doctors)

One of the key elements that weaves itself through these objectives is the necessity to attract young families to our community. This was the premise of our decision. The PCC was built at the turn of this century and created under a model that did not in itself provide community programs. Instead, the PCC operated as a rental facility, no different than other landlords in our community which provide short-term rental space.

After twenty years, this model has not kept up with the growing needs of our ever-changing and evolving community. The costs continued to escalate, and the reality is that the taxpayers of Parksville were subsidizing the rents of organizations, in many instances, visitors to City of Parksville. This gave the PCC an unfair advantage over other rental facilities with the annual subsidy amounting to about 1.7% of the City's total tax revenue. The argument has been put forth that by not providing the facility for rentals, we are reducing the amount of business created by the PCC. It is our opinion, the rental inventory of local, privately owned facilities will meet the needs of the various community organizations and will continue to support our local businesses and visitors to Parksville. We do recognize some of the larger events may move to a neighbouring community but expect this would be a small number and believe Parksville will still benefit from spinoff business from these events. As well, Council recently approved \$100,000 to update the Shelly Road Centre to facilitate additional rental space at affordable rates for community groups.

By entering into a new operating agreement with the Boys and Girls Club of Central Vancouver Island (BGCCVI), we are addressing some of needs not met previously. A recent survey completed by an independent organization, indicated Parksville needs 300 daycare spaces just to meet current needs. The survey also identified the importance of providing spaces for all ages, from birth to 13. The City has applied to the Childcare BC New Spaces Fund for 91 new licensed childcare spaces and \$2 million for renovations to the PCC to accommodate a variety of services and programs not currently available to the community.

The letter of intent, attached to this letter, outlines the collaborative efforts between the City and the BGCCVI to apply for this important funding. Announcement is expected later this month and should the City be successful, renovations to the PCC are planned for the fall, with a goal to reopen to the community in January 2022.

Daycare is only a portion of what the BGCCVI will provide. It is important to look at programs currently provided in many of our neighbouring municipalities, from babysitting training to summer camps, to groups on parenting, to workshops on inclusiveness and on and on. This facility will be used daily to benefit our community and BGCCVI has been in contact with groups interested in using the facility and we expect many will be accommodated. The PCC will be used for events such as elections, all candidates' forums and as an emergency reception centre. Oceanside Emergency Support Services and the Oceanside Community Safety offices will continue to operate from the PCC

In January, Council authorized \$25,000 to purchase replacement kitchen equipment and other assets that unfortunately, were removed by society members, including a new commercial sanitizing dishwasher with trays, stove/range and large prep tables. We are pleased PASS-Woodwinds Alternate School will be able to use the kitchen for their classes for the rest of this school year and beyond.

In closing, it has been suggested that Parksville is a growing community and requires a community centre. We agree, the question is what is a community centre? We believe such a facility should provide ongoing programs for our residents of all ages, provide daycare services to young families and provide a safe and secure environment for our youth to enjoy, both after school and on weekends.

Should you have questions or concerns about this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. My direct line is 250 954-4661 or by email to mayor@parksville.ca. Wishing you continued good health and safety.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ed Mayne
City of Parksville

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Media contact:

Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications

dtardiff@parksville.ca; 250 954-3073



October 16, 2020

Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Vancouver Island
2290 Bowen Road
Nanaimo, BC V9T 3K7

Attention: Karen Love, Executive Director

Dear Ms. Love;

Re: Letter of Intent to enter into a partnership with the City of Parksville

On behalf of Council and the City of Parksville, I write to express the City's intent to enter into an agreement with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Vancouver Island for the provision of licensed childcare and associated child, youth and parent programming.

Although the terms listed below are not to be considered a binding agreement, the City proposes to the following terms in principle, pending execution of a final agreement in future:

Grant Application and Funding

- a. The City and Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Vancouver Island (BGCCVI) shall work together to obtain funding for the proposed licensed childcare and associated child, youth and parent programming.
- b. The City commits to working together in earnest, including by the provision of available staff to assist with the grant application, to secure the required funding.
- c. Council accepts no obligation to fund the aforementioned childcare and associated programming for any period of time.
- d. Both the City and BGCCVI shall jointly be responsible for meeting any stipulations or conditions of any grant funding received from senior governments.

Facility and Lease

- a. Upon the expiration of the current operating agreement on December 31, 2020, and dependent upon the receipt of grant funding, the City intends to enter into a lease agreement with BGCCVI to lease the premises currently known as the Parksville Community Centre (PCC) located at 132 Jensen Avenue East, Parksville, BC, for the purposes of licensed childcare and associated child, youth and parent programming.
- b. The proposed terms of the lease will include a nominal annual rental fee of \$1.00.
- c. The minimum term of the proposed lease will be determined by grant funding received.
- d. The City will retain the right to use the facility for election purposes.
 - i. The City shall provide notice of at least 60 days prior to use of the facility for election purposes.
- e. The City will retain the right to use the facility for emergency reception centre purposes, with no notice, in the event of an emergency.

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- f. The portion of the facility currently in use by Emergency Management Oceanside and Oceanside Emergency Support Services (OESS) shall not be included in the leased space and shall continue to be used by the OESS.
- g. Any space in the facility that is deemed surplus to the needs of BGCCVI, if any, may be allocated by Council for a compatible community use.

Operating Costs and Facility Maintenance

- a. Responsibilities for facility operating costs and ongoing maintenance costs shall be determined and the terms shall be set out in the lease agreement and agreed to by both parties upon confirmation of the grant funding.

Programming

- a. BGCCVI shall provide programming which may include but is not limited to licensed infant and toddler daycare; out-of-school care; preschool; early learning programs; youth services, including drop-in support and recreational programs; and parenting services including drop-in support programs.
- b. Programming may be determined by the amount and/or conditions of grant funding received.

If your organization agrees in principle to the above-noted terms, please have the authorized signatory sign below and return the executed document to the City at the earliest opportunity. Upon confirmation of mutual intent to proceed, City staff will undertake the next steps of the grant application process in collaboration with BGCCVI assistance.

On behalf of Council and the City, we look forward to working with you on this exciting and much-needed venture for our community.

Yours truly,



KEEVA KEHLER
Chief Administrative Officer

On behalf of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Vancouver Island, I agree in principle to the non-binding terms identified in the letter of intent from the City of Parksville dated October 16, 2020, regarding the City's intent to enter into an agreement with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Vancouver Island for the provision of licensed childcare and associated child, youth and parent programming.



Signature

Karen Love

Name

Executive Director

Title

October 16, 2020

Date Signed