

Council Update - March 20, 2023 – Councillor Leslie Anderson

Westshore Parks and Recreation

The Board met on March 9, 2023 – highlights of the discussion include:

- Parks departmental presentation – Bryan Wood, parks supervisor, presented an overview of the parks department (staffing and the diverse inventory of facilities that the crew services and maintains). The board had particular interest in the flora and fauna which includes some protected species onsite and how the Society could better inform the public of these.
- Major User Group Statistics – An annual report updating the facility use statistics was provided. In both hours of use and dollars spent, drop-in admission users continue to be the greatest users of the Society's facilities. Juan de Fuca Soccer continues to be the largest sports organization in terms of hours used and Juan de Fuca Minor Hockey in terms of dollars spent.
- Tennis Clubs of Canada Proposal – Staff reported on their meeting with the Tennis Clubs of Canada (TCC) who are interested in a partnership with the Society, where they provide and operate an air inflated structure over the outdoor tennis courts during the winter months which would expand the courts' playing season, providing increased service to the community. Staff commented that upon making contact with a current TCC partner municipality in Ontario that the partnership has been successful, revenue positive for the municipality and appreciated by the community. The board has directed staff to continue discussion with TCC regarding this potential opportunity.
- BC Growing Communities Fund – Discussion around requesting funds from each member municipality's portion of the recently announced BC Growing Communities Fund be earmarked for WSPR's future needs, such as pickleball courts, twinning the JDF Arena or upgrades to the pool. The board directed staff to provide their top choices for the board to consider, allowing a joint request of their councils.
- Skatepark update – Staff reported that the project is two weeks behind due to snowfall preventing some concrete work and the contractor losing two key concrete shapers. The contractor is working hard to make up this time. The grand opening will be scheduled for late May, however the park will be available for public use prior to that date.