

Council Report May 1, 2023 – Councilor Anderson

Westshore Parks and Recreation - The Board met on April 13.

- Auditor Report and Financial Statements: KPMG staff presented the 2022 auditor's report and statements. The report indicated a clean unqualified audit with no material errors. Significant increases in sales of service revenues and the associated expenses were realized in 2022 as the Society emerged from pandemic-related restrictions.
- Emergency Use of Facilities – The board directed staff to renew an existing MOU with the city of Colwood that permits the city to commandeer the Society's facilities as needed in a state of emergency.
- Skatepark update – Staff reported that the grand opening of the skatepark will be May 13th, 2023 at 1pm. Save the Date notices have been sent to all member municipalities as well as the federal funders and MLA Dean. The construction crews are wrapping up and Society staff will be looking after the irrigation and landscaping.
- Annual energy use report – The annual energy use report was presented that indicates a continued downward trend in overall energy use over the last 10 years. Operations staff continue to seek upgrades and improvements that will lower energy use and costs. In 2023, staff will be replacing several air handling units with heat pumps and exploring additional use of reclaimed heat from the JDF Arena ice plant to work with the pool boilers.
- The Board also received an interesting presentation from the arena and events department that covered the programs offered and facilities managed, along with statistics on facility use and program registrations.

Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) AGM and Convention – April 14-16

In addition to attending the main program and plenary sessions, I participated in:

- Nanaimo community amenity study tour – Nanaimo city staff provided information and site tours of several current projects, including:
 - Five Acre Farm – a partnership with local non-profit Nanaimo Foodshare to continue providing community food and farming education programs at the last remaining historic Five Acre Farm site in Harewood
 - Harewood Centennial Park – an inner city park revitalized to become a community gathering place
 - Te'tuxwtun – a vision that integrates affordable housing, parks and culture, education and childcare services that is the result of a collaboration between the City of Nanaimo, Snuneymuxw First Nation, Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools and BC Housing
 - Nanaimo Stadium District – key sports facilities next door to Vancouver Island University and NDSS high school
 - Steve Smith Bike Park – bike park with skills development area and a BMX track.
- Workshop on Increasing Demands on Libraries – highlighted the importance of public libraries in providing inclusive and welcoming spaces that are safe for patrons and staff. Discussions included how physical space use is adapting to better serve a range of patrons and how collaborations with other public agencies are increasingly important.
- Workshop on Emerging Risks Impacting Municipalities – discussions centered on how key risks related to digitization, catastrophic impacts, and policy are evolving.