

CITY OF MERRITT

MINUTES FOR THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF THE CITY OF MERRITT
COUNCIL, TUESDAY FEBRUARY 05, 2002 AT 7:00 P.M., CITY HALL COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, 2185 VOGHT STREET, MERRITT, B.C.

1. **PRESENT:**

COUNCIL: Mayor Baird
Councillors L. Barr, G. Cavaliere, R. Gage, H. Kroeker,
E. Reimer, R. Sherwood,

STAFF: J. Bridarolli, Administrator
D. Lang, Leisure Services Manager
C. Fraser, Corporate Administrative Assistant

MEDIA: Merritt Herald
Merritt News
Nicola Valley Voice

PUBLIC: 15 members of the public

2. **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Baird called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

3. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

A. Agenda, Committee of the Whole Meeting, February 05, 2002.

Moved by Councillor Reimer THAT the Agenda, Committee of the Whole Meeting, February 05, 2002 be adopted. CARRIED

4. **REPORTS:**

A. Civic Centre Select Committee Report; Administrator's February 1, 2002 Memorandum.

i) Presentation of the Recommendation of the Civic Centre Select Committee:

- Overview – City Administrator
 - Services–NVTA Tourism Coordinator, Amanda Brown
 - Civic Centre Management
 - Marketing
 - Conference Management
 - Programming/Special Events – Leisure Services Manager.
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The Administrator provided an overview of the proceedings to date and the recommendation brought forward by the Civic Centre Select Committee in partnering with Nicola Valley Tourism Association; explained the parameters of the Select Committee and the services and benefits the partnership would provide to the City, the citizens of Merritt and the economy of Merritt.

Amanda Brown, Tourism Coordinator with Nicola Valley Tourism Association, presented the Strategic Planning overview explaining the financial security, strengthening of the economy and the increase in tourism for the City of Merritt and the citizens of Merritt.

Ms. Brown went on to explain the proposed day to day management of the Civic Centre, the marketing of the Civic Centre, and the Conference Management responsibilities Nicola Valley Tourism Association would provide in this partnership.

The Leisure Services Manager explained the programming responsibilities of Nicola Valley Tourism Association and the City, the budget proposal for the partnership and presented and explained in detail the Revenues and Expenditures for the Civic Centre both with the City operating the Civic Centre and the City and Nicola Valley Tourism Association in partnership operating the Civic Centre.

Ms. Lang further explained the impact that may be experienced by user groups but stressed it was not the intent of the Select Committee to negate community use.

Council agreed by consensus to hear from any member of the public that wished to speak.

Barrie Sanford spoke stating he had no objections to the information that had been received tonight, shared his view that in a small community facilities must be shared on a reasonable and timely basis and raised the concern of over optimism to secure conventions for the Civic Centre.

Sharon Hartwig stated she was positive about the information received tonight with sharing the Civic Centre with user groups but also expressed her concerns that without a proper facility users may have to relocate.

Elizabeth Salomon-de-Friedberg voiced her concerns that there was no inclination to consult with user groups of the Civic Centre, no reply from staff as to dates of meetings, storage of the piano, moving of the piano for concerts in bumping issues, the bumping issue in general and no advertising for the meeting. Other suggestions were that there be open communication with the City and the public and the need for public meetings and public input.

Mrs. Collier stated her concerns with regards to storage of supplies for the user groups and the fee structure.

Nancy Chapel stated the 30-day bumping clause was not an option for the Youth Ambassadors and suggested before any decision is made all user groups should be contacted personally by letter.

Ms. Chapel also questioned the joint agreement with the City and the schools for use of the schools in case of bumping and what was the procedure during spring break and the summer vacation.

Kelly Turchak expressed her concern about the 30-day bumping clause and questioned why there were not two community members on the Select Committee.

Giselle Strodl questioned the proposed budget's reduction of 50% for the Recreation personnel and stated the Civic Centre was not user friendly.

Moved by Councillor Barr THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend to Council THAT Council endorses the recommendation of the Civic Centre Select Committee that Council contract management of the Civic Centre to Nicola Valley Tourism Association; AND THAT Council directs Administration to prepare a facility management contract based on the recommendation as presented; AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to undergo a Policy and Procedure review including the public user groups in that process. CARRIED

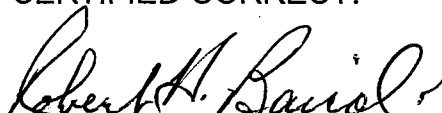
RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

THAT Council endorses the recommendation of the Civic Centre Select Committee that Council contract management of the Civic Centre to Nicola Valley Tourism Association; AND THAT Council directs Administration to prepare a facility management contract based on the recommendation as presented; AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to undergo a Policy and Procedure review including the public user groups in that process.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

The Committee of the Whole agreed by consensus at 9:10 p.m. that the meeting be terminated.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


R.H. Baird, MAYOR


C. Fraser, CORPORATE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT