

# **OPEN**

# **MINUTE ITEM**

# **ATTACHMENTS**

**Ordinary meeting of the**  
**Sports and Recreation Committee**

**Thursday 6 August 2020**  
**Commencing at 10.00a.m.**  
**Council Chamber**

**Civic House**

**110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson**

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**Sports and Recreation Committee**

**6 August 2020**

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**REPORT R18182**

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**Chairperson's Report**

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**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 To update the Sports and Recreation Committee on various matters.

**2. Recommendation**

*That the Sports and Recreation Committee*

**1. Receives the report *Chairperson's Report (R18182)*.**

**3. Sports Activities and Recreation**

3.1 With the winter sporting season now in full swing, the past challenges of Covid lockdown preventing pre-season trainings and sports grounds access for maintenance seem a long time ago. Players young and old have well and truly regained their match fitness, that many may have claimed to have lost over the March to May period. And with this, a full return of smiles and friendly rivalry is being enjoyed at our region's sports facilities, by participants, family supporters and spectators.

3.2 It has also been great to see our surrounding hillside reserves in Nelson abuzz with outdoor recreation taking place, in some cases in even greater numbers than previous years with cycling, runners, and walkers.

3.3 It is easy to take this for granted, when you see the football matches in Europe eerily taking place with huge empty grandstands, or cardboard cut-out spectators in the front rows. And now with pre-recorded cheering played over speaker systems to give an ambience of realism to players and television audiences. Or the training sessions in the UK taking place currently with 2 metre spacing and coaches and management staff wearing facemasks.

3.4 Thus it can be easy to overlook the normality here with the challenging time had and yet to come for a number of non-profit and voluntary run grassroots clubs and sporting organisations affected financially post-Covid, whom rely on not just grants and sponsorship, but local sports tournaments to help fund the year ahead. It has seen some tough calls made in planning for the year ahead for these voluntary run clubs, and

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even tougher calls by the various umbrella sports bodies on their internal structure and, budgeting, extending to even the following year makeup of how our Nelson and National sports leagues will look like and operate. For some codes it has meant removing junior and youth representative tournaments for this season to ease cost on families.

- 3.5 And now also the very unlikely appearance of some international events coming here till end of this year or even possibly the summer next. Which then also has an effect on the funding and utilisation of our Council premier owned facilities.
- 3.6 Yet, through this it has been heartening to see the collaboration between sports codes, sports facility managers, players and families ensuring plenty of recreation, with full season social and competitive fixtures still enabled to take place in the region, when back in April and May it was thought some sports may not be able go ahead fully or somewhat restricted with the delayed start.
- 3.7 Commercially, looking ahead with the creative use of our indoor and outdoor sports facilities, combined with the local and regional marketing promotions being embraced by the community currently, I believe that with the strong kiwi sense of adventure, combining holidaying with recreational activities, Nelson can be in a strong position to continue to be still very busy over the summer season ahead.
- 3.8 Nelson can be a destination city for New Zealand holiday makers, by even further sharpening our focus on encouraging and facilitating national and regional tourism along with our already established local supported events.

**4. Public Reserves**

- 4.1 It has been welcome news and some great feedback to have sheep back grazing on the Grampians. This is great for reducing fire risk, and weed control, with cost saving and environmental benefits to the alternatives of mechanical or spray means of controlling grass and weed growth on these hillsides.
- 4.2 A great day was held on Saturday by Whakatu Riding for Disabled Association at Andrews Farm, Codgers Reserve. A packed attendance of supporters for this fundraiser. The horses enjoyed birthday cakes with carrot candles. It was also an important event for this charitable group to showcase the skills and challenges their young riders are helped with, and for some, one of the few physical activities these young children are able to do with the support of this dedicated team. Physical activity and coordinated challenge that many of us may take for granted.
- 4.3 The Paddy's Knob major refurbishment is now complete, looks brilliant and is already well used. Combining picnic area, natural landscaped playground, and place of tranquillity, whilst taking advantage of its elevated outlook over Tahuna and afar. Make sure you check it out.

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- 4.4 This Saturday 8 August, at 2.00pm, Nelson City Council's first woman Councillor Betsy Eyre will be remembered, with an unveiling of an information panel in her honour at Betsy Eyre Park, Brook Street.
- 4.5 Also this Saturday, 10am at Paremata Flats Reserve, there is a free workshop on Native Planting maintenance.
- 4.6 On the topic of improvement of our reserves, last week on Wednesday morning the team from 'FuturEcology' planted 5000 trees in Codgers Reserve, with the help of the Mountain Bike Club and Nelson College as part of Nelson City Council forestry retirement programme. The trees were funded by a grant to Council by the Ministry for Primary Industries Hill Country Erosion Fund. A big thankyou to the volunteers that helped that happen. To relay a quote from this project, "The best time was to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second best time is now".
- 4.7 Further to this, on Saturday 25 July Council supported the Nelson Mountain Bike Club's Branford Park Jump Planting Day through our Environmental Grants Scheme. The club was successful in applying for 1600 plants to go in the site up the Maitai Reserve. Note, another round of environmental grants has just opened this week with more information on our Council website.
- 4.8 Nelson City Council has recently welcomed Government investment in Nelson from the Provincial Growth Fund. One of those has been \$7.5 million granted to Nelson City Councils Saxton's Creek Upgrade Project in Stoke, which also runs through Saxton Field Complex to allow critical flood mitigation works to continue at pace, and also creating employment for the region.
- 4.9 Also progressing well is the Tahuna Pathways project on the edge of Tahuna Reserve and Hounsell Circle, which is to provide more options for people to walk and cycle.

**Greenmeadows Reserve Classification**

- 4.10 The proposed classification of Greenmeadows Reserve is going to be publically notified again on 7 August 2020. The proposed classification was notified earlier this year, but the map that was attached to the first notice was incomplete in relation to the land proposed to be classified as Local Purpose (Road) Reserve. The notice period will end on 8 September 2020. The hearings before the Hearings Panel and the deliberations meeting are expected to be held later this year.

**5. Council-owned Campgrounds – Long-term accommodation engagement update**

- 5.1 As you will be aware, Council has begun a project to ensure semi-permanent accommodation in the Council owned campgrounds, which include the Brook Valley Holiday Park, Maitai Valley Motor Camp and Tahunanui Beach Holiday Park, are compliant with building and campsite regulations, and ensure that occupants have a healthy and safe place to

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live. Council is undertaking this work in its capacity as landowner and operator of the campgrounds rather than through an enforcement lens.

- 5.2 Each campground has some growing issues relating to compliance with the Camping Ground Regulations 1985, Resource Management Act, Building Act and Reserves Act, which Council is seeking to resolve. The process has been going very positively and well received thus far. Engagement with long term occupants and camp managers going through an independent third party to understand each individual occupant and home needs.
- 5.3 Once Council has a clear picture of the work that needs to be done it will take that information to the Sports and Recreation Committee Meeting later this year so appropriate next steps can be decided.
- 5.4 The aim is to work closely and compassionately with people who live at our campgrounds, so they are involved in the process from the start, with the end result Council wants to see is a community of people that have safe, secure and living in healthy homes, and ensuring we as landlords are compliant with Camping Ground Regulations
- 5.5 Some accommodation may require more work than others to ensure it is safe and to meet an agreed level of compliance, but it is hoped many changes required will be simple.
- 5.6 Also as part of these next steps Council will be providing for occupants where desired, guidance and advice on insulation and heating to ensure their homes are warm and dry.

**Author: Tim Skinner, Chairperson - Sports and Recreation Committee**

**Attachments**

Nil