



J. Watson, Chair, Bowker Creek Initiative, stated:

- The Bowker Creek Blueprint will provide municipalities with an action plan for management and restoration of Bowker Creek and its corridor.
- There is now a timely opportunity to enhance this creek and watershed through a variety of partnerships.

J. Schmuck, Rock Street, and President of Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association, stated:

- Council might first consider other alternative uses for this space.
- Restoration of the creek is supported but the use of public land by a private organization is a concern; there is no indication that other sites were considered.
- The proposed facility may have a detrimental financial impact on residents of Saanich.

K. Whitcroft, Inverness Road, stated:

- This site under consideration was once a wetland and source of the Bowker Creek; it was filled in when the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre was constructed.
- There is now an opportunity to return the lands to wetland for water storage and to reduce flooding.

A. Ruszel, Ascot Drive, stated:

- The site should be left open for other community uses and facilities which would be less costly.
- For example, presently the park has no playground and no trails for the disabled.
- It would be preferable to develop a concept plan for Cedar Hill Park similar to the one developed for Gyro Park, for example.

D. Griffin, McMorran Place, stated:

- As a tennis player he would support the clay court facility; it is well-located for the entire Greater Victoria area.

L. Cerny, Oakmount Avenue, stated:

- This is Saanich land for Saanich residents; there is a duty of stewardship for future generations.
- Consider all the needs of the community, not just those of a private club.

C. Brodeur, President, Victoria Special Olympics, stated:

- The Special Olympics softball program uses the two ball diamonds in Cedar Hill Park.
- They have been offered other locations in Saanich but found them unsuitable for the safety needs of their athletes.

L. White, member, Victoria Special Olympics, stated:

- She is on the softball team and finds this location easy to access.

J. Martin, member, Victoria Special Olympics, stated:

- It will be difficult for the softball team if they lose this location.

- If they cannot find a replacement field the team may not be able to carry on.

M. Bergstrom, Mt. Tolmie Community Association, stated:

- It was disappointing that the Parks Department did not involve the community earlier in the process; the process was flawed.
- The scope of the project is a concern; it will have an impact on current users and on the environment.
- More open houses to consider the best use of these lands is advised.

T. Trotter, Merriman Place, stated:

- This is not the right location for the clay court facility; existing underutilized outdoor hard-surfaced courts could be replaced with clay courts.
- There are other options for better use of the greenspace.

J. Mullan, Doncaster Drive, stated:

- The existing tennis facilities are adequate.
- The park is important to the community; in the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan, tennis was identified as a low priority for the community.
- An effort should be made to find the best use of these lands.

K. Campbell, stated:

- The art instructor offered a vision for shared community use of the ball park area.
- The lands could be used for growth of the arts programs connected to the Cedar Hill Arts Centre; an arts festival or sculpture garden for example, would be well attended events.

B. Gilbert, resident, stated:

- Council might consider giving its financial support to the Bowker Creek Initiative instead of to the Clay Courts Society.
- Existing tennis courts could be converted to clay; also the Special Olympics athletes need our support.
- Do not use the greenspace for this purpose.

J. Rowling, Ocean View Place, stated:

- The proposed tennis facility will expose Saanich to financial risk.
- Only a small number of taxpayers will benefit.
- The open field is well used by wildlife as well as the community.
- No private organization should be allowed to take this public space.

R. Bartnik, Hawthorne Street, stated:

- Clay courts are more of an industrial use rather than a natural feature; the environmental impact of the materials and chemicals necessary to build and maintain the proposed clay courts is a concern.
- There may be a better, alternative, soft-surfaced court system.

C. Pickup, Lovat Avenue, stated:

- Council should defer any decision until a comprehensive public consultation process on all possible uses for this land can take place.
- The proposal from the Clay Tennis Court Society should have triggered the

development of a park concept plan.

- It would not be fiscally responsible to offer a grant and a loan to this private organization.
- The Cedar Hill Arts Centre could be expanded into the outdoor space.
- The Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan indicates low support for tennis.

S. Haddon, James Heights, stated:

- The process undertaken to consider this proposal was flawed; the Official Community Plan and the Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan were not heeded.
- An opportunity for a community-based vision where residents give input into all potential uses of this land is necessary; an environmental and social review would be desirable or a process similar to that undertaken for the Panama Flats property.

F. Haynes, Prospect Avenue, stated:

- The process has been a problem. A proper process allows for a creative vision in order to develop the best use of the park.
- There are environmental concerns.
- This location may be ideal for the tennis society but the facility could be located elsewhere.

J. Kalina, Oakmount Road, stated:

- The environmental view supports leaving the park as it is.
- Public parks should be preserved for the public; it is not acceptable to hand over public land to a private enterprise.

J. Bates, Ridgeway Street, stated:

- The not-for-profit Cedar Hill Clay Tennis Court Society facility will function as a private club for users.
- This is not the right location for such a facility.

A. Beck, James Heights, stated:

- The costs to the municipality are unsure, as are the possible impacts of the construction of the facility on this site.
- Residents' taxes should not be spent on this project.

B. Trotter, Merriman Place, stated:

- The process undertaken to bring this project forward is not acceptable.
- The public was not involved soon enough.
- This is the wrong place for a tennis facility; restore the wetland instead.

A. Gleichauf, McRae Drive, stated:

- The impact on Bowker Creek is a concern.
- If the tennis courts are permitted before the Bowker Creek Blueprint actions are undertaken, there may be future environmental problems.
- Loss of greenspace for a private club is not a good result.
- A better process would determine what Saanich residents want for this property.

S. Dunford, President of Tennis BC, stated:

- Tennis BC supports the proposed clay court facility; it would be heavily used and ideal for training young tennis athletes.
- Single outdoor tennis courts are not an effective use of resources.

G. Jiwani, Blenkinsop Road, stated:

- Although the tennis facility will provide a healthy activity for some, the majority of the community must be seen to benefit; Council must protect the heritage of the land.
- The financing request is inappropriate.
- Saanich's Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee did not support the proposal.

D. Dickson, Monarch Place, stated:

- Saanich has recently approved a new public participation policy which she appreciates as there has been a disconnect between staff and the public; this has resulted in the public not being included early enough in the process, with no linkages between departments.
- The new policy addresses many of these concerns and is intended to create a collaborative process which will put the public back in the picture when it directly affects their lives.

A. Houle, Meadowvale Drive, stated:

- The clay court facility would be great for competitive tennis players.
- The project pays attention to the environment and is in a good location.

R. Wanbon, Springridge Crescent, stated:

- He supports the project which will improve Bowker Creek, keep the chip trail and preserve greenspace.
- The courts will be well used by the tennis community; due diligence by the municipality is necessary with respect to the financial details but the loan will be repaid.
- There are examples of similar successful partnerships where both elite athletes and non-athletes share facilities.
- There are other ball diamonds in the municipality.

R. Emery, Quadra Street, stated:

- There are valid concerns about the loss of greenspace and the change from public land to a private use.
- The review of the proposal was not adequate; the financials are not convincing.
- A risk assessment is needed.

P. Machin, Doncaster Drive, stated:

- The fields are not well used.
- With joint problems, the benefits of playing on a clay surface are important.
- This is a unique opportunity for Saanich and the region.

D. Chapman, Consumer Drive, stated:

- The property was swampland in the past and therefore the soil quality is uncertain.
- Other great uses for the park are possible.
- It would be appropriate for residents to have an opportunity to vote on the proposal during an election.

P. Haddon, James Heights, stated:

- These fields should be saved for future generations.
- The report presented is not a balanced assessment of all needs of the community; no other options were identified or considered.
- The residents have demonstrated their interest in Cedar Hill Park and will partner with the Parks Department in determining the future of the park.

P. Houston, Tracksell Avenue, stated:

- The land belongs to the residents of Saanich and should not be given away by Council.
- It is inappropriate to provide financial support to this organization.

**Mayor Leonard announced that with many persons still waiting an opportunity to speak, the meeting would adjourn and reconvene on Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 7:30 pm in the Garth Homer Centre Auditorium, 813 Darwin Avenue.**

Adjournment                    The meeting adjourned at 10:38 pm.

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CHAIR

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate

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MUNICIPAL CLERK