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## REPORT SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION MEETING OF Thursday, July 10, 2025

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**SUBJECT**     Food Services for the Salt Spring Island Multi Space

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

To consider providing food and beverage options for users of SIMS

### **BACKGROUND**

As participation in recreation programs for children, youth and adults continues to grow at the Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS), requests for food and beverage options in the building has also increased.

Most recreation facilities offer food and beverage options for their users. Providing food services can be run in-house, contracted out, or a combination of both. Vending machines are a low-cost option to provide food and beverage options. This service can be delivered by a private contractor who provides the vending machines, stock product and is responsible for maintenance. The recreation centre then receives 10% of the revenue from sales to offset power costs and to provide additional revenue to offset other operating costs.

A volunteer group managed and owned the vending services at the Rainbow Recreation Centre (RRC) prior to the CRD assuming operation but discontinued once the machine reached end of life. The CRD did not receive any portion of these profits. With the removal of the vending machine several attempts have been made to contract these services but the logistics of servicing this facility in addition to other facilities on Salt Spring Island were deemed too difficult and costly.

To provide these services in-house, the Parks and Recreation Service would need to purchase a vending machine and allocate additional staff resources to ordering and stocking the machines. While the upfront costs of this approach may be higher, the return on the investment is estimated to be greater than a 10% cut in overall revenue. Revenues are also anticipated to cover any additional staffing costs.

Apparel sales at the RRC are currently provided in-house for the sale of goggles and swim caps. The annual expenditure for this service is \$6,000 with 2025 revenues projected at \$8,500 (41% return). It should be noted that apparel sales are typically less frequent than food sales.

When considering offering food services at our Centers, SIMS is recommended as the preferred location to pilot the new service given the larger volume of families, athletes and regular users who frequent the facility. Following a successful pilot, consideration should be given to offering food and beverage options for the RRC.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

### *Alternative 1*

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission request that staff proceed with purchasing a vending machine and products in 2025 with a budget of \$6,500 and that revenues and expenditures are added to the 2026-2030 SSI Parks and Recreation Preliminary Budget for review.

### *Alternative 2*

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission refer the report back to staff for additional information.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Financial Implications*

New vending machines range in price from \$2,500 up to \$15,000 with additional costs for contactless payment and warranty (see Appendix A). Refurbished machines are also available at a discounted price. Combination machines allow for both food and beverage purchases with fewer start up costs but require more frequent restocking.

<b>Start up Costs</b>	
VCM Healthy Max Combo REFURBISHED	\$4,499
Contactless Payment	\$699
Warranty	\$500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,698</b>

<b>Annual Operating Costs</b>	
Food & Beverage Supply (30 items per week)	\$1,560
Machine Stock (1hr monthly @\$35)	\$420
Carder Reader Monthly Fee (\$9.99x12)	\$120
<b>Total</b>	<b>* \$2,100</b>

\* 2025 costs would be for four months totalling \$7,00

<b>Potential Revenue (150% Markup)</b>	
Food & Beverage Sales (30 items per week)	\$4,680

\$20,000 was budgeted for the SIMS roof preventative maintenance including moss removal in 2025. The scope of this work was reduced and the actual costs came in at \$7,300.

The 2025 SSI Parks and Recreation Operating Budgets are projecting a surplus due to staff vacancies. An opportunity exists to invest a small portion of this surplus to support start-up costs associated with providing food services. A vending machine would provide a future revenue source and provide food and beverage options to SIMS users.

### *Social Implications*

Vending machines offer various social benefits by enhancing public spaces, supporting local businesses, and providing convenient access to goods. They can also promote social interaction, boost morale, and even teach healthy snacking habits.

### **CONCLUSION**

Vending machines can provide a convenient alternative at facilities with limited or no food or beverage options available. SIMS provides activities for all age groups including highly competitive sports like gymnastics and martial arts. Vending machines can provide a convenient option for patrons and visitors to SIMS. Vending machines can be stocked with healthier options than traditional vending machines products. Most recreation centres moved away from stocking machines with pop and other high sugar products a number of years ago.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission request that staff proceed with purchasing a vending machine and products in 2025 with a budget of \$6,500 and that revenues and expenditures are added to the 2026-2030 SSI Parks and Recreation Preliminary Budget for review.

Submitted by:	Dan Ovington, BBA, Senior Manager, SSI Administration
Concurrence:	Stephen Henderson, MBA, BSc, General Manager, Electoral Area Services

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

Appendix A – Vending Machine Options and Costing