



Minutes  
Area D Parks Commission  
Monday, February 19, 2018  
Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre

Call to order: 6:36 pm

Attendees: Roger Southern, Steve Garnett, Dave Nisbet, Kerrie Talbot, Miranda Mason

Regrets: Lori Iannidinardo, Nathan Mosewich

Guest(s):

Approval of Agenda: **Moved and passed**

Approval of previous minutes: **Moved and passed**

Ongoing Business:

Parks and Trails Volunteer Policy – Area D Parks Commission feedback:

The overall consensus is this document contains far too much unnecessary regulation of parks volunteers, and the effect of this will be to eradicate any easily accessible form of community volunteerism.

Specific comments are:

Policy Principles

Item #'s 1,2,5,6 & 7 are fair & reasonable.

Item # 3 - cancellation of a volunteer(s) registration “for any reason” is too broad a statement - specific reason should be required.

Item # 4 – requirement of a formal orientation before “any volunteer opportunity” is overkill for small projects. A sign in sheet & brief overview of the project works well.

Policy Definitions

Age of Consent for volunteers: 19 yrs is too old – we suggest age 16 / 17 is more appropriate.

Concerns expressed re: staff oversight of volunteer activities (particularly for small projects) & the cost of staff oversight on weekends, when more community members are likely to be able to participate.

Who is an “authorized representative” for activities? How long will authorization take?

Upcoming events:

Place Speak: Community Conversation – Drinking water and watershed protection.  
Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018, 7-9pm Bench School.

Meeting adjourned: 7:30 pm

Next meeting: March 19, 2018 6:30pm @ CENC.