

Minutes of the Cowichan Station/Glenora/Sahtlam Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of September 12th, 2013, held at the Sahtlam Fire Hall

Present: Frank McCorkell, Chair, Director Loren Duncan, Howard Heyd, Mike Lees, Larry Whetstone, Paul Slade, Patty John, Ron Smith

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Tour of Park: At this point the Commission members went to Currie Park to review the progress of playground area of the new park. All were quite pleased with the layout and overall development of the playground. The Chairman outlined what still had to be undertaken this summer as well what planned to be completed this fall.

Minutes: The minutes of the June 11th, 2013 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting and were reviewed at the meeting.

Business Arising:

1. The Chairman explained the situation with the playground equipment at the Koksilah Elementary School that the Commission had partially funded about 8 years ago. Evidently a portion is remaining on site but another section is being removed since it does not meet the present safety standards. Thus none of the equipment will be returned to the Commission for use in other community parks.
2. Director Duncan indicated that the Commission will be contributing \$5,000 for the development of a trail (approximately 300 metres long) to the boarder of the Cowichan Tribes land, a raised viewing and salmon release platform and possibly in the future a kiosk and sign near this location at Busy Place Creek.

New Business:

1. Currie Park: The park is about 90% finished and work for this year should stop in another two weeks although sometime in November the long slide down the slope may be installed. It was suggested that a public open house be held in the spring to see what other facilities or amenities the community would like to see undertaken in the near future.
2. Glenora Trails Head Park: The problem with low water pressure to the washrooms has been resolved and improvements will be undertaken this fall to increase the diameter of the water line from the pump house to the washrooms.
3. Pre-budget Discussion: Commission members discussed a number of projects that could be undertaken during the 2014-15 fiscal year. It was agreed that the entire Commission (some members were away) should further discuss these possible projects in greater detail at an upcoming meeting this fall. The Chairman outlined a few projects that could be done at the Glenora Trails Head Park, Currie Park, and John's Road among others. He indicated that we will likely be getting the summer students for about 15 days next year and should have a number of projects for them to further enhance the parks. It was also mentioned that the Commission may recommend Keating Park be closed with only a trail through the area at this time due to the very small number of homes and other possible land use changes in the area.

Also, it was suggested that there should be an upgrading of playground equipment at Maplewood Park and that this could be done as a single project or certain features of the playground, such as the

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4. The Commission discussed the biking and walking issue along Koksilah Road in the Cowichan Station area. Patty John mentioned that there no shoulder along the approximately 2 kilometre section between the HUB in the Cowichan Station community and the Trans Canada Highway and felt that with the number of people using this section on a daily basis that improvements were deemed to be undertaken immediately. To get a better understanding of the problem the Commission, through the Chairman and Area Director, requests parks staff supply a large scale map showing the right-away width of Koksilah Road between the HUB to the Trans Canada Highway. In this way the Commission would be able to look at the possible improvements that could be undertaken or issues about the right-of-way that need to be resolved.

5. Howard Heyd brought to the Commissions attention that the Trans Canada Trail (Cowichan Valley Trail) from the Holt Creek Trestle to Rowe Road (or near the former Deerholme Wye) needs to have immediate brushing and other surface maintenance work undertaken to make it passable and acceptable to the general public. Evidently the brush has started to close in and take over the trail right-of-way. There may also be other areas need attention further south in the Glenora Creek area and beyond. The Commission would also like a memorandum from the Parks Department updating the Commission as to the CVRD's request to the Ministry of Transportation and Highways to have the right to occupy this portion of the Trans Canada Trail so proper annual maintenance could be undertaken. While the Commission realizes this is a Regional Parks function this portion is within Area E and a number hikers and bikers access the trail from the Glenora Trails Head Park. The memo would be appreciated for the Commissions next meeting on October 1st.

6. The annual Community Picnic will be held at the Glenora Trails Head Park from 11 am to 3 pm on September 15th and a number of Commission members will be around to assist.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on October 1st at the Glenora Community Hall, 7 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.