

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks Commission held in the Upper Community Hall, 8550 Hemlock Street, Youbou, BC, on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 7:58 pm.

PRESENT: Chairperson Marcia Stewart
Vice-Chairperson Gerald Thom
Rose Davidson
Rob Somers
Director Pat Weaver

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks & Trails
Recording Secretary Tara Daly

ABSENT: Dan Nickel

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be amended by adding one Old Business item and one New Business item:

OB5 Community Gardens at Woodland Shores;

NB1 Woodland Shores broom; and

that the agenda as amended, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

M1 It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks meeting of March 12, 2014 be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

M. Stewart welcomed Brian Farquhar, Manager, Parks & Trails Division, Planning and Development Department, Cowichan Valley Regional District.

REPORTS

AREA I DIRECTOR

- Director Weaver
- Discussions are progressing between TimberWest and the developers of Youbou Lands to finalize the location of the truck wash
 - The residential property assessments in Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) have increased with Forestry land decreasing; some of the Cowichan Valley Regional District's budget increases include 911 Service, Solid Waste, Parkland Acquisition, Regional Parks & Trails, Library and Transit

COWICHAN LAKE RECREATION

- L. Blatchford
- No information yet on the Slow Pitch League's use of the Youbou

Little League Park

- Pickle ball is still very popular with games being played at Mesachie Lake, Honeymoon Bay, Youbou, and on the curling surface, now that the ice has been removed at Cowichan Lake Sports Arena
- Locals Amber Bell and Tyler Malcolm-Chalmers are two of the guards that will be at Arbutus Park this summer
- Bowling leagues are winding down; Friday family nights and Saturday adult nights will continue
- Youbou Regatta will be August 9; would the Commission be able to work the concession?
- Organizational changes at the Regional District have put Parks and Trails as a division within the Planning and Development Department; Recreation and Culture Division currently has John Elzinga as acting General Manager (Mr. Elzinga was previously Manager of Cowichan Lake Recreation)

CHAIRPERSON

M. Stewart

- No Report

CVRD

Ryan Dias

- The maintenance crews are preparing the parks for the season
- The Little League Park ballfield has been aerated
- Mike Miller, Parks Capital Projects, will begin the process to replace the Arbutus Park life guard hut

OLD BUSINESS

OB1

Memorial Bench Update – Rob Somers

- The concrete pad will be poured by CVRD staff; R. Somers will pick up the steel frames and put the bench together with the wood he has refinished; G. Thom and M. Stewart will help with installation; R. Somers will forward a drawing to CVRD staff showing where the bolts need to be placed on the concrete pad; Allan Scott (Gillian’s husband) will attend a ceremony after installation
- Shade trees? – larger is better for survival percentages; deer or elk resistant; collaboration with CVRD staff to find the best fit

OB2

Nantree Dock

- Dock started and should be in water by end of April
- Ken Blades will be responsible for removing the old dock

OB3

Properties for Disposal

- 2 parks (Palmer Way, Upland Park at Creekside)
- B. Farquhar reported that the Electoral Area Services Committee did not support disposal of either the Palmer Way Park waterfront property or the Upland Parks property at this time. Direction was given for Engineering and Parks staff to review transfer intent of Upland Park over to Engineering, with Area I Parks being reimbursed for the value of the property to be deposited back into parkland reserves.

B. Farquhar stated that typical development cost for public access and use of a waterfront park such as the Palmer Way property would be

approximately \$10,000. As there isn't any local demand for such public access at this time, the suggestion is to defer any consideration for park improvement to when such demand arises.

B. Farquhar also reported that CVRD Parks staff have met with Arnold May, the current camp coordinator for Scouts Canada, in regards to the dirt trucked into the camp without CVRD permission (soil came from Woodland Shores development), Scout Canada's five year improvement plan for the camp, clarification of user groups allowed at camp and the longer term (20 year) renewable license agreement to replace the current interim agreement. A follow-up meeting of staff with Scouts on these matters will be scheduled for the near future.

OB4

Bald Mountain Uplands Community Park Access Issues

- B. Farquhar stated that the park is highly visual and the landscape value is irreplaceable to Area I
- In 2006 a letter was sent to the Province requesting transfer of the crown parcels to CVRD for parkland; in 2007 the adopted Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan identified the peninsula as significant for acquisition for outdoor recreation and conservation; these crown parcels are still of interest for acquisition under the regional parks program.
- Bald Mountain Community Uplands Park is 800 acres of parkland, spanning from Marble Bay Road to the North Arm of Cowichan Lake, which was dedicated through the development of Woodland Shores
- No road access has been granted by the CVRD across Bald Mountain Community Park to land parcels to the west (crown and private parcels)
- B. Farquhar reaffirmed that at no time has CVRD staff granted road access across parkland; only the CVRD Board has the authority to make a decision to allow such access

OB5

Community Gardens in Woodland Shores

- Residents wish to establish a garden in the part of the playfield that is full of broom; three interested families at this time; plans, water, fencing – probably not going to happen this year but hoping for full growing season next year
- Group met with Tanya Soroka, Parks and Trails Planner; staff are in favour and find the area chosen as very appropriate

NEW BUSINESS

NB1

Woodland Shores Broom

- Ellen Price, resident of Woodland Shores and member of the Residents' Association, sent an email to Ryan Dias concerning eradication of the broom, the Residents' Association expressed an interest in working with staff and were also looking for funding from the Parks Commission; M. Stewart responded by saying volunteers and their efforts are valuable and appreciated but there are no extra funds in the budget; R. Somers noted that he has spoken with Ms. Price explaining the lack of funding

- Area B Parks Commission raised their requisition by \$10,000 specifically to combat invasive species; a management plan including priorities has been developed – Area I Parks Commission needs to determine if invasive species management is area wide or site specific and if they wish to increase the requisition specifically targeting invasive species management
- Developers brought in a bobcat to eradicate invasive species at a cost between \$2000 and \$2500; planting (alder, fir) needs to occur to stop the broom from returning

NB2

Recording Secretary

- T. Daly is moving from the area and will no longer be available as Recording Secretary
- R. Davidson has volunteered to assume the position

ADJOURNMENT

9:28 pm

It was moved and seconded that the Regular meeting of the Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks Commission be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm.

The next Regular meeting of Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks Commission is May 13, 2014 in the Upper Community Hall at 7:00 pm.