

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, June 10, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

PRESENT: Chairperson Marcia Stewart
Vice-Chairperson Gerald Thom
Rose Davidson, Recording Secretary
Dan Nickel
Rob Somers

ABSENT: Director Pat Weaver

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be amended by adding two New Business items:

NB7 - Gates at Mile 77 and Stoker Parks and

NB8 – Nantree Park Dock Pylons;

and that the agenda as amended, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks meeting of May 13, 2014 be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING

Broom Removal – Update by Gerald Thom

He spoke to Dave Polster of Polster Environmental Services who confirmed that the best way to remove broom is to cut, not pull it, and to plant the area with other plant material. Ultimately, once trees grow up, they will shade out broom but that can take 10+ years. He also spoke to the Invasive Species Council of B.C. who confirmed that broom is now considered a “Naturalized Species” and they are now more concerned about the control of hogweed.

REPORTS

AREA I DIRECTOR

Director Weaver

- No Report.

**COWICHAN LAKE
RECREATION**

- L. Blatchford
- Registrations for swimming lessons have been coming in; trying hard to increase numbers this year.
 - Day camps and Pre-camp care will be run out of the Arena this year, being more centrally located for families; however, they will be run out of Youbou Hall during the last two weeks of August to coincide with the “Set D” swimming lessons.
 - Youbou locals Amber Bell and Tyler Malcolm-Chalmers have been hired to work at Arbutus Park this summer and additional summer staff will be travelling from other areas in the valley to work at Arbutus Park. Lifeguards will be on duty at the park from Monday, June 30th right through to Friday, August 29th (Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday 12:00 to 5 p.m.).
 - Youbou Regatta in Arbutus Park on Saturday, August 9th will include the Parade and usual canoe and swimming races among other programs; also trying to re-instate the Funky Chicken Bingo. The concession will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - Drop-in broom ball and ball hockey being played in the Arena; the ice will go back in for August 3rd.
 - Summer Curling Bonspiel held at the Cowichan Rocks Curling Rink August 21 to 24 (registration deadline August 5th). The fee is \$240 per team for the whole weekend and includes, besides curling and prizes, Saturday night dinner, a live band and dancing (max. 32 teams allowed).
 - Maintenance work is in full swing, projects include painting the outside of Centennial Hall and the inside of Youbou Hall gym, building a wheel chair ramp from curling lounge to lower viewing area, among many other projects.

CHAIRPERSON

- M. Stewart
- No Report

CVRD

- Ryan Dias
- Because of cost considerations, the student crew will only be available for 4 days.
 - Price Park – main trail will be resurfaced with gravel.
 - Under-water hazard assessments (@ at cost of \$160 per beach/park) has been done. Our area proved to be fine.
 - Irrigation systems are being checked by parks maintenance.
 - The Little League Park ball field is being redressed and reseeded.
 - Nantree Park dock – residents have requested a swim ladder for the newly installed dock and R. Dias approved it because of relative low cost.
 - B. Farquhar had a meeting with the people involved with the Scouts Camp. It is hoped that negotiations will lead to a longer renewal term for the camp (maybe up to 20 years).

OLD BUSINESS

OB1 Playfield Park broom removal – Update by Rob Somers
Working with the \$500 donation from the developer, the removal is almost 90% complete. So far, almost 4 bins provided by CVRD have been filled with broom. A neighbor is offering to pay for grass seed needed to seed the area in the fall.

OB2 Playfield Park – Tree list suggested by Brock Tingey (CVRD Park Operations Technician)
M. Stewart got a list of the most suitable trees for planting in that particular area from B. Tingey for discussion with the members of the Parks Commission. It was decided to go with Pin Oak and Linden trees to create the desired shade, without producing too much debris from falling leaves. A total of 3 trees will be needed.

OB3 Price Park new boundary map provided by Tanya Soroka
Everybody is okay with the new boundary map reflecting the land swap.

OB4 Creekside Sewer Expansion Property – Update by M. Stewart
Since the rules concerning repayment of loans between departments have changed, M. Stewart has been informed that a market appraisal will be done on this property to come up with its true market value.

OB5 Arbutus Park Lifeguard Hut – Update by M. Stewart
R. Dias needs to talk to Mike Miller to see when he can come to our meetings to discuss plans for a new hut. Since we want to include this item in the next budget, he would either have to join our next meeting on July 8 or September 9 at the very latest.

NEW BUSINESS

NB 1 Creekside Hiking Path – Update by R. Davidson
According to R. Dias, in the next week or so, the crew will be brushing/cleaning the path.

NB2 Swordfern Park Beach – Update by R. Davidson
The portion of an old dock that has been dragged ashore on the public beach by some residents in the area will be removed. As of the meeting date, this is still outstanding.

NB3 Mile 77 Park Memorial Bench
The bench exterior has deteriorated and needs to be refinished.

NB4 Playfield Park Sign

It was determined that Playfield Park should have a proper sign so that it can be recognized by all members of the community. Proposal to be included in next year's budget.

NB5 Youbou Regatta, August 9

M. Stewart, R. Somers and P. Weaver will be volunteering for the event.

NB6 Statement of Revenue and Expenditures 4

M. Stewart found a discrepancy under Arbutus Park expenditures (cost centre 5530 – electricity) and had discovered that the \$2,108.34 include costs incurred by the Rec. Centre. This will be reversed.

NB7 Gates at Mile 77 Park and Stoker Park

While CVRD regulations require the gates in these parks to be opened at 8 a.m. and closed at 8 p.m. by volunteers, this has created problems. First, they are the only two parks in the area that have a "gated parking lot" (for example, Arbutus and Price Parks don't). Second, the sign in the parks reads "Dusk to Dawn" which is open to interpretation. It has come to pass that, when volunteers have tried to close the gates at 8:00 p.m., the parking lot was still occupied and people were still using the park. That leaves only few options: volunteers ask the people to leave with confrontations being a possibility, come back a second time later hoping that people will have left, or leave the area without closing the gate. The Area I Parks Commission members therefore propose that only the washrooms in these parks be opened and closed at 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., while the gates to the parking lot should be left permanently open between May 1st and September 30th, since posts and boulders prevent people from getting into the parks with a car anyway. Also, it should be noted that the gate lock at Mile 77 shows signs of having been tampered with.

NB8. Nantree Park Dock Pylons

According to Ken Blades, 5 to 8 pylons supporting the docks have started to rot and he has asked that the CVRD should inspect them.

ADJOURNMENT

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 8:55 pm.

The next Regular meeting of Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks Commission is July 8, 2014 in the Upper Community Hall at 7:00 pm.