

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks Commission held at Youbou Lanes, 8550 Hemlock Street, Youbou, BC, on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 7:01 pm.

PRESENT: Chairperson Marcia Stewart
Vice-Chairperson Gerald Thom
Rose Davidson, Dan Nickel, Rob Somers <7:05 pm>

ALSO PRESENT: Director Pat Weaver
Recording Secretary Tara Daly

REGRETS: Ken Wilde

GUESTS: Ryan Dias – Parks Superintendent, Parks & Trails Division,
Harry Brunt (Electoral Area G - Saltair/Gulf Islands Parks
Commission Chair)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be amended with the addition of four New Business items:

NB3 Woodland Shores Boat Launch;

NB4 Dhillon Road Access;

NB5 Swordfern Park;

NB6 Nantree Park; and

that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of April 9, 2013 be amended as follows:

In attendance, replace Director Weaver with Alternate Director Hodson;

The addition of job title of “Capital Parks Coordinator” for Mike Miller;

“Pay before you Play” rather than “Play before you Play”; and

that the minutes, as amended, be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING BA1

Price Park – a resident noted that, for safety sake, gravel should be installed on the lower trails; R. Dias will look into it (cut through logs on trails; install gravel around showing roots). Any improvements can be made but the original desire for Area I Parks was to maintain a rustic feel, not manicured. Does the public want a change? Should status quo be kept or move up to the next level; the Commission felt it was best to keep

status quo allowing for safety upgrades.

Nantree Park – the placement of the picnic table is great; ladders have been installed; concern expressed by Commission about B. Wilson not waiting for Parks Commission comments before proceeding. R. Dias noted that if staff is in the area, they will do what is necessary for cost efficiency.

Stoker Park – drainage is still an issue but always has been; the park looks good.

R. Dias reported – OB 2: Arbutus Park lawn redressing has been completed; OB3: Little League Park gatekeeper is in place, washrooms could have new toilets installed; OB4: picnic table and bench have been moved; NB1: Summer Crew has been scheduled; NB2: pad at playfield is poured, garbage cans are at shop, 6 cans will be installed at each spot where doggie dispensers are; Little League Park brushing of the creek is not in the maintenance contract – will do a brush mow as has been done in the past, as needed.

CORRESPONDENCE

1 - Michael Southwell from Britco Building Innovations

Follow-up from July 2012 communication on replacement of Arbutus Park lifeguard hut through an email sent April 15

2 - R. Dias

Through email, asked that Commission members channel concerns of parks through the Chair, who will contact CVRD staff allowing for quicker response time

REPORTS

AREA I DIRECTOR

Director Weaver

- As the Commission is aware, the grant application for Arbutus Park wasn't successful, but CVRD staff is continuing to work on other grants.

COWICHAN LAKE RECREATION

L. Blatchford – no report

CHAIRPERSON

M. Stewart

The next Parks Commission Chair's meeting is May 30th; the proposed agenda includes:

- Update on follow-up actions arising from the Parks Commission Chairs Governance Workshop held March 4th
- Interim Parks Volunteer Protocols
- CVRD Board adopted 2013 Capital Projects Schedule and Parks and Trails Work Plan
- Parks and Trails Capital Projects Timeline/Approval Process Review
- New Committee/Commission Corporate Standard for Agendas /Minutes (new SIRE format)

- Fall 2014/15 Budget Planning Process
- Parks Summer Student Work Program

CVRD

Ryan Dias

- Report dealt with throughout the meeting and in NB2

OLD BUSINESS

OB1

Email from Parks & Trails Division Staff Meeting Report: B. Wilson will follow up with location of table and bench, redressed and reseeded Arbutus Park; R. Dias will follow-up with hydro pole at Arbutus Park; B. Wilson will replace ladders at Nantree Park

OB2

Change in the Minutes: will be dealt with after the Parks Commission Chair’s meeting

NEW BUSINESS

NB1

Arbutus Park Port-a-potty: usual June 1st installation but it was in before Mother’s Day because of the wonderful weather

NB2

R. Dias reported after NB6

NB3

G. Thom reported that the Woodland Shores developers had attended the last APC meeting for a re-zoning application. They confirmed they still wish to install a boat launch by the proposed swimming area separated by an 8 foot wide dock; the parking area is already in place across the road for the trailers/boats, rational for that particular spot is that the topography of the land is the best.

Parks Commission would like to have input and feel the boat launch should be situated as far west as possible on the property allowing as much separation as possible between the launch and the swimming area; G. Thom agreed to contact the developers stating that the Commission’ current proposal needs some work and that the Parks Commission is more than willing to work with them to come to a solution.

NB4

Dhillion Road public access has been taken over (squatters) – MoTI will be visiting soon to deal with it. The Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society would like to install a boardwalk with interpretive signage, it’s an ideal location for public access near the Little League Park or a spot to put in canoe, tube or swim; Highways is technically liable for the damage to the riparian area and wants to have it remediated.

Is the Parks Commission in favour of this proposal? With information from R. Dias, it was felt that Highways should continue to maintain at this point; it’s difficult to manage encroachment by adjoining properties; the roles of CVRD and MoTI are problematic. The Parks Commission would like the area to be remediated for public access when the private property is removed; future wishes would possibly be for Area I Parks to take over management under a five year short term lease similar to what is desired in other areas of the regional district.

NB5

Swordfern Park – R. Davidson reported a structure (canoe storage) seems to be encroaching on parks property; R. Dias will investigate the property lines.

NB6 Nantree Park – dealt with under Business Arising

NB2 Report from Ryan Dias – CVRD Parks

Bald Mountain Park: developers commitment was to replant the Upland Park (2008-2009); a professional forester checked the area in the spring of 2010 for survival of plants; the deer had eaten seedlings, there were pockets of broom and tree coning was suggested at a cost of \$12,000; in 2012 the same consultant did a further evaluation; the survival rates were better than expected even though there was broom and deer; there's a nice mixed species forest with little to minimal invasive species present; on the whole, things are better than expected however there are two or three areas in need of some work; even the high priorities are not expected to cost too much; labour based cost; manually pulling broom on all the roads is labour intensive; cost not known but it is time to start managing the Upland Park; invasive species grants are available; other Electoral Area Parks Commissions are setting some of their operational budget aside for invasive species removal; currently looking at broom removal and maintaining tree cones; potential for volunteers to be involved; it won't solve all of the problems but it would certainly help; Commission's goal should be to be managers of the Upland Park.

The budget contains \$9,000 in minor capital that isn't needed for Little League Park irrigation; the Arbutus Park pump and hydro pole will be covered by R&M; the Uplands Park budget is minimal at \$500; the Little League Park washroom and Arbutus Park lifeguard shack can pass through another year with a coat of paint and possibly new toilets.

The Reserve Fund (approx. \$175,000) is for major capital projects.

Government short-term borrowing is currently at 1%.

As the residential area is developed it will be cleared of broom and will become the owners' responsibility to maintain

When trees grow, the broom disappears but it's a battle; current focus should be on the areas that are deemed to be high priority, according to the professional forester; it's suggested that bracken fern also be removed.

Two-thirds of the mountain has seen good survival rates; good species forest coverage.

Staff will report back to the Commission with costs on the removal of invasive species and a game plan to achieve success. The Commission endorses the CVRD staff to obtain some costs on moving forward to manage the Upland Park on Bald Mountain.

M. Stewart, R. Somers, and R. Davidson would like to see the area. R. Dias to contact the professional forester to go with them and CVRD staff will assess the access and elevation; R. Dias will arrange the next steps.

Arbutus Park power pole has no site survey; R. Dias will speak to adjacent property owners (Youbou Lands) and if there's no concerns it will be replaced; cost of \$3,000 or \$4,000; if there's a problem, the actual placement of the pole will change; it will be done after the busy summer season.

Arbutus Park washroom building is beyond its useable life; a process to get

dialogue started on replacement needs to be initiated. The Commission needs to determine what a new structure will look like – 2 or 3 (men, women, family/accessible) washrooms? Lifeguard hut? Ideas would help staff have a “shelf ready” plan to move quickly if grants or other monies become available. The process shouldn’t be rushed, should meet the needs of the community for 20 plus years, and could be a combination of reserve funds and borrowing so as not to drain the reserve funds. Should some funding from CLR? Is lifeguarding going to be continued to be offered? According to Cowichan Lake Recreation, yes in the foreseeable future. Looking at low maintenance and longevity. Part of the process would be the location, keeping in mind Youbou Lands. When applying for grants, a concept plan is needed; CLR may be able to access different grants and they should be part of the funding.

R. Dias to send, by email, pictures of the CVRD standard for washroom structures that is being promoted throughout the region.

Little League Park irrigation from the pump to the building (one zone in field can’t find) is working, not broken; at one time it was thought it was necessary to separate the field from the lower area which would require a totally separate line and controller; it’s not worth doing that unless the system fails.

M. Stewart noted the public wants the washrooms up and running, not shut down.

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular meeting of Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks Commission will be held on June 11, 2013 at Youbou Lanes at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

9:00 pm It was moved and seconded that the Regular Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks Commission meeting be adjourned at 9:00 pm.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

On agenda for next month – the Commission start the process of conceptual drawings for the washroom facility at Arbutus Park