

MINUTES

South Cowichan Parks Commission

Thursday, May 9, 2013 630 pm Arbutus Ridge

Members Present: Margaret Symon (Chair), Lori Iannidinaro, Kerrie Talbot, Lynn Wilson, Dave Gall

Guests: Brian Farquhar, Graham Gidden

Scribe: Lynn Wilson

Business Items

1. Approve Minutes from February 12, 2013 meeting -- APPROVED

2. Bright Angel Park

- a. Draft Park Management Plan—Graham Gidden made a presentation about the draft park management plan, seeking Commission support for the draft park vision statement. The vision statement has been developed from public input received to date (e.g. park survey and open houses); it emphasizes stewardship of the park’s natural, cultural, and recreational values. The draft vision statement presents eleven key priorities and actions for the park. Graham also reviewed the results of the Bright Angel Park Survey—some of the key findings relate to user demographics, park use, park facilities, environmental protection, education and interpretation, and dog management. There will be an open house at Bright Angel Park on June 8(9), 2013 to gather public input on the draft vision statement. A visitor survey will be handed out.
- b. Recreation Rejuvenation Project—There are number of projects CVRD would like to complete in 2013, including installation of the water system, upper trail resurfacing, and the playground design and installation. Graham would like to strike a working group to assist with the playground design. This working group would require a few meetings in July. If any Commission members are interested in joining the working group, please contact Graham as soon as possible. The CVRD may develop a “nature” playground and a “regular” playground, based on public input. The playground budget is \$100,000, but this could be split between the two types of playgrounds. The CVRD will clarify what the public wants with the playground at the June 8th open house. There are also a large number of projects to be completed in 2014. The project will be completed in 2015.

3. Mill Bay Historic Church

Phase 1 of the Mill Bay Church Rehabilitation Project is complete, and due to the Phase 1 works coming in under budget, elements of Phase 2 work have also been completed. The remaining budget for the project is \$14,857. The CVRD proposes to use the remaining funds to complete

Phase 2 works and implement some of the Phase 3 works in 2013. The 2013 Phase 3 work will include installing a new accessible washroom and an exterior accessible ramp. The remaining Phase 3 works needed to fully complete the Mill Bay Church Rehabilitation Project include the interior finishes (est. \$20,000), and new wood siding (est. \$15,000). Once the 2013 Phase 3 works are complete, the CVRD will need to meet with the Commission to discuss the future use of the building. This meeting is proposed to occur in the fall at the Mill Bay Church.

4. Parkland dedication property, Cobble Hill – In Camera.

5. Invasive Plant Species

An invasive species report was recently prepared for Electoral Area B and presented to the CVRD Board. Brian Farquhar will bring the report to the next Commission Chairs meeting for their information. Eleven invasive plants were identified in the community parks around Shawnigan; different management approaches are being discussed. Margaret Symon can speak to the report if Commission members have any questions.

6. Other Items

The Glenora Staging area was a new venue (2013) for the School District cross country run. The event was a success with large numbers of students and spectators, but the washroom facilities were overtaxed. If the event is held again, consider options for increasing washroom capacity.

7. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.