



MINUTES

South Cowichan Parks Commission Meeting

September 11, 2017

Arbutus Ridge Board Room

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.

Attendees: April Tilson, Kerry Davis* (Area A); Ronald Matthus-Jones, Sierra Acton* (Area B); John Krug, Lynn Wilson, Matteus Clement* (Area C); Kerrie Talbot, Lori Iannidinardo* (Area D); Alison Nicholson* (Area E); Ryan Dias (CVRD)

(* Electoral Area Director)

Note Taker: Lynn Wilson (Chair)

1. Approval of the agenda -- APPROVED

2. Adoption of the minutes -- ADOPTED

- a. Regular South Cowichan Parks Commission Meeting of October 5, 2016

3. Business arising from the minutes -- NO MOTIONS

a. Quarry Nature Park

- i. Parking Update – *discussion*: this item will be reported on at October SCPC meeting as part of the Quarry Nature Park visitor use survey.
- ii. Visitor Survey – *discussion*: the results of the visitor use survey are being analyzed and will be reported upon at the next SCPC meeting in October.
- iii. Washroom Operating Costs– *discussion*: The Cobble Hill Parks Commission budget for operating Quarry Nature Park has been increased to \$14,000 per year. The annual cost of maintaining the washroom alone is about \$20,000. The washroom has been hit eight times this year by vandalism, despite weekend security. Director Clement would like to see a shared approach with CVRD Regional Parks, and/or SCPC members to maintain the washroom. No decision was reached.

b. Bright Angel Park

- i. Update – *discussion*: Ryan Dias reported that the park has been very busy this year, with numerous group bookings for the picnic shelter and campground. Park improvements completed a few years ago are holding up well except that micro-drip irrigation will be installed for newly

planted playground trees. It was suggested that a shade canopy be purchased for the playground. Staff were asked to look into this.

- ii. Presentation of Draft Management Plan and Budget – discussion: Graham Gidden will present a draft park management plan at the next SCPC meeting.

c. South Cowichan Boat Launch

- i. Update on installation of VORR markers – discussion: Three markers have been installed in the eelgrass protection area at a cost of \$3,000. Would like 3 additional markers installed by winter by the boat launch at \$1,200 each. Will need to look for external funding for the markers.
- ii. Renovation of welcome sign – discussion: Interest in Cowichan Bay village to replace the welcome sign. Funding would come from CBIA. Economic Cowichan interested in developing branding for Area A, B, C, and D highway welcome signs.

d. Mill Bay Historic Church

- i. Update on status of building lease – discussion: CVRD Board approved leasing the church to the three historical societies at the May 24th Board meeting. A lease agreement is ready and is now awaiting signature by the three societies under an umbrella organization.

4. Reports - NO MOTIONS

- a. 2018 SCPC Budget – discussion: Ryan Dias presented the proposed 2018 budget for {281} Bright Angel Park, and {282} South Cowichan Parks. The annual requisition for 281 is \$62,500 and for 282 it is \$59,750. Both are at their annual requisition limit. Discussion ensued about whether the current requisition limit is sufficient to cover annual operating costs and capital projects. If the electoral area directors want to raise the requisition limit(s) by up to 25%, they will need to inform staff of their intent and staff will start the process moving forward.

5. New Business – NO MOTIONS PASSED

- a. Inquiry about parks with disc/Frisbee golf potential – discussion: Cowichan Bay Parks and Recreation Commission received a request to develop a disc/Frisbee golf course. Discussion ensued about whether there is interest in pursuing this further by looking for potential sites in South Cowichan. Ryan Dias said he will talk to Graham Gidden about this. Area B might also put in a motion at their next Parks Commission meeting to designate the base of Mt. Baldy for disc golf.
- b. Replacement of boat launch at South Cowichan Boat Launch – discussion: a supplemental capital project in the amount of \$100,000 is going forward in the 2018 budget to replace the boat launch, including the pavement and ramp.

- c. Hecate Park name change - *discussion*: this item has come up a number of times for Area D. Need to research the significance of "Hecate" to local First Nations. Item put on hold for now, pending research results. Suggested to contact Brenda Krug of the Cobble Hill Historical Society for research support.
 - d. Removal and replacement of boat and welcome sign to Cowichan Bay - *discussion*: This item was discussed in Item 3.c.ii above.
6. **Directors Reports** - The Area B pavilion will open on October 7th. All volunteers will be recognized at that event.
 7. **Upcoming Events** - none noted.
 8. **Adjournment** - meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.
 9. **Next Meeting** - tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 23rd. Will confirm CVRD staff availability before confirming meeting date.

