

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

ELECTORAL AREA 'B' PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 29, 2012

7:00 PM

(Gabriola Island Women's Institute Hall)

A G E N D A

PAGES

CALL TO ORDER

DELEGATIONS

Motion to receive late delegation.

MINUTES

3-5

Minutes of the regular Electoral Area 'B' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting held February 27, 2012.

Motion to approve Minutes.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REPORTS

6-11

Monthly Update of Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects – April 2012

South Road Stairs Update (verbal)

Tin Can Alley Update (verbal)

Christine Close Bank Stabilization Update (verbal)

Mudge Island Water Access Update (verbal)

707 signs (verbal)

Motion to receive Reports.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

Off Road foot/bike Path – Community Works Fund

COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, October 30, 2012

Gabriola Island Women's Institute Hall

Disbursement: H. Houle (Chairperson), M. Dickinson, C. Williams, J. Eastick, N. Crozier, J. Young, S. O'Neill,
T. Osborne, D. Palidwor, E. McCulloch

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL AREA 'B' PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2012, 7:00PM
AT GABRIOLA ISLAND COMMUNITY HALL**

Attendance: Howard Houle, Director, RDN Board, Chair
Jacinthe Eastick
Megan Dickinson
Nancy Crozier
Catherine Williams
Stephen O'Neill
Randy Young

Staff: David Palidwor, Acting Manager of Park Services
Elaine McCulloch, Parks Planner

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Houle called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

Committee members were introduced and welcomed to the Committee.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Chair Houle called for nominations for the position of Secretary.

MOVED N. Crozier, SECONDED S. O'Neill, that Mr. Young be nominated for the position of Secretary.

CARRIED

As no other nominations were received, Chair Houle declared Mr. Young Secretary.

MINUTES

MOVED N. Crozier, SECONDED C. Williams, that the Minutes of the Electoral Area 'B' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting held September 6, 2011, be approved.

CARRIED

It was noted the October 13, 2011, minutes should reflect Mr. O'Neill as absent from the meeting.

MOVED N. Crozier, SECONDED C. Williams, that the Minutes of the Electoral Area 'B' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting held October 13, 2011, be approved as amended.

CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED S O'Neil, SECONDED M. Dickinson, that the following Correspondence be received:

- Gabriola Land Conservancy, Re: Parkland For Affordable Housing Use.
- T. Osborne, RDN, to Gabriola Land Conservancy, Re: Cox Community Park/Affordable Housing.

CARRIED

REPORTS

Monthly Update of Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects

Ms. McCulloch reviewed the Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Project for May 2011 through to February 2012, noting the following additional information:

- The Rollo McClay Community Park irrigation pond repair budgeted for \$60,000 (\$50,000 pond liner, \$10,000 pump house upgrades) will be covered by the Regional District Reserve Fund for Electoral Area B Community Parks.
- Bank stabilization at the 707 Community Park is in progress.
- The Tin Can Alley water crossing upgrade and 707 Community Park access project are in process.
- Huxley Park cleanup (including a new garbage can) is underway as part of the management plan process.
- The \$25,000 South Road beach stairway replacement project is underway. A Municipal Insurance Association grant will cover \$10,000 of the project cost.
- A survey for the placement of a berm and an upgrade of the pond leveler will be undertaken as a possible solution to the flooding issue at Coats Marsh Regional Park.
- The existing well near Huxley Park may be used for a Regional District groundwater level recording project.
- The stair repairs at Joyce Lockwood were recommended by the Municipal Insurance Association.
- A proposed Regional Park DCC Bylaw would generate a building cost charge throughout the Regional District with the revenue raised used for acquisition of regional parkland.
- Repairs to the Rollo McClay building roof and downpipe are in progress.

Five Year Project Plan

Ms. McCulloch presented the Five Year Project Plan for 2012 to 2015.

Detailed Project Plan

Ms. McCulloch presented the Detailed Project Plan for 2012. She noted the following projects:

- 707 Community Park Signs - Ms. McCulloch stated that Parks staff will coordinate the installation of the 707 Community Park signage, using an updated version of the existing 707 Community Park Trail Naming and Signage Plan. The Regional District will be responsible for the wood post caps, the drilled metal sign plates, implementing the trail names and the signage plan. A contractor will provide the 10" diameter post holes at the required locations. Gabriola Land and Trails Trust volunteers will assist with the

installation immediately following the post hole digging, to ensure the open holes are not left unattended. Park staff will be responsible for the concrete mix and water.

- Tin Can Alley Crossing – The project is underway.
- Mudge Island Consultations – The residents of Mudge Island will be consulted on the usage of their MoTI water accesses. The RDN will take into consideration the wishes of Mudge Island residents regarding which accesses they would like to see developed and how they would like to see them developed.
- Huxley Park – Community consultation will begin in the latter part of 2012.
- South Road Stairs – The construction project is underway.

MOVED N. Crozier, SECONDED C. Williams, that the Reports be received.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

MOVED R. Young, SECONDED J. Eastick, that the Regional District apply to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for a permit to construct an eighteen inch high walkway covering the wet areas of the road allowance from McDonald Road to Patterson Road, with the understanding that the Gabriola Land and Trails Trust will provide all engineering, construction materials and installation.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED S. O'Neill that the meeting be adjourned at 8:26pm.

Chair

TO: Dean Banman
Acting General Manager of Recreation and Parks

DATE: May 14, 2012

FROM: Dave Palidwor
Manager of Parks Services

FILE:

SUBJECT: Monthly Update of Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects

For the month of April 2012 staff has been involved with the following projects and issues:

Electoral Area Community Parks

Area A

Staff responded to mapping requests concerning the Trans Canada Trail, Morden Colliery and other trail corridors.

Staff prepared two concept plans for the proposed cartop boat launch on Quennell Lake. The public was invited to an Open House on April 17th to discuss the concept plans with RDN Parks and Provincial Fisheries staff. A questionnaire was distributed to those that attended the open house and was also made available to the wider community through the RDN website.

Area B

Staff worked with VIHA to correct their paperwork on the Rollo Concession operation and clarified that the RDN does not operate it, but permits others to do so. Also investigated concession fridge ownership and repair.

At Rollo McClay Community Park a number of maintenance items were attended to, including replacement of eaves-trough downspouts, installation of a new vent screen at the portable, fencing repairs on the ball diamond backstops, seed and fertilizer were delivered and spread on both fields, and an inspection of the pond liner completed. An engineered plan for the replacement of the pond liner has now been ordered from Levelton Engineering Ltd. Well-head area fencing repairs are also underway.

Staff also made a site visit to Rollo McClay Community Park with Water Services staff to examine the water treatment and delivery system. Maintenance responsibility for drinking water provision at the park is being transferred to RDN Regional and Community Utilities.

Staff worked with the Gabriola Recreation Society and the East Vancouver Bike Polo Association to conclude a permit for a bike polo event Easter weekend at Huxley CP. Event was successful and passed without incident.

A hazard tree was removed at Blue Heron Community Park, and several hazard trees were removed at the community park off the east end of Queequeg Turnabout.

Two handrails were added to the existing bleachers at Huxley Community Park.

Aeration of the ball fields has been completed, and mowing of the ball fields and four Whalebone area parks has begun for the season.

Area C

An arborist report was received regarding two fruit trees at Extension Miners Community Park.

Staff consulted with area kayakers and VIU/NALT Nanaimo River group to confirm a name for the new community park located on Nanaimo River Road and known for decades as the A-frame after an old Boy Scouts camp structure. The recommended Park name is Nanaimo River Canyon CP, in recognition of the unique terrain now serviced by viewing trail.

East Wellington/Pleasant Valley

Mowing has begun for the season at Meadow Drive Community Park.

The RDN has received title to a new community park on Jinglepot Road, that was donated as part of the Olesen estate. The park is to be named Anders Dorrit Park. Staff are assessing the condition of the house and grounds and attending to any hazardous conditions prior to allowing public access.

Area E

In response to community requests, the SD69 has reinstalled the garbage can at Jack Bagley Community Park so this will result in less clean up in that area by RDN staff.

Staff is monitoring reports of unauthorized vehicle access to a section of the Schooner Ridge Path in Fairwinds and are planning to place a vehicle barricade at the entrance.

Area F

Staff prepared all materials and advertising for the first Meadowood Community Park Workshop held on April 28. Input was received on vision, principles, issues and preliminary park elements. Over 20 people/stakeholders participated. A summary of input received from the Workshop participants and the online questionnaires will be produced following close of the survey in mid-May.

Staff worked with the POSAC to determine a name and logo for the first ACT Trail: group concluded on Errington School Trail.

Staff worked with the Area Director, POSAC, School, PAC and Arrowsmith coordinators on the ACT 1 trail opening event. Staff also worked with Errington Elementary School Principal on gathering and training a crew of student nature guides and singers for the official opening. The event was attended by approximately 60 people.

Area G

Staff conducted several meetings with consultants, partners, and an adjacent property owner in the course of planning work for an upcoming bank stabilization project at Miller Road Community Park. Legal documentation with the prime contractor, BC Conservation Foundation, is nearing completion. A

site visit to a recent, similar project on the same water course was also conducted. Work is scheduled to begin in mid-July.

An invasive plant species sweep of the Miller park property saw the removal of a large volume of Giant Hogweed throughout the park. Additional, supporting work was also conducted on neighbouring properties by Friends of French Creek Society volunteers.

At Hawthorne Rise Community Park staff completed brushing along the trails and boulevard.

Area H

At Dunsmuir Community Park staff painted over graffiti covering a toilet surround and cleaned up garbage and debris.

At Franksea Road (a Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure beach access) staff responded to a complaint regarding dumping and trespass by adjacent property owner and resolved the problem.

Parks staff reviewed the rezoning application for 2900 Leon Road (Dias). Due to concern regarding the impact of land clearing on the subject parcel in relation to the trees located in the linear park adjacent to the subject property, parks staff requested an arborist report. Staff reviewed the arborist report and recommended that the identified hazard trees in the park be cleared at the time of land clearing on the subject property. Due to the difficulty of coordinating the removal of the trees in the park, the applicant has provided cash-in-lieu and parks will proceed with the hazard tree removal when required.

Vegetation management activities were undertaken at McColl Road Community park.

Staff met with Ministry of Forests staff to discuss urban interface fire risks and abatement options within RDN park properties.

Staff worked with the Lions and Hall Board representatives regarding the Hwy signage and a proposed new lane connection between the Hall and Community Park properties. New Highway sign will include a panel for the Lighthouse Country Regional Trail.

Regional Parks and Trails

Arboretum

A steel forestry gate was installed at the Arboretum entrance.

Beachcomber Regional Park

A portable washroom and cedar surround was installed including new stairs.

Coats Marsh Regional Park

Park staff continued to monitor beaver debris, pond leveler and water level of the marsh.

Descanso Bay Regional Park

New siding was installed on the park office and skirting repair was also completed.

Staff worked with RDN Water services staff to develop an emergency response plan document for the water system and to apply for a new drinking water permit .

Staff received the 2011 year-end report and occupancy statistics from park operator. No significant change from previous years.

Staff initiated Oceans Day planning with park operator.

Englishman River Regional Park

Staff responded to maintenance issues identified by the Volunteer Park Warden including; garbage issues, ATV trespass, vandalism, graffiti and suspect hazardous trees.

Park staff cut and removed several trees that came down on the main access road and trails.

Park staff installed new trail marking signs.

Staff met with BC Hydro regarding revegetation planning for the riparian area.

Horne Lake Regional Park

Park staff removed the old generator building.

Staff assisted with an ATV vandalism incident at Southpark. RCMP has been provided with video showing people burning a picnic table. RCMP is being encouraged to undertake more ATV patrols.

Lighthouse Country Regional Trail

Staff developed detailed drawings for the improvements to the parking area and trail surfacing. A tender package will be distributed to contractors in mid-May. The official opening of the trail is set for June 23.

Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area

Parks staff removed an old section of fence along the boundary because of damage from 'king' tides. The old T-bar posts and wire were removed from the area. This section was measured and new fencing material has been ordered for the repairs.

Staff met with the Guardians of the Mid-Island Estuaries Society in order to review a draft agreement in support of Canada Goose research at the Little Q and Englishman estuaries.

Staff worked with legal counsel to finalize a 99 year lease with Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Little Qualicum River Regional Park

Staff prepared all materials and advertising for the first Workshop held on April 28. Input was received on vision, principles, issues and preliminary park elements for both parks. Over 20 people/stakeholders participated. A summary of input received from the Workshop participants and the online questionnaires will be produced following close of the survey in mid-May.

Moorecroft Regional Park

Staff prepared for the Advisory Committee meeting in early May. Consultants provided a preliminary draft of management policies and action items for review.

Park Operations staff carried out the following works at Moorecroft Regional Park:

- Fence built to protect rare coastal wood fern along Vesper Point.
- Removal of old windows and bedframes from under Stringer Hall
- Septic fields were tested and it is affirmed they are still useable
- Pruned back shrubs along the main road into the park.

Morden Colliery Trail

Staff received notice from the Province of the registration of NCID's water line SRW across the trail. Amendments to the SRW agreement in order to better protect trail interests were included as requested.

Nanaimo River Regional Park

Staff arranged a site meeting with The Land Conservancy Executive Director and Vancouver Island Land Manager, Ministry of Forests research scientists, propagation specialists and parks staff in order to review the history and status of the various research plantations at the park. Forestry staff will develop a limited harvest proposal so wood strength can be tested; they will also provide the stories behind the plantations for use in interpretive signage.

Park staff has installed two split rail fence sections along the river to keep the public away from the eroding river bank.

Parksville Qualicum Links

Staff hosted the second quarterly cycling working group meeting of 2012 with representatives from the Oceanside Cycling Coalition, City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach. Reviewed Bike to Work Week plans, and developed a game plan for adding way markers to the PQ Links route. Bike to Work Week will be used to test some painted symbols within the Town and City.

Staff met with local cyclists to discuss safety issues with the Barclay Crescent Bridge railing and will be adding a 'rub' rail along the bridge.

Other

Staff updated the park inventory (two new Area C community parks officially transferred to the RDN).

Recreation and Parks staff met with Information Services mapping staff to vet previously collected GPS field data and to prioritize/schedule future collection sites.

Improvements were made to the operations shop, including items stemming from a health and safety inspection. Safety equipment was organized and a Work Safe BC facility inspection was conducted.

Approving two park use permits for DFO with regard to a 2011 coho smolt count on the Englishman River, and bolstering of the south side of the beaver pond in order to prevent side channel water and fish from entering the main stem.

Staff met to discuss aspects of future parkland dedication through the Fairwinds project. A list of items to consider/request of the developer was generated for further review.

RDN parks staff met with City of Nanaimo staff and a representative from the Nanaimo Mtn. Bike Club to review desired future biking connections in the City and region, as well as to receive an overview of correspondence between the MBC and other agencies/organizations to date.

Staff met with Bylaw Enforcement staff to review the Province's off-road vehicle initiative.

Recommendations

That the Parks Update Report for April 2012 be received as information.

Original signed by D. Palidwor

Manager of Parks Services

Original signed by D. Banman

Acting General Manager Concurrence

