

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL AREA 'A' PARKS, RECREATION AND  
CULTURE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
HELD WEDNESDAY, June 18 , 2014  
7:00PM  
(CEDAR HERITAGE CENTRE)**

**Attendance:** Alec McPherson, RDN Director, Chair  
Jim Fiddick  
Patti Grand  
Bernard White  
Angela Vincent  
Eike Jordan  
Carolyn Mead  
Andrew Thornton

**Staff:** Hannah King, Superintendent of Recreation Program Services  
Elaine McCulloch, Parks Planner  
Ann-Marie Harvey, Recording Secretary

**Regrets:** Kerri-Lynne Wilson

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair McPherson called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

**DELEGATIONS**

**Deborah Blum – Pace Road Beach Access**

Ms. Blum gave her opinion that the property that allowed access between Pace Rd and Shasta Rd in the past is now not accessible due to the new owners of the property blocking the private access that was once available to locals. She suggested that a small trail down to the beach would be a substantial improvement to the existing lack of access.

**Tom & Sabine Molfenter -Shasta Road Beach Access**

Mr. Molfenter recapped his submission to the committee regarding the walking loop through the "40 acre piece". With the new ownership there is now blocked access through that property. In his original submission he had wanted to express his desire to continue to have a walking loop which is why he had suggested that a loop could be maintained by developing MoTI water accesses which would facilitate access to a beach loop walk. However since his submission it had come to his attention that they do have an opportunity to maintain access through the '40 acre' property and that that would be their preference over the beach access to beach access link. They would like to keep the current beach accesses accessible but discreet as they are.

**Daniel & Patricia Johnston - Shasta Road Beach Access**

Mr. Johnston spoke about the path that had been used for trail for a long time by community members. He mentioned that the Fish Club members had had a meeting to discuss the issue of having access to the property. There was a strong sentiment that the community should be able to continue to enjoy access to the beach with consideration to privacy and the challenges with parties, fires, safety, etc with the public on the beaches. He'd like to see the community work together to find a way to do that without any significant involvement of the RDN. There ways to make a trail without a significant cost.

He noted the unfortunate loss of the access to the '40 acre' property but sees the beach access development as a way to continue that enjoyment so long as safety is regarded in accessing the beach. Headland, Driftwood, Shasta(drop). Headland is most important access back up to Pace Rd., Holden Corso, need that access on headland to do that loop.

MOVED P. Grand, SECONDED B. White to receive the late delegation.

CARRIED

**Adam Paters**, a member of the gallery (was not clear on the name) asked Chair McPherson if the RDN would consider a letter from community members requesting the RDN require a trail connection through the subject property.

Chair McPherson answered that at subdivision a property owner is not required to dedicate parkland as long as the resulting lots are over 2 hectares in size; and there is no requirement for public amenities. He explained some of the land issues with the property from his knowledge and what will need to be done.

**Robert Scott – 2303 Ravenhill Rd.**

Mr. Scott acknowledged that many local residents have used the trail route through private property which links Shasta Rd. and Pace Rd. and that this is an important trail loop within the community. He recognized that the new owners no longer permit public access through their property. He requested that the RDN ask for a public trail connection through the property as a requirement through subdivision.

Chair McPherson explained the RDN development procedure, OCP considerations, etc.

Commissioner Fiddick said there are 28 beach accesses and only 2 are developed. He said that he would like to see more developed as they are a public access point, not private accesses.

**MINUTES**

MOVED Commissioner Grand, SECONDED Commissioner White that the minutes of the Regular Electoral Area 'A' Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission meeting held April 16, 2014 be received.

CARRIED

**COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

MOVED B. White, SECONDED A. Vincent that the following Communications/ Correspondence be received:

H. King, RDN (on Behalf of A. McPherson) to Cedar Skate Park Association, **Re: Thank you- Cedar Skate Park**

H. King, RDN (on Behalf of A. McPherson) to A. Elliott, **Re: Thank you - Cake for Cedar Skate Park Opening**

CARRIED

## **BOARD AND COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Community Works Fund**

Chair McPherson gave a history of how the Community Works Funds came to be and how the funds are used and the new criteria that has been added for use for recreation facilities. The funds can also not be spent all on one item. He noted that it is estimated that EA 'A' would receive \$290,000 for 2014/2015.

### **Morden Colliery Regional Trail – Nanaimo River Bridge**

Chair McPherson updated that he attended the Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee and the engineer has come up with two concepts for the bridge - a suspension bridge and a truss bridge. When the report is complete, he would like this committee to send their feedback to the board on their preference of the structure type.

Commissioner Fiddick reported that the Cedar Horse Club has been working with Kelsey Cramer about putting up some trail courtesy signs on the trail. He showed the committee the mockup of the proposed sign. He said they started with Hemer Park and because many riders ride through Morden Colliery Regional Trail, he worked with Ms. Cramer to get those up in there as well.

### **Morden Colliery Tipple Engineering Report**

Chair McPherson updated that the Friends of Morden Mine have written to the Minister and asked for a contribution towards the funding for the engineering report. They were hoping to receive a response before the RFP goes out and have not heard back as of this date.

MOVED Commissioner Jordan, SECONDED Commissioner Vincent that the Board and Committee Updates be received.

CARRIED

## **REPORTS**

### **Monthly Update of Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects – April 2014**

Ms. McCulloch reviewed the report for Area 'A' items.

### **Water Access Update (Commission)**

Commissioner Vincent gave an update of the water access inventory table. She has added all the information for each site that she had written down. Still need to get some latitudes and longitudes but it's a good start.

The commissioners will look at the water access Word documents and consider any changes. When there is more of a final format they will meet so they can talk about priorities.

MOVED Commissioner White, SECONDED Commissioner Vincent that the reports be received.

CARRIED

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2014 Recreation Planning Session**

Ms. King wanted to check in with the Commission to see if they wanted to plan a Recreation Planning Session.

The Commission decided to have some agenda items for recreation planning on the September agenda for discussion.

### **COMMISSIONER ROUND TABLE**

**Commissioner Vincent** remarked how nice it was to see people from the community attending the meeting.

**Commissioner Fiddick** remarked that we are a Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission but what do we do for 'Culture'?

**Chair McPherson** questioned whether the RDN should be offering some cultural programs and noted that this is a topic to discuss in the upcoming planning session.

Ms. McCulloch noted that some of the Commission's grants are given to culture groups for their programs.

**Commissioner Thornton** commented that what he feels is missing is an identity for the area.

**Commissioner Grand** commented that the culture in the community is like a well-kept secret and its time to expose the secret.

**Commissioner Mead** noted that there is a new pharmacy in town and that she appreciates the growing number of services provided in Cedar. The skateboard park opening was a great turn out with the breath of age groups. She checked out beach access #6 and will continue going there.

**Commissioner White** updated the members on some of the key themes he took away from attending the BCRPA Symposium. He will review more at the recreation planning discussion this upcoming September. The theme of the conference was 'Connections' and the continued message he got from each session is the importance of a leader, coordinator, or entity being responsible for bringing the community together with programs. He feels the community has lost that with the loss of the programmer in 2012 and that it is going to be a long road to get that momentum of community connection back. We must find a new source of leadership to pull it all together again; perhaps funds will have to be found to put towards someone or some association to get that connection back.

Chair McPherson notes that the RDN has other areas that are run as a society and that is something this commission can look at to shepherd the recreation in this area. This could be put in the next agenda for discussion as an item to be discussed and budgeted for.

**Chair McPherson** remarked that the community needs a gathering place and whether that is through the RDN or through development remains to be seen but it's definitely important to the community.

**IN CAMERA**

MOVED Commissioner Grand, SECONDED Commissioner Mead, that pursuant to Section 90(1) (e) of the Community Charter the Commission proceed to an In Camera Commission meeting to consider items related to land issues.

**TIME: 9:45pm**

CARRIED

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED Commissioner Thornton SECONDED Commissioner Jordan that the meeting be adjourned at 9:57.

CARRIED

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*Chair*