

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL AREA 'H' PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, October 15, 2014
10:00 AM
(Lighthouse Community Centre, Qualicum Bay)**

ATTENDANCE: Bill Veenhof, Chair, Director, RDN Board
Richard Leontowich
David Wiwchar
Dagmar Sedel

STAFF: Wendy Marshall, Manager of Park Services
Elaine McCulloch, Parks Planner

REGRETS: Valerie Weismiller
Nancy Robertson
Barry Ellis

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Veenhof called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

MINUTES

MOVED Leontowich, SECONDED D. Wiwchar that the minutes of the regular Electoral Area 'H' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting held June 25th, 2014 be approved.

CARRIED

REPORTS

**Monthly Update Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects – June - August 2014
Monthly Update Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects – September 2014**

Ms. McCulloch gave a summary of the Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects reports.

Henry Morgan Community Park – Phase 2 install update

E. McCulloch provided a verbal report on the progress on the Henry Morgan Community Park phase 2 install. The site has been prepared and the swings have been ordered. The swing and porta potty install will be completed by the end of October.

MOVED D. Sedel, SECONDED D. Wiwchar that the reports be received.

CARRIED

BOARD AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Director Veenhof provided the following updates:

Director Veenhof continues to work with RDN and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure staff on a number of items including: improving wayfinding signage; investigating the possibility of developing a road side trail from Qualicum Bay to Bowser; and supporting the idea of a potential rest stop at Horne Lake Rd. and Hwy 19. It was noted in the discussion with the Committee that Dagmar would support the idea of a roadside trail but not the idea that improvements to the Lighthouse Regional Trail to connect Qualicum Bay and Bowser could serve as this link (instead of a road side trail). She has observed that many people do not feel comfortable using forested trails due to a perceived danger from cougars and bears that are frequently seen in the area. She also noted that any further improvements to the Lighthouse Regional Trail should allow for equestrian use.

Director Veenhof is planning to initiate a trails group that can work towards creating a trails map which will show all the official and unofficial trails and parks in the area. The RDN and VIU have agreed to provide some mapping assistance to the trails group (e.g. gps units for capturing trail location data). The Lighthouse Community Hall has agreed to host a community trail map webpage from their website and the RDN has agreed to provide a link to this webpage from the RDN Community Parks webpage.

NEW BUSINESS

B. Veenhof noted that signage currently installed at H-25 (RDN map ID) identifies that park as Deep Bay Community Park. As the park is a linear park the committee requested that the sign be changed to read Deep Bay Community Trail.

COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE

D. Sedel has had some positive feedback from community members regarding the new playground at Henry Morgan Community Park.

R. Leontowich told the Committee that a local group has expressed interest in starting a slow pitch league at the Lions Community Park. Chair Veenhof informed the Committee that the Slow Pitch League has received RDN recreation grant funding this year. R. Leontowich also mentioned that the Community Hall signage/message board located at Lions Way and Highway 19A is going to be improved so it will be more legible.

D. Wiwchar noted that the new gravel ramp which replaced the broken stairs at the Shoreline Dr. water access is hazardous due to the loose gravel and the stones slide as you go down the ramp.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED D. Wiwchar that the meeting be adjourned at 10:50 am.

CARRIED