

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL AREA 'A' PARKS, RECREATION AND  
CULTURE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2015  
7:00PM  
(CEDAR HERITAGE CENTRE)**

**Attendance:** Alec McPherson, RDN Director, Chair  
Jim Fiddick  
Patti Grand  
Andrew Thornton  
Graham Gidden  
John O'Connor  
Kerri-Lynne Wilson  
Angela Vincent

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

**Regrets:** Bernard White

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair McPherson called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

**DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATION**

No Delegations

**MINUTES**

MOVED Commissioner Grand, SECONDED Commissioner Gidden that the Minutes of the Regular Electoral Area 'A' Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission meeting held April 15, 2015 be received.

CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

NONE

**COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no Communications/ Correspondence.

**REPORTS**

**PARKS**

**Monthly Update of Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects – April 2015**

**Monthly Update of Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects – May 2015**

Ms. McCulloch answered any questions from Commissioner about these reports.

MOVED Commissioner Grand, SECONDED Commissioner Wilson that the Monthly Update of Regional and Community Parks and Trails Projects be received.

CARRIED

### **Cedar Plaza Kiosk Update**

Ms. McCulloch gave a history of the Cedar Plaza Kiosk project. She noted that the budget had been scaled back to \$40,000 and showed a mockup of a tippie headframe kiosk that could be constructed within this budget by Mr. Gary Britt.

MOVED Commissioner Fiddick, SECONDED Commissioner O'Connor that staff proceed with the tippie/headframe concept and design for the Cedar Plaza Kiosk project.

CARRIED

### **Water Access Priority Development Sites Update**

Commissioners visited some priority water access points.

#10 - off Pylades

#4 – didn't go. Sandstone and no beach.

#20 – Driftwood Road – fairly level and easy to access. Would need some blackberry clearing and better parking, would need stairs down to beach. Has a lot of potential.

#18 - Headland Rd. - Good location. Next to Fish farm

The commission discussed some of the issues at each site.

MOVED Commissioner Gidden, SECONDED Commissioner Fiddick that staff be directed to commence in 2015 the concept, design and permitting of the A-20 beach access in Electoral Area 'A' and allocate project's costs in the 2016 budget.

CARRIED

MOVED Commissioner Gidden, SECONDED Commissioner Fiddick that the property boundaries at A-18 beach access at Headland Rd be verified.

CARRIED

## **RECREATION**

### **Cedar Heritage Building Work Update (*verbal*)**

Ms. King gave a summary of the stairs work that was done to the Cedar Heritage Centre and noted the roof would be done in August.

### **Lease and Site Licence Agreement with Cedar School & Community Enhancement Society**

Mr. Banman gave a summary of the report in the agenda.

MOVED Commissioner Grand, SECONDED Commissioner Vincent that staff be directed to approach the Cedar School and Community Enhancement Society and extend the current Lease and Site Licence Agreement between the Regional District of Nanaimo and the Cedar School and Community Enhancement Society which is due to expire December 31, 2015 for one year term to December 31, 2016.

CARRIED

### **Cedar Sport Court Update (*verbal*)**

Mr. Banman updated the commission with the progress of the Cedar Sport Court with Snuneymuxw First Nations. Staff has been in discussions with Snuneymuxw First Nations and Herold Engineering working towards an agreement. The Community Works Funds agreement is being reviewed by Snuneymuxw First Nations lawyers and RDN lawyers. When that agreement is signed and approved work can begin. Chair McPherson expects this to be about September.

MOVED Commissioner Vincent, SECONDED Commissioner O'Connor that Recreation reports be received for information.

CARRIED

### **BCRPA Symposium Report**

Commissioner Thornton handed out a summary of the workshops he attended at the BCRPA Symposium and reviewed some of the highlights of his experience at the Symposium. He noted that the presentations would be available on the BCPRA website.

MOVED Commissioner Grand, SECONDED Commissioner Wilson that the BCRPA Symposium report be received.

CARRIED

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Sesquicentennial Information Handbook**

Mr. Banman summarized the information the hand book provides and described the two types of grants being offered. One had a deadline of today and was for upgrade current facilities and was shovel ready. The other is for Canada 150 events and has a deadline of next year sometime. He said that staff will have this handbook and links to the grant websites put on the RDN website for people to access and direct people to.

### **COMMISSIONER ROUND TABLE**

**Commissioner Wilson** told the Commission about her trip as the VP of Spirits Mission to Vanderhoof to participate in a spay/neuter clinic in Saik'uz First Nations community.

**Commissioner Vincent asked** about the Beautification Project that was discussed at the last meeting. Chair McPherson said that some potential projects came to the board but did not qualify.

**Commissioner O'Connor** gave a summary of his experience at the BCRPA Symposium. He found it very organized. He inquired about how the action items at the symposium could be put into action in Cedar. He would like to know how we can incorporate the recreation program with the arts program.

Mr. Banman explained that as a Commission you have the ability to ask staff to have an item placed on the agenda. Prior to each meeting the agenda is accepted and then when the agenda reaches the item all that is required to speak to the item is a commission member to move and second that the agenda item be discussed. The Commission can recommend that staff follow an action presented in a resolution and this recommendation is then forwarded onto the RDN Board. If the RDN Board endorses the recommendation then staff will carry out the direction.

MOVE Commissioner O'Connor, SECONDED Director Grand that staff be directed to investigate and report on what synergies could be brought together between Recreation and Arts in Electoral Area 'A'.

CARRIED

**Commissioner Grand** thanked Commissioner O'Connor for the motion as she felt that same way when she attended the Symposium last year and wanted to see the incorporation of the arts into the community. She is going to Cumberland United Church to a play about coal miners, 7:00pm June 18<sup>th</sup>. She noted Commissioner Fiddick's wife has a play that would fit in this community's history.

A partnership is being discussed between the Gabriolian arts community and this area to attend plays in each area and working around the ferry times.

**Commissioner Fiddick** told the Commission about him volunteering to trek around Yellowpoint to map the ecosystems in the area and attended a dinner put on by the CVRD in thanks for the work. He encouraged Commission members to take a look at the map of the ecosystems of that area.

Commissioner Fiddick asked about the conversation the commission had about putting a garbage can/porta potty at the Cable Bay Trail head. Chair McPherson said he would discuss it at the next Nanaimo Rec and Parks Commission meeting.

**Commissioner Gidden** told the Commission the CVRD is was tracking a person putting up wooden owls on the trees in parks. It is considered vandalism and one park staff counted 80 owls on trees posted with 3.5" dowels in to the trees and it is causing damage to the trees. The individual has been located and has said he will stop and didn't realize the concern. They have been seen in RDN parks and told the Commission and staff to be aware and let him know if any new owls are found.

He mentioned to Ms. McCulloch that the Morden Colliery cobble trail surfacing near the bridges makes very difficult to run or push a stroller through.

Notice of motion for next meeting – Central Community parkland and the disposal of unused parkland to acquire a central community park.

**Commissioner Thornton** mentioned he is open to more meetings informally to discuss projects. Chair McPherson said that transparency is important when discussing projects moving forward and keeping things in the public forum so that perception isn't that some are moving things forward without consultation.

**Chair McPherson** updated the Commission on the Friends of Morden Mine Society folding their organization after 12 yrs. They have exhausted all avenues and the Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee passed a motion from a report not to devote any more time or resources to this project at this time. He encouraged Commission members to read the report on the June 16 RPTSC agenda that is on the RDN website.

## **IN CAMERA**

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

**Time: 9:15pm**

CARRIED

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED Commissioner Grand that the meeting be adjourned at 9:50pm.

CARRIED

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*Chair*