

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**MINUTES OF ELECTORAL AREA 'E' PARKS AND OPEN SPACES ADVISORY  
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING HELD  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016  
6:30PM  
(NANOOSE PLACE)**

**Attendance:** Director Bob Rogers - Chair  
Peter Law – Secretary  
Gordon Wiebe  
Vicki Voros  
Debbie Mitchell  
Diana Young  
Marlene Caskey

**Staff:** Lesya Fesiak, Parks Planner  
Wendy Marshall, RDN Parks Manager

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Director Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Request to add an item to the agenda under New Business – illegal tree cutting in Community Parks.

MOVED P. Law, SECONDED D. Mitchell that the agenda be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS/INTRODUCTION**

Marlene Caskey is the new member appointed for a 2 year term.

Debbie Mitchell has been re-appointed to a 2 year term.

**ELECTION OF SECRETARY**

Peter Law was acclaimed as secretary. P. Law has acted in this capacity for the past year.

**DELEGATIONS**

No delegations

**MINUTES**

MOVED G. Wiebe, SECONDED D. Mitchell that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Nanoose Bay (Area E) POSAC held May 21, 2015 be adopted.

CARRIED

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Ms. Fesiak presented an excel spreadsheet that she compiled from the excellent work done by the Area E (2015) Park Planning Sub Committee.

Director Rogers had a number of suggested amendments to the spreadsheet:

- I. High Priority Projects: Remove the "Community Works" notation associated with Oakleaf CP. Add \$5K from the RDN Parks budget to Oakleaf CP.
- II. Set some rankings to the list of projects for High and Medium Priority Projects:
  1. Blueback CP construction
  2. Claudet Road additional upgrades
  3. Oakleaf CP
  4. Davenham Community Trail
  5. Rowland Place park restoration and FN interpretation.
  6. Ted's Rd Road End beach access
- III. Director Rogers indicated that FN treaty discussions (over next few years) will have some impact on how these projects move forward.

## **REPORTS**

### **Monthly Update Regional and Community Parks and Trails Projects (October 2015 to December 2015)**

MOVED G. Wiebe, SECONDED V. Voros that the Monthly Update Regional and Community Parks and Trails Projects (October 2015 to December 2015) be received.

CARRIED

### **Blueback Community Park – Verbal Update**

Ms. Marshall provided members with an update on this project. The project remains on hold, as the site is too wet to complete. A new drainage plan has yet to be installed. The funds allocated to complete the project include - \$113k RDN Parks funding and \$77K from Community Works (total estimate to completion = \$188K). Ms. Marshall noted that there is a question about whether \$12K for an irrigation system is needed. A concrete vault toilet will be installed at the site.

D. Mitchell asked whether the proposed swale is still going to be built and P.Law asked about the proposed drainage plan and where the water will drain to. Ms. Marshall stated that the grading and trails are as planned and the water will drain towards the small runoff channel located on the northwest side of property. The drainage plan has added \$40K to the original projected costs for the project.

### **Claudette Community Park –Verbal Update**

Director Rogers provided a brief summary about work that has been undertaken in this park over the past few months. Funding (\$75K) has been through the Community Works Fund and not the Area E Community Parks budget. Future work includes:

- Building of a fence to discourage trespass onto adjacent properties.
- Gravel placement on some wet areas of the existing trail.

Director Rogers asked members whether they would support spending on the following park enhancements:

1. Picnic table - \$400.00
2. Concrete Vault toilet - \$8K to \$10K

The committee members expressed their support for these two additions.

### **District 69 Recreation Commission Report – Verbal Update**

G. Wiebe indicated that the Commission will meet in the coming weeks, so nothing to report.

### **Community Works Fund – Verbal Update**

Director Rogers indicated that this fund is assisting in the delivery of two park projects already discussed (Claudet CP and Blueback CP).

### **Directors Report – Verbal Update**

Director Rogers indicated that there is a Regional Parks and Trails meeting next week. He is also engaged in the development of the annual budget for the RDN. The Fairwinds Regional Park Plan has not been “finalized” yet, as there is a report outstanding: the Enos Lake Protection and Monitoring Plan. Director Rogers indicated this has yet to be completed by the new owners of Fairwinds.

MOVED D. Mitchell, SECONDED D. Young that the Verbal Updates be received.

CARRIED

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Oakleaf Community Park**

Ms. Fesiak provided an update on this new park’s planning. She indicated that the subdivision is nearing final “approvals”. The proposed park will be subject to an assessment by an Archeologist and a Biologist in the coming months.

D. Mitchell asked whether the proposed washroom for the park will be hooked up to the strata’s sewage system and the NPWS. Staff will look into this and report back.

Director Rogers asked whether the Committee would like to visit the park to review the proposed amenities and ecological sensitive areas. Committee members agreed. Director Rogers will coordinate an onsite visit.

### **Illegal Tree Cutting in Community Parks**

P. Law provided his observations on a local Community Park in the Fairwinds area, that has been subject to an active tree cutting campaign over the past several years. He has noted that the majority of Park was dominated by second growth fir and maple trees. Somebody has been cutting individual trees at the base, removing the tree and branches, then leaving the site for weeks/months, before removing another tree. Today, most of the trees in the Park have been removed. He speculates that the reason the trees were removed (methodically) is to provide a better view corridor from the street to the golf course.

P.Law asked whether there is a digital file kept of Community Parks for reference on their condition over time. Staff responded that there is no digital file although the RDN map can be used to monitor tree coverage.

Ms. Marshall indicated that illegal tree removal in Community Parks is a Bylaw Enforcement file.

#### **COMMITTEE ROUNDTABLE**

**V. Voros** – Has observed that the Notch (Fairwinds) has seen (what she described) as significant increase in public use over the past several years.

**M. Caskey** – asked about how she can “get up to speed” with the POSAC. A Binder will be delivered to assist in this regard.

**P. Law** – asked whether RDN Parks staff have any communications with BC Crown Lands staff about the DL 137 “Douglas Fir Moratorium” properties.

**Director Rogers** - requested that POSAC members prepare for a review of Area E trails, as this is the focus of the upcoming May meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED M. Caskey, SECONDED G.Wiebe that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30pm.

CARRIED

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Chairperson