

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks Commission held in the Upper Community Hall, 8550 Hemlock Street, Youbou, BC, on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

PRESENT: Chairperson Marcia Stewart
Rose Davidson, Recording Secretary
Monroe Grobe (new Commission Member)
Ian Halowaty (new Commission Member)
Dan Nickel
Rob Somers

**ALSO
PRESENT:** Area I Director Klaus Kuhn

**ELECTION
Of OFFICERS:**

After the introduction of all Commission Members, the Election of Officers took place:

It was moved and seconded that Marcia Stewart be elected by acclamation for the position of CHAIRPERSON.

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded that Rob Somers be elected by acclamation for the position of VICE-CHAIRPERSON.

MOTION CARRIED

Rose Davidson has accepted to continue working as Recording Secretary.

**APPROVAL
Of AGENDA:**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be amended by adding two New Business items:

NB3: Walk about with new Commission Members

NB4: Report on Price and Swordfern Parks by I. Halowaty

And that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

**ADOPTION OF
MINUTES:**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks meeting of December 9, 2014, be adopted with the following amendment:

OB1 – The proposed footprint for the Gerald Thom Memorial Shelter should read 20 x 20 feet (instead of 14 x 20 feet)

MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS
ARISING:**

- The lighting problem in Arbutus Park has been fixed.
- Playfield Park: Four golden locust trees (approx. 12 feet tall) have been planted; they look wonderful and have started to leaf out.

REPORTS

AREA I DIRECTOR

K. Kuhn

- **Lake Cowichan weir and water level:** There is concern that we will have again another very long dry spell this summer, which will affect the water level on the lake and down the river. Several options are currently being looked at by the CVRD as to how to deal with this problem.
- **Nantree Park:** There is a longstanding issue with some properties in this area. They are zoned residential, but some of them have over the years been used primarily for recreation. Applications for rezoning are pending and the CVRD is currently looking at several options to deal with this problem.

COWICHAN LAKE RECREATION

L. Blatchford

- Some interesting STATS for CLR: 1566 registered program users; 4119 drop-in participants; 203 programs run; 2356 hours arena ice booked; \$124,242 generated through arena ice rentals; 449 hours of curling ice booked; 136 hours of dry floor use booked; \$32,432 generated by other facility rental; 24,286 items sold through our POS system.
- Summer staff has been hired. Lifeguards will be on duty in Arbutus Park from Monday, June 29, through to Friday, September 4.
- New this summer: Instead of the day camp program offered in the past, we will be offering a Free Drop-in Parks Program. Because of the program already run at Arbutus Park in Youbou, this free program will be run in other communities: Central Park in Lake Cowichan, Mesachie Skydome Ball field and Honeymoon Bay playground.
- Arena ice will be in at CLSA until May 10.
- Lake Days Dance to be held Saturday, June 13, with three live bands providing continuous music from 9 pm to 1 am.
- Youbou Regatta as per usual will be held Saturday, August 8. This year the Regatta Dance will be reinstated with a live band at Youbou Hall.
- The Summer Cowichan Valley Regional District Recreation Guide will be out in the mailboxes soon. Copies of the guide will also be available at the arena and all of the halls.
- We have a weekly newsletter – sign up by emailing our programmer Tanya Kaul at tkaul@cvrd.bc.ca.
- Like the CVRD Facebook page and receive information about all our updated.

CHAIRPERSON REPORT:

M. Stewart

- M. Stewart was pleased to report that the combined 2015 AGM of the Area I Parks Commission and Youbou Fire Protection Services Commission, held on February 15, 2015, in Youbou Hall was very well attended. Commission members M. Stewart, R. Davidson, I. Halowaty and R. Somers were also in attendance. R. Davidson and R. Somers were nominated from the floor.
- M. Stewart reminded commission members to keep track of their volunteer hours. K. Kuhn commented that keeping track of volunteer hours can be very useful for grant applications.

CVRD REPORT:

Ryan Dias

- **Arbutus Park:** The dock substructure needs is being investigated to determine which parts need replacing. It is hoped it can be done in sections.
- **Little League Park:** Fence finished and field top-dressed.

OLD BUSINESS

OB 1

Playfield Park

R. Somers reported that the ongoing problem with poor drainage persists, making the field unusable right now and moss is taking over. He wonders whether it is not just a problem of a clay pan underlying the field but that maybe the sprinkler system was damaged when it was discovered that somebody had been doing “donuts” in the field a couple of years ago. It might be worth having it checked out.

OB 2

Memorial for Gerald Thom

The next step in this process is for CVRD staff to take R. Somers’ initial drawing of the proposed shelter and come up with proper plans. We would then take these plans to prospective donors to raise funds. Approximately \$20,000 needed. The CVRD has already some plans that could be adapted for our idea. For our next meeting, we should come up with a list of prospective donors. R. Davidson to contact Caroline Thom to get a list of Gerald’s contacts. K. Kuhn commented that we will probably have better success with fund raising if we approach clubs like the Lions or Rotary Clubs rather than individuals since we will not be able to issue tax receipts.

OB 3

Memo from Tanya Soroka, CVRD Parks and Trail Planner (Oct. 28, 2014)

The memorandum was briefly discussed. K. Kuhn suggested that one way of coming up with the money needed for a new Public Washroom and Lifeguard facility in **Arbutus Park** would be to get half of the funds through gas tax money and the other half out of the Parks Reserve account. (The proposal for such a facility was discussed extensively during the July 8, 2014 Parks Commission meeting with Michael Miller, CVRD Capital Projects Specialist.)

NEW BUSINESS

NB 1

Little League Park Gate Keeper: Roy Anderson and his wife Sue have volunteered to take over this position.

NB2

“Dawn to Dusk” Signs in gated Parks and Price Park missing sign:

- R. Davidson reported that last year, during her gate-keeping duties in Mile 77 Park, which included closing the washrooms (she opened the washrooms at 8:00 am and closed them at 8:30 pm) there were some incidents where the public became quite argumentative about the time of closing. The Dawn to Dusk sign is, of course, open to wide interpretation. According to the CVRD, as a general rule, if closing 20-30 minutes after dusk the park should be clear. In the height of summer, that could mean anytime after 10 pm! Since the washroom area is close to the beach and both are way below the road and not visible by the general public, R. Davidson does not feel safe going down there in the dark to close washrooms and maybe have to confront the public. Members discussed that one solution would be to put up a sign in the parking lot and on the washroom doors that clearly states opening and closing times for washrooms so that the public are aware of the situation and know what to expect. It was suggested that a time of 8 am to 8:30 pm would be suitable. M. Stewart will discuss with R. Dias.

- Residents Bill Gibson and George DeLure had reported that in Price Park the “trail hiking sign” (indicating length of trail and difficulty) had disappeared. After some investigation, it was discovered that the maintenance people had found the sign lying on the ground, took it away and put it into storage. CVRD staff said it would be put up again but so far is still missing.

NB 3

Walk About by Commission Members: M. Stewart, R. Davidson, I. Halowaty and R. Somers went on a tour of Area I parks (Arbutus, Little League, Price, Mile 77, Nantree, Stoker and Sunset Beach).

In **Arbutus Park** it was discovered that the beach needs new sand in order to bring it up to the level of the adjoining asphalt walkway. Also, some planks on the dock need replacing.

NB 4

Price and Swordfern Parks: I. Halowaty mentioned that he had reported to the CVRD that there were some snags in Price Park that needed removing. He was told that maintenance would get on it but so far nothing has happened. In Swordfern Park, a plank on the little bridge crossing the creek needs replacing.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved and seconded that the Regular meeting of Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks Commission be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED
Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The next Regular meeting of Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2015.