

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks Commission held in the Upper Community Hall, 8550 Hemlock Street, Youbou, B.C., on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at 7:05 pm.

PRESENT: Chairperson Marcia Stewart
Vice-Chairperson Rob Somers
Rose Davidson, Recording Secretary
Ian Halowaty
Dan Nickel

ALSO PRESENT: Area I Director Klaus Kuhn

REGRETS: Monroe Grobe

**APPROVAL
Of AGENDA:**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda 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 held on May 12, 2015 be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

**AREA I
DIRECTOR**

Klaus Kuhn brought Parks Commission Members up to date on the latest developments concerning the Lake Cowichan weir, the recent Neighbourhood Meetings held in Youbou Hall where zoning and land use issues had been discussed with the public, and the status of the installation of the Youbou truck wash.

**COWICHAN LAKE
RECREATION**

L. Blatchford

- **Lifeguards** will be on duty at Arbutus Park from June 29th to September 4th, Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.
- **Red Cross Swimming Lessons:**
 - Set A July 6 to 17
 - Set B July 20 to 31
 - Set C August 4 to 14
 - Set D August 17 to 28
- **Youbou Regatta – Saturday, August 8:** We are planning a Regatta Dance for Saturday night with a live band and hope for a good turnout. Tickets will be on sale soon (\$15 each).

**CHAIRPERSON
REPORT:**

M. Stewart

- The **Parks Chairs Working Group Meeting** will be held on June 23rd. Marcia Stewart and Rob Somers will be attending.
- To mark the 150th anniversary of Confederation, the Federal Government has announced a \$150 million Community Infrastructure Grant. Marcia Stewart suggested we should consider applying for this grant as an option to fund the **Arbutus Washroom and Storage building**.

- **Little League Park:** Gate keeper has resigned.

CVRD REPORT:

Ryan Dias

- **Arbutus Dock:** Is now open to the public. Some sections still need to be replaced, with repairs to restart in the fall.
- **Student Crews** will start first week of August (putting bark mulch down, painting, etc.).
- **“Dawn to Dusk” signs in Mile 77 and Stoker Parks:** Sign informing public that washrooms will be open between 8:00 am and 8:30 pm has been installed at Mile 77 Park and it seems to be working well. The same sign still needs to be installed at Stoker Park.

OLD BUSINESS

OB 1

Memorandum from Tanya Soroka – Public Process to prepare a Concept Plan for Revitalizing Arbutus Park:

- So far, the Area I Parks Commission has not received an update on the timeline for the public process project.
- Klaus Kuhn suggested that another option for the funding of the **Arbutus Washroom and Storage building** would be to use money from the Community Works Fund (gas tax) which currently stands at \$217,948. The estimated cost of the proposed Arbutus structure is \$250,000. This could be funded by taking \$125,000 from the gas tax and the balance of \$125,000 from the Reserve Fund. However, most importantly, **we need an official plan for the proposed structure.** Last year, Members of Area I Parks Commission visited Bright Angel Park and it was proposed that the existing plans for those washroom facilities could be modified and applied to Arbutus Park. Klaus will inquire with Tanya.

OB 2

Memorial for Gerald Thom:

We are waiting to receive from CVRD staff proper plans for the proposed picnic shelter in Mile 77 Park.

OB 3

Price Park:

Snags have been removed, as well as the tree that had come down. Everything is done.

OB 4

Dillon Road:

Apparently the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is supposed to deal with the trailers illegally stationed on Dillon Road. It has come to our attention that the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society has sent a letter to MOT urging them to resolve this issue.

NEW BUSINESS

NB 1

Creekside Hiking Trail, Youbou:

This hiking trail is an easement running along the Creekside road, which is privately owned by the Creekside residents. The yearly maintenance of the trail usually takes up two full days of the student crew's work program to clear the path of weeds, broom and encroaching tree branches. And it is hardly ever used by the public, since most people hike/walk their dogs on

the private road rather than on the trail. Some Creekside residents have inquired if it would be possible to decommission the trail. They would like to build an earth berm over the trail and plant trees in the hope of reducing noise levels coming from the increasing traffic along the parallel running Youbou Road. At this stage, this is just an inquiry into what the decommission process would entail and to find out what the legal issues would be. The Creekside Residents Association will hold its AGM in August and residents would like to discuss and vote on this issue then. **Parks Commission Members would appreciate receiving legal information and procedures from CVRD staff concerning the Hiking Trail. We would like to have information to pass on to the Creekside committee at our next meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2015.**

NB2**Arbutus Park Pruning:**

Maintenance has done a good pruning job, however, there are still some birch trees that need to be topped and a cherry tree requires pruning of branches that encroach on the path. The cherry tree is on private property and Marcia Stewart will contact the property owners to discuss this.

NB 3**Mile 77 Park – Pruning:**

Parks Commission Members agree that the alders growing along the embankment by the entrance to the park should be thinned out/pruned as needed. Right now there are too many seedlings growing up, encroaching on the road and also obstructing the view from the road down into the park.

NB 4**Green Belt Area/Park lot #79 – Creekside Development, Youbou**

Same issue as above. The dense growth of alder seedlings on this CVRD owned lot next to Creekside road needs to be removed before they get too big and the roots cause problems on the road. A strip of 2-3 feet along the side of the road should be cleared.



NB 5

Youbou Regatta, Saturday, August 8, 2015:

Lake Cowichan Recreation is looking for volunteers to assist with the concession stand from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded that the Regular Meeting of Area I (Youbou/Mead Creek) Parks Commission be adjourned

**MOTION CARRIED
Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm**

The next Regular Meeting of Area I (Youbou/Mead Creek) Parks Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14, 2015.