

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, September 9, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

PRESENT: Chairperson Marcia Stewart
Rose Davidson, Recording Secretary
Dan Nickel
Rob Somers

ALSO PRESENT: Director Pat Weaver
Monroe and Denise Grobe, residents of Woodland Shores

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

NB3 – Mooring signs and swim buoys at Sunset Beach and Mile 77 Park

NB4 – Stoker, Playfield and Nantree Parks – report by R. Somers

And that the agenda, as amended, be approved.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOTION CARRIED

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks meeting of July 8, 2014 be amended by correcting the initial "R." Stewart to "M." Stewart on page 4 (OB7) and that the minutes, as amended, be adopted.

BUSINESS ARISING

MOTION CARRIED

None

REPORTS

AREA I DIRECTOR

Director Weaver

Youbou Truck Wash – P. Weaver had a meeting with Don Holmes from TimberWest and was assured that a final decision will be made in two weeks' time at the latest (final location, water and hydro access still being negotiated).

COWICHAN LAKE RECREATION

L. Blatchford &

Kyler Nurmsoo

- Summer program at Arbutus Park was a success with 76 registrants in swimming lessons (58 last year); some minor incidents were handled by staff and nothing major happened this year that would have required a call to 911.
- Regatta went well; north of 300 people attended.

Areas of Concern:

- a) The entire area between the diving board and slide should be coated in sand or non-slip surfacing. Slips occur on a regular basis in this area of high traffic.

Area I Parks Commission (AIPC) considers this doable.

- b) Fountain/faucet combo in washrooms: Many complaints were received from people having to use what is basically a drinking fountain as the main spout for hand washing. Not only does it seem unsanitary but it also creates potential slip hazards, with water spilling onto the floor.
AIPC: Since the new washroom building will take some time before it is built, one solution might be to already install new faucets to replace the current ones and later transfer them to the new building.
- c) On a more long-term basis, the whole wharf needs assessment. It seems to have started to rot, with noticeable sag along part of the wharf and certain spots causing pinch areas.
- d) Bear-proof garbage cans would be great.
AIPC: Presumably Recreation staff brought some of their own garbage cans because there is one bear-proof can in the park.

Budget Items:

- a) Guard tower structure with umbrella: It is extremely difficult to solo-guard when swimming lessons are taking place because there are two high frequency areas (diving board and slide). A guard tower structure did exist once at Arbutus Park and was removed due to liability concerns.
AIPC: Would it be safer to locate such a structure on the grass above the retaining wall, where nobody could use it as a diving board?
- b) Permanently installed public rescue equipment (i.e. reaching assist pole and hook, life rings): Although proposed in safety audit reports, has never been implemented because of concerns over theft.
AIPC: could life guards not store equipment away when they leave, since people swim at their own risk when no guard is on duty.
- c) Umbrellas mounted into pillars where guards could stand protected from the sun and heat.

AIPC: Above items will be brought up for discussion at the budget meeting to be held with Brian Farquhar on October 14, 2014.

- Hockey season starts next week
- Recreation will be hosting the annual Halloween Party and Haunted House at Youbou Hall, with the Youbou Volunteer Fire Department stepping forward to BBQ hotdogs and to also contribute and set off the fireworks.
- There will be a New Year’s Eve Dance in the Lower Youbou Hall on December 31st.

CHAIRPERSON

M. Stewart

- Park members R. Somers and M. Stewart volunteered at the concession during the Youbou Regatta and put out a collection box for donations in memory of Gerald Thom; the flag was also half mast in his honour during the Regatta.
- M. Stewart reported that a board was broken on the bridge going from the park to the fire hall and it has already been repaired.
- She also read a very nice letter sent by Jerry Melissa to the editor of the Gazette thanking CVRD maintenance staff for the excellent care that the Youbou Little League Park, including the horseshoe pits, has received.

- CVRD**
- Price Park main trails have been resurfaced with gravel.
 - Maintenance crews are finishing up and shutting things down.
- Ryan Dias

OLD BUSINESS

OB 1 Arbutus Park Lifeguard Hut
 M. Stewart reported about her visit to Bright Angel Park with R. Davidson and R. Somers to inspect the new washroom and storage facilities there. She also had discussions with Brian Farquhar who advised that CVRD staff would talk to staff at Cowichan Lake Recreation to discuss functions needed for the new lifeguard hut and the related budget matters.

OB 2 Playfield Park – update trees planting and grass seeding
 R. Somers met with Brock Tingey and discussed the suitability of planting Golden Locust trees in Playfield Park. The trees, bought by Malcolm and Karen Hall, will be planted by CVRD staff in the fall. Grass seed, also offered to be purchased by the Halls, will be spread either this fall or next spring, depending on whether we get rain in the next few weeks.

OB 3 Playfield Park – community garden update
 R. Somers brought an amended design for the community garden. Monroe Grobe, who has now taken the lead in this project after Ellen Price stepped down, asked the Area I Parks Commission for approval. M. Stewart had discussed this with Ryan Dias who said that, in principle, the CVRD supports this type of project but they do not want to be left having to take it over later on, if interest fades.

M 1 It was moved and seconded to approve the revised plan for the community garden.

MOTION CARRIED

OB 4 Memorial Bench for Gillian Scott
 R. Somers reported on the christening ceremony held on site. M. Stewart read a letter from Allan Scott and family thanking for the memorial bench.

NEW BUSINESS

NB 1 Budget for 2015 – upcoming meeting October 14, 2014
 Brian Farquhar from the CVRD will attend the meeting to discuss the following:

- Review of current budget expenditures and year-end projections.
- Community parks and trail operations/maintenance
- Summer student programs (playground and parks work crews)
- Environmental enhancement and invasive species management
- Age-related structures/buildings replacement, upgrade or removal projects
- Proposed new minor and major capital projects, parkland acquisition opportunities

NB 2 New Members for Area I Parks Commission
 Monroe and Denise Grobe, residents of Woodland Shores, have expressed their interest in joining the Parks Commission as volunteers.

NB 3**Mooring signs and swim buoys at Sunset Beach and Mile 77 Park**

D. Nickel reported having to chase a boat away from Sunset Beach that was trying to moor in the swimming area. It should be considered to place buoys in the area to prevent this from happening. If this solution would be too costly, then at least a proper sign should be placed advising "NO MOORING AT ANY TIME" (i.e. not just no overnight mooring). The same should be done at Mile 77 Park.

NB 4**Stoker, Playfield and Nantree Parks – R. Somers reporting**

- The maintenance contractor advised that the washrooms in Stoker are infested with mice. She has set traps but is convinced more mice are in the walls and should be poisoned before any permanent damage is done.
- Woodlands neighbour Ellen Price has suggested to leave the washrooms open on weekends during October since the park gets still a lot of use in this good weather.
- The new box stairs are a great improvement to safety.
- Another neighbour has suggested to install a volley ball net with permanent posts at Playfield. It was discussed that it might be a good idea but that the net would probably have to come down every evening due to liability issues.
- The new dock at Nantree has been getting a lot of use this summer.

D 1**Memorial for Gerald Thom**

Members discussed wanting to set up a memorial somewhere in the name of Gerald Thom. M. Stewart and R. Davidson will contact Caroline Thom to get her views of what she would like to see done in that respect.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED
The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

The next Regular meeting of the Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks Commission is October 14, 2014 in the Upper Community Hall at 7:00 pm.