

## **MINUTES OF ELECTORAL AREA I (Youbou/Meade Creek) PARKS COMMISSION MEETING**

**DATE:** July 12, 2011

**TIME:** 7:00pm

**MINUTES** of the Electoral Area I Parks Commission Meeting held on the above noted date and time in Youbou Lanes, Youbou, BC. Called to order by chair at 7:05pm.

### **PRESENT:**

Chairperson: Marcia Stewart

Vice-chairperson: Gerald Thom

Members: Dave Charney, Dan Nickel, Gillian Scott, Ken Wilde

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Director: Klaus Kuhn

Alternate Director:

Secretary: Tara Daly

### **REGRETS:**

**GUESTS:** Creekside Association

### **DELEGATION**

- With a focus on Mile 77 Park, what was the intent or purpose of the park? Was the developer responsible for building it? Why was it levelled – all trees removed? Because it is barely used, the residents of Creekside wish to make it more use friendly. Some suggestions include a metal swing set (low vandalism), all-sport court, covered barbeque area with barbeques attached to the picnic tables, more trees, boat tie-up, boat launch, garbage cans in the washrooms, washrooms should be open. Could our (Creekside) taxes go towards improvements? Could our taxes be combined with the rest of the community?
- Director Kuhn replied the land was put aside by the developer during the initial plans as parkland and was responsible for the amenities in place. The current cost of maintenance is substantial. The existing trees were diseased and needed to be removed. There have been two plantings of cedar seedlings but both times were destroyed by elk. The maple trees on the water side will grow and offer more shade. Development of the lakeshore involves the initial costs but also liability issues. Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) has a large amount of greenspace with a small number of people. The budget dictates to a degree the amenities available, as well as the number of people in the area that wish to use the park. Creekside currently has 43 houses built on 75 lots with 6 full-time families. It's difficult to justify improvements at this time.
- The Creekside residents can take it upon themselves to fundraise. Honeymoon Bay Community Society did so for a barbeque shelter. Fundraising can also help the community to become more invested in what they purchase. The Creekside Association will be having their AGM at 9am at the Youbou Bar & Grill on August 7, 2011. Director Kuhn plans to attend.
- Director Kuhn also noted that he still remains committed to better cohesion between 'old' and 'new' Youbou and the Meade Creek area but that everyone needs to make the effort to involve themselves in the community. The parks activities promoted by the commission were not well attended.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

*It was Moved and Seconded to accept the agenda with the addition of Area F OCP under New Business.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

*It was Moved and Seconded that the minutes of May 10, 2011 be accepted.*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING**

- **Broom Puller** ~ is missing. M. Stewart to ask Pam Palliser if she has it.
- **Budget** ~ there is \$16 000 remaining

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- NONE

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- **Kinsol Trestle opening** ~ July 28<sup>th</sup> at 11am
- **Relay Station on Bald Mountain** ~ trees had to be removed to improve transmission, new regulations don't allow trees to remain, they couldn't be burned so a helicopter was used to bring to Woodland Shores then trucked out; cost of \$15 000 – 70% paid by province and 30% paid by CVRD (\$4500); a helicopter were have been required even if the wood had been chipped

**COWICHAN LAKE RECREATION**

- **Regatta** ~ August 13<sup>th</sup>, volunteers are needed for the concession and for moving items in the morning and afternoon – Director Kuhn, M. Stewart, G. Thom and Caroline, D. Nickel, D. Charney and possibly K. Wilde and G. Scott all volunteered
- **Swimming Lessons** ~ have started and will continue until the end of August

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

- **Stoker Park playfield** ~ is looking good, the portion where the vehicle tracks are will need another seeding
- **Nantree Park** ~ is fine
- **Mile 77 Park** ~ the memorial plaque is on the bench
- **Little League Park** ~ trees haven't been pruned but after some discussion, the commission felt that just cutting them back on the field side would be sufficient, limbing will be a cost of \$2500 so the commission decided to leave it alone at this time; the Ball Team will paint the benches

**COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT**

- dealt with in other areas

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Swordfern Park** ~ the confusion about park access is solved – highway vs. park, 4 big fir trees that were cut were dying from the top down and will be left to rot
- **Mile 77 and Arbutus Park** ~ entrances are the responsibility of the maintenance contractor but anyone that wishes can weed the areas
- **Nantree Park** ~ float is bouncy but not dangerous at this time, at the end of its remaining lifetime of 1-2 years it will have to be decided if it needs replacement or just removal, to be discussed during budget time

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Arbutus Park** ~ power pole has to be replaced as its rotten, it is our pole and will be our cost; it will be replaced this fall
- **Parks & Trails** ~ there is generally more communication - the minutes are on line, the Parks staff is reporting back as to what they're doing to our chair in a timely fashion, Parks & Trails staff are meeting every two weeks
- **Minutes Process** ~ staff reviews, is put on Agenda for Electoral Area Services Committee and passed by Director, is put on Agenda for the Board of Directors meeting and is passed, becomes part of the Corporate files
- **Consideration for Budget discussion** ~ 1) summer student crew – length in area 2) 5-year financial plan that's realistic and able to be accomplished 3) 3-year major and minor replacement (lifeguard shack, playground at Arbutus Park, concession, backstop, fence painting at Little League Park 4) funding for regular tree removal. **Wish List** for 2012-2013 Budget year to be brought forward at October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting
- **Invasive Species** ~ no formal management plan in place, big problem is disposal, broom generally disappears as trees grow – will check to see if the proper trees were planted on the south side of Bald Mountain as they don't seem to be growing well (Tanya Soroka, Tom Jones)
- **Direction of Community Parks & Trails program** ~ what does the commission see - cultural and/or community events; take a break for this year and revisit next year? More discussion at next meeting.
- **Arbutus Park electrical** ~ there should be a subpanel in the concession area that could allow for a kettle, coffee urn, 3 freezers/ice cream truck and **water** at Hut should be in place by Regatta if possible
- **Mann Property** ~ rezoning started in the 1980s with covenants being put in place; over the years it has been recognized that public trails and residential properties don't mix; a connection from the existing foreshore greenspace and Upland Park would be more beneficial; an east-west land dedication would connect Woodland Shores and Marble Bay (current owner is looking at rezoning); cost of building a trail along the water's edge would be costly – the commission is okay with the developer covering all legal costs to dissolve the existing covenant and put in place the land acquisition and also wish they will do trail brushing; the subdivision process is a month from completion and the opportunity to deal with one owner rather than several is diminishing - the process of dissolving the covenant will be started at the EASC meeting July 13<sup>th</sup>
- **Area F OCP** ~ G. Thom told the commission the document was brought forward to the Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) APC; he questions 'rustic' campground definition and the development between Mesachie Lake and Honeymoon Bay as also including the possibility of more development to the west of Honeymoon Bay. The Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) OCP forbids any development west of the old Millsite until it is developed; Couredon (TimberWest) has said they aren't selling any more forest land. Cowichan Lake is the only watershed on Vancouver Island with people living around it.

## ADJOURNMENT

*It was Moved and Seconded that the meeting be adjourned 9:25pm.*

## MOTION CARRIED

## NEXT MEETING

October 11, 2011

7pm at Youbou Upper Hall

/s/ Tara Daly

Secretary