

Shawnigan Lake Parks and Recreation Commission

Sep 16, 2010 SLCC

Attendees: Margaret Symon, Betty Lord, Bill Savage, Ryan Dias, Lori Treloar, Al Brunet, Catherine Whittome, Ken Cossey

Scribe: Lori Treloar

Guest:

Meeting called to order: 7:05

Minutes: from June 2010. Approved: Betty Lord

Old business:

Shawnigan Lake Parks and Trails Master Plan: Ryan Dias

Ryan will email with details including the board approval date and he will also arrange for copies. Ken noted that the finalized plan will be presented at the next CVRD board meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of October. It is the first plan to be completed and he suggested that commission members were welcome to attend.

Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park – Ryan Dias

There is a tender out for the work required for the next phase at Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park. Work will likely start in October and take 6-8 weeks. The smaller infield will be decommissioned and the area seeded over. The North infield will need to be filled and graded and the ball diamond will be expanded to spec. The overall design will include the potential for a permanent backstop but that will not be included in this upgrade. No fencing will be done at this time as there is not enough money in the budget at this time. A running trail/track will be developed around the outside of the park. Services, including water, power upgrades, sewer, for current and future development will be brought into the park by conduits to the future electrical room in the planned washroom building. Underground wiring will also be directed to four locked boxes on the property that will be used for future field lighting. The biggest cost in this phase will be the electrical improvements. There is not enough money at this time to build the washroom facility but the power and water will be installed so that it is ready to go for next year. Our budget is approx. \$300000 and will not cover everything that we have planned at this time. In addition, there is very little money in the budget for further improvements. Ryan felt that the completion of all of the proposed improvements were likely to happen over the next 3-5 years with the sport court and tennis courts and lighting farther down the road. The washroom building, which is our first priority, will be in the range of \$150000-\$175000, and the required fencing will be approx. \$60000. In the meantime, the commission can decide what we need/want in size and features for the washroom over the next few meetings so that the engineer can draw up the design. It is possible to have the building and fences in place for the 2011 ball season if the money is found. We currently will have approx \$90000 for improvements in 2011. If the Elsie Miles purchase doesn't go through in 2010, there will be more money available. Ryan indicated that the infield for the new ball field can be a provisional item at this time if money is short. Ken thinks that the

tax increase two years ago should have been enough to cover the Elsie Miles acquisition and the upgrades to Shawnigan Hills.

-Margaret indicated that she had a call about no toilet paper in the stalls at Mason's Beach on the long weekend. Ryan said to call him, in those instances, and he would follow up.

-Bill suggested that we consider selling park properties that are not being effectively used to add to our budget. This idea has been discussed in the past. We would need to find out the process for discarding surplus parkland.

Youth Services

A summer student conducted a Shawnigan Wharf user study this summer. Margaret will follow up to get a summary of the study.

Fuel Management

The CVRD provided 50 days for a JOP crew to work on fuel reduction. The crew mainly consisted of First Nation forest workers who had been laid-off. They worked over 19 hectares in several areas including Cobble Hill, Silvermine, Mill Bay Nature Park and Quarry Park. Much of the work in Mill Bay was done by manual labour due to the fire rating. After the fire season, there will be a couple of days of work on Memory Island as well. Bill has agreed to transport the crew to the island.

Subdivision Proposal – Renfrew Road

Margaret advised that land from this property, as per our site visit in July, has been designated parkland. Ken noted that the subdivision approval has not been finalized at this time.

New Business:

Budget

Ryan provided a proposed budget for 2011 expenditures. The document also included the 2010 budget and actual figures. We reviewed the budget and discussed where to find the additional money to continue with the upgrades at Shawnigan Hills. Some possibilities are: to increase the requisition; obtain additional funds from the current budget if the sale of Elsie Miles doesn't go through; or, to look into some corporate, or sports club, sponsorship. Ken will explore that possibility. The budget will go to Ken for final review.

Area Directors Report

-Ken discussed the wakeboard structure near Memory Island. Rob Webb (RCMP) had discussed the removal of the ramp with the builder and he had agreed to remove it. Then Sgt. Webb contacted Transport Canada and now there is a file to investigate whether it is a navigational hazard.

-the fence that is under construction along the road on the southeast side of the lake is being investigated as well. Apparently, it is not on road allowance but it could be on part of the foreshore. The Integrated Land Bureau is involved.

-The OCP committee took the summer off but will be meeting again in late September. The plan is expected to be completed in January or February of 2011. If you have any comments, they can be forwarded to Katy Tompkins (project manager) at the CVRD.

-the Governance review: The second phase was supposed to begin in February 2010 but the Government said that there weren't enough funds to do the study and they would try to use staff members to work on it in the meantime. The second phase looks at the financial (costs), the

benefits to the community and the potential boundaries. As it stands now the second phase may not resume until 2012.

- The proposed ECODepot is not a final deal at this time. There are still a lot of issues to be worked out. The CVRD planners are working with a Neighbourhood Advisory Group to deal with some of the potential issues such as increased traffic, environmental issues etc. There will not be any commercial waste and there will only be 14 bins. The land has been purchased by the CVRD, but if the project proceeds, the Depot will not be in operation before late 2011 or early 2012.

- A new water quality study is underway. A group, including Graham Ross-Smith, Mary Desmond and Dr. Mazumder, has been appointed to undertake the study. There is a budget of \$100000 with a further \$25000 available to keep Dr. Mazumder.

- Ken advised that the CRD has purchased crown land within the boundary of the CVRD for the watershed. Ken has suggested to the CRD that we (Shawnigan Lake) create an agreement for potential water rights from this new area in case it becomes necessary in the future. At this time he has not had a response from the CRD.

- September 30, 2010 - 7pm. The Cowichan Valley School District will hold an open house for the community regarding the status of Elsie Miles School and grounds.

CVRD Parks, Trails, Culture

- two new positions have been created at the CVRD

- Tracey Lowery has been hired as a Parks capital project specialist. This will alleviate some of Tanya's workload and allow her to concentrate on her planning and visionary work.

- Graham Gidden, an architectural landscaper, has been hired as a park planning technician.

Other:

- Bill asked how others felt about the RCMP presence on the lake this summer. Bill felt that they were not on the lake often enough. Lori agreed, at least on the south half of the lake. Al felt that they were on the lake more often but not at the peak use times. Ken said there would be a follow up meeting, with the RCMP and Transport Canada, later in the fall to discuss the issues.

- Catherine asked how the Shawnigan Gravel pit is allowed to operate on that property (Shawnigan Road, north of the RCMP station)? It is creating mess and throwing dust everywhere. Ken advised that it is okay according to the current By-laws.

- Catherine asked for a letter of support, from the Commission, for the necessary upgrades to Kerry Park.

- Bill asked Ryan about the outhouses on Memory Island. The outhouses are desperately in need of repair and the pits have reached their capacity. Ryan said that the issue is at a standstill. He has met with BC Parks regarding the failing infrastructure but there is no solution outlined at this time. He is open to any creative ideas.

- Margaret advised that the Elkington project is now approved.

- Margaret mentioned John Bothello's bad accident. He fell off his bike in a bike race in Vancouver. Doctors put him into an induced coma to relieve the swelling in his head. Catherine had heard that he had recently opened his eyes. Margaret suggested that we send a card.

Adjourned: 9:00pm

Next meeting: October 21, 2010