



DATE: Monday, February 22, 2016.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

**MINUTES** of the Electoral Area E Parks Commission held on the above noted date and time at the Glenora Hall

**PRESENT:**

Members: Gretchen Hartley, Howard Heyd, Patty John, Mike Lees, Frank McCorkell, Gregg Shoop (Acting Secretary), and Larry Whetstone.

**ALSO present:**

Director: Alison Nicholson (Acting Chairperson).

Staff: Brian Farquahar

Area E Resident: Peggy Marglar

**ABSENT:** Irene Evans and Paul Slade

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the last meeting (Monday, October 5, 2015) will be dealt with at the next meeting.

**WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND AGENDA:** Director Nicholson, welcomed everyone, made introductions and reviewed the agenda.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

1. **Roundtable - Recommended Focus for the Year:** Each member indicated his/her priorities for the year:

Gregg Shoop:

- Currie Park Washrooms - based on a review of the Commission minutes over the past several years, the focus has clearly been on the development of two destination parks, namely Glenora Trailhead and Currie Parks, with the major incomplete element being the washrooms at the latter.
- Master Parks and Trail Planning – connectivity is a long standing and frequent subject of discussion, so our input to the plan should clearly include trails (cycling, walking & equestrian).
- The Commission has achieved a great deal in recent years while meeting infrequently and could be even more effective if it met more often, say, 8 times a year, and held its AGM in November.

Gretchen Hartley:

- Master Parks and Trails Planning – as an enthusiastic parks and trails user she is interested in the bigger picture and values input to the Master plan process.
- Roadside Trails – pursue opportunities for grant funding to support this goal.

Patty John:

- Roadside Trails –it is very important to Cowichan Station residents that we pursue this subject.
- Commission – interested in listening to the whole Area E community and bringing a collaborative spirit to our deliberations, rather than one which often seems to be a competition between neighbourhoods for limited resources.

Mike Lees:

- Currie Park – roadside trails are too expensive so he prefers to focus on looking after what we already have keeping them sustainable.

Howard Heyd:

- River Access – many Cowichan River swimming holes are no longer accessible because of private land development. Improving access where possible is a priority.
- Currie Park Washrooms .
- Roadside trails: Opposed to roadside trails – that is highways job.

Frank McCorkell:

- Currie Park Washrooms.
- Glenora Trailhead potable water.
- Roadside Trails: Need lots of conversation and so we should go slow on this topic.

Larry:

- Finish and maintain the small things
- Currie Park washrooms

Alison Nicholson:

- Roadside trails – these are a community priority.
- Community engagement – increasing opportunities to involve the community in their parks and trails through volunteerism.

**2. Resident Feedback:** Alison reported feedback received since the New Year regarding parks and trails.

- Request for a structure at Bright Angel Park to help shade part of the playground
- Request for recycling bins in parks
- Why is Wake Lake closed - the gate has been locked due to vandalism issues and high lake levels
- Request that a sign be displayed by dog poop bag dispensers reminding people that feces should be put in the garbage and not bagged and left on the trails.

- Suggestion that parks operations need to be thriftier – e.g., turn lights off, lower thermostat in washrooms etc.

**3. Work plan/Budget for 2016**

- Brian Farquahar reviewed the approved budget for 2016 (See attached: Electoral Area E Community Parks 2016-2020 Budget Plan). There is \$44,000 budgeted for playground replacement at Maplewood Park, however, the plan is to use the Master Parks and Trails community consultation process to better understand what the community would like there (See attached: Community Parks and Trail Master Plan – Project Scope Summary); there is also \$15,000 of unallocated funds for capital improvements.
- Mike Lees requested consideration of a new budget item (for either consideration in the parks budget or community gas tax funding). The request was for the certification of the Inwood Creek Bridge in the CVRD parkland so that it could be used by fire protection /first responder vehicles. It was discussed and determined that fire protection services are not a typical parks budget item. In addition this would not be a onetime expense but an ongoing bridge maintenance issue and therefore it needs to be considered in that context by the Sahtlam fire protection service. For that reason it also would not be appropriate for one time grant funds.
- Mike Lees also requested that gate bypasses be widened or gates removed in the Inwood Creek area to allow ATV access. Without access ATV users ride through the creek which is not good for the environment. Brian Farquahar reported that motorized vehicles are not allowed on the trails and therefore CVRD policy sets a gate size and bypass design to deter ATV use.

4. **Election of Chair and Secretary** – Frank McCorkell was elected President and Gregg Shoop acclaimed Vice-President/Secretary

5. **Next Meeting:** 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 17, 2016 at Sathlam Fire Hall

6. **Adjournment:** Director Nicholson adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

**Certified as Correct:**

**Acting Secretary:**

*G. Shoop*

**Date:**

*Mar 1/16*

**Acting Chairperson:**

*mm*