

MINUTES
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MOBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
January 21, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Vic Derman (Chair), Dan Casey, Suzan Jennings, Judy Gaylord, James Grayson, Rebecca Mersereau, Alex Nagelbach, and Darrell Wick

Staff: Gary Darrah, Parks Planning and Design Manager; Mike Goldsworthy, Park Planner and Designer; Police Sgt. Andy Stuart; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Anne Topp

Guests: Carolyn Stewart, Planner, Regional Parks, Capital Regional District (CRD)

Roundtable introductions were made and new members were welcomed.

Minutes

MOVED by R. Mersereau and Seconded by J. Gaylord: "That the Minutes of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee meeting held November 19, 2015, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed members and provided an overview of the committee's function and Terms of Reference. He touched on goals for the year and the following was noted:

- The Shelbourne Valley Action Plan is still on the table; a background of the project and its status was given.
- The McKenzie/Highway interchange will be discussed at a future meeting.
- The Douglas Street corridor is shared between Victoria and Saanich; it is hoped that lots of communication occurs between the two municipalities.
- Urban land use issues for both cycling and pedestrian traffic are a priority.
- Street designs and the facilities/calming measures needed, for future discussion.
- Discussions have been held with the CRD regarding signage changes; there have been difficulties in getting things done.

D. Wick to send the brand name of a 100% reflective coat to committee members.

CRD DRAFT REGIONAL TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN (including discussion about Lochside Trail through Blenkinsop Valley and the Lochside trail trestles)

Carolyn Stewart, CRD Regional Planning, provided an overview of the CRD draft Regional Trails Management Plan (RTMP) and noted that public can visit the CRD website to provide input. The following comments/responses to questions were noted:

- A project team comprised of CRD, provincial and municipal groups are involved and public information sessions have been held.
- If an extension for committee input beyond January 31, 2016 is wanted, the request will have to come from Council.
- The RTMP provides strategic policy direction relating to regional trails, has specific management plans for the three existing trails and has implementation priorities.

- The vision includes creating a network of inter-connected trails to join communities.
- An important piece is working with stakeholder groups to educate on trails etiquette.
- Directional/locational signage should be added on the regional trails.
- It was suggested that trail surfacing similar to the material used on the Swan Lake trails be considered for the surfacing needs along the CRD Regional Trail system.
- The feasibility of widening the trail to 5 or 6 metres or separating cyclists and pedestrians should be explored.
- Upgrades to the Tod Creek Trestle to be undertaken.
- Definition of 'pedestrian' could be added; this includes wheelchairs/mobility scooters.
- Brett/Swan is on the work program for re-surfacing. A rubberized surface like the one installed at the BC Ferries play area may be the chosen material.
- The Lochside Trail requires signage upgrades. Three sections of trail to be paved.
- The Wayfinding plan does not have anything in it with regards to sign plan timelines.
- Suggestion was made to have a switchbridge to McKenzie, not just Quadra.
- The RTMP has a 10 year implementation time-line.
- A review of the RTMP will be done to measure the progress of plan implementation.
- The final RTMP is to be completed in late 2016.
- Request made for the Park Planner and Designer to provide a verbal update to the committee after attending meetings with CRD.
- In urban areas, transportation aspects of regional trails may be considered by some to be more important than the recreational qualities of the trails.
- More grants are available for "initiatives and facilities" versus recreation. Emphasis on transportation aspects of trail system needs to be made to help secure funding.
- CRD has provided the Ministry of Transportation with comments that: an overpass and not an underpass is preferred; the trail should remain open during construction (re-route if needed); a parking area (park and ride) is needed; and that this is a future expansion corridor. The percentage of incline for trail users is also important, and proper engineering standards for wheelchair/scooters, bicycles and pedestrian use must be followed.
- Commuters with heavy loads should be considered (eg. cyclists with trailers).
- The trestle repair is on the work plan but not on this year's budget; it is hoped that they can plan for 2017 budgeting.
- Having data of various trail user groups in various areas would be very helpful for planning (eg. areas of higher use that could be widened). There are counters at various stations that can be broken down by the hour.
- CRD is looking at the feasibility of widening the Selkirk trestle to switch bridge; switch bridge to McKenzie and Highway 1; and switch bridge to Quadra Street.

Councillor Derman stated he will ask the CRD Board to recommend that committees such as BiPed be kept apprised of the RTMP status and the progress of trail projects.

SCHEDULE OF REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Consensus was that committee meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the month at 4:00 p.m., excluding July, August and December.

TILLICUM/GLANFORD WALKABOUT

The Chair noted that he will bring a report to the meeting next month regarding the walkabouts at Uptown, Cook Street and Shelbourne. Committee members will individually visit the new section of roadway at Tillicum Road and Glanford Avenue and have comments ready for the next meeting.

SAANICH CYCLING FESTIVAL

Committee discussed the upcoming Cycling Festival: date will be Sunday, April 17th. The theme will be “Discover Saanich” and there will be several stations where people can pick up the trail to Municipal Hall. Each station will have a tent, drinks, information and a token to collect to bring to the Hall for a prize. Trails that are easy and safe for families were chosen.

Maps will be produced for community association members to hand out (Community Associations will be asked to volunteer at the stations). A kiddy ride from the Hall to Rainbow Park and back is planned. The festival itself will be similar to past festivals, and Rob Phillips will be asked for help.

Permits will be required for celebration stations on the Galloping Goose/Lochside Trails.

SHELBOURNE VALLEY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

This item to be discussed at the February 2016 meeting.

INTERURBAN RAIL TRAIL

No new information on this item at this time. The section being referred to is out near the observatory. The Chair noted that when this trail was created, the equestrian community did not want a paved surface. The material put in place was coarse gravel which is not nice to walk on or to ride or scoot. Committee would like to see improvements here.

ROUNDTABLE

A discussion occurred about bike routes at Saanich and City of Victoria borders. Suzan Jennings advised she is a member of Biketoria and can provide a regular report of the group’s activities. This will be a standing item on future agendas.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Thursday, February 18, 2016.

Councillor Derman, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary