

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #1
Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Wade

Members: Jim Anderson, Daryl Dagneault, Harry Lewis, Jesse McClinton, Martin Roberts

Staff: Doug Henderson, Director of Parks and Recreation; Rae Roer, Senior Manager, Parks; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Stefanie Barber, Terrance Berscheid, Tom Hatcher

MINUTES

MOVED by H. Lewis and seconded by D. Dagneault, "That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held November 21, 2013 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Wade welcomed the new and returning committee members. The Parks, Trails and Recreation (PTR) Advisory Committee will continue to meet on the fourth Thursday of every month (no meetings in July, August and December) at 7:00 pm in Committee Room #2.

PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MANDATE

The Chair reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Committee. A discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- A balance between proactivity and reactivity would be the ideal for the committee. This balance would have the Committee ahead of the "curve" on upcoming issues, but still very involved with current municipal challenges.
- The Master Plan and Staff Work Plan are guidance documents for the Committee.
- Members are encouraged to consider bringing items forward when the agenda is light.
- Natural areas are more environmental than recreational.
- Some Committee meetings could be held at off sight pertinent locations.

2014 AGENDA TOPICS

The Director of Parks and Recreation provided an overview of possible agenda topics for 2014. The following was noted:

- Alternate methods of determining fees and charges for recreation services should be researched.
- Park planning should involve public participation. Ways to increase public engagement should be considered.
- Updates that need further discussion should be brought forward to the Committee.
- The Committee should do an annual review of the Master Plan to assist in benchmarking Committee progress on issues/projects.

BCRPA AWARDS

The Director of Parks and Recreation provided the Committee with a memo and a letter from the Chair regarding support for forwarding three municipal nominations and for supporting a fourth regional nomination for the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association Provincial Awards. The Arts Centre at Cedar Hill, Moving Forward restorative youth justice program and the Nature Preschool at Swan lake Nature Sanctuary are the Saanich nominations. The Prescription for Health program is a regional program that Saanich wishes to endorse.

MOTION: Moved by M. Roberts and Seconded by H. Lewis, "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee endorse these nominations by sending the letter composed by Councillor Wade dated January 15, 2014, to the BCRPA Awards Committee."

CARRIED

PARKS UPDATE

The Senior Manager of Parks provided a verbal update. The following was noted:

- Marker signs have been installed on the newly designated South Ridge Trail at Mount Douglas.
- Tree Appreciation Day took place November 3, 2013 at Cuthbert Holmes, Emily Carr and Mount Douglas Parks. Over 7000 native trees and shrubs were planted at these locations.
- Bert Richman Building assessment has been completed. Three options have been outlined: basic repairs, substantial upgrades and new construction. Staff for numerous departments will meet over the coming weeks to discuss and decide on the preferred option.
- At Cadboro/Gyro Park a new inclusive playground along with accessibility improvements are planned for completion in 2014.
- Working in partnership with Saanich Engineering, the Colquitz River Trail from Brydon Park to Wilkinson Road along Lindsey Street will be designed for construction in 2015.
- Finalization of the concept plan for midden restoration at the Gorge Waterway includes a natural amphitheatre with surrounding plantings.
- Work continues on the Panama Flats Concept plan. The plan is expected to be presented at council on February 24, 2014.

RECREATION SERVICES UPDATE

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services provided a verbal update and the following was noted:

- The ceramics studio uses a pug mill to recycle clay. The recycled clay is used in children’s ceramics classes and is also sold to studio potters and sculptors.
- Participation in the holiday Everyone Welcome Swims were very strong this year.
- A new partnership with the Island Health Authority (IHA) ran at the Gordon Head Recreation Centre. The “Falls Prevention Program” was offered at Gordon Head Recreation Centre. Another series in partnership with IHA will be implemented in January and February at Pearkes Recreation Centre.
- MEND (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition, Do It) is running for a third session with funding from Healthy Families BC.
- Community Kitchens for seniors will be starting up again in January 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 26, 2014.

Councillor Wade, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary