

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Commonwealth Place, Pacific Dogwood Room
Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Susan Brice (Chair), Daryl Dagneault, Stefanie Yao, Pamela Carroll, Jim Anderson, Tom Hatcher, Natalie Ross, Saanich Youth Council Representative

Staff: Doug Henderson, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager Recreation Services; Gary Darrach, Parks Planning and Design Manager; Becky Goodall, Park Planner Designer; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Absent: Terrance Berscheid, Martin Roberts, Stefanie Barber

MINUTES

MOVED by D. Dagneault and Seconded by T. Hatcher, "That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held April 23, 2015 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CUTHBERT HOLMES MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Parks Planning and Design Manager and the Park Planner Designer presented detailed information about the updates planned for the final draft Cuthbert Holmes Management Plan. Committee members provided comments and asked questions of staff. Highlights were noted as follows:

- The Cuthbert Holmes Park public consultation process is now completed.
- A broad spectrum of the public was invited to participate in the public consultation process.
- The majority of feedback on the Proposed Management Plan for Cuthbert Holmes Park has been positive.
- Funding is available in this year's budget to start the implementation of the proposed Cuthbert Holmes Management Plan.
- Acquisition of those parcels within the Park that are not owned by Saanich.
- Rezone all parcels to P4-N and include/ re-name Tillicum Park.
- Consider land acquisition opportunities along the south side of the Colquitz River.
- Indicate mitigation measures for the Trans-Canada Highway and Admirals Road intersection.
- Elevate the profile of the Migratory Birds Sanctuary, fish fence and salmon run.
- Acknowledge the importance and sensitivity of the mud flats/estuary.
- Recognize and establish an opinion on boating and consider BMPs/techniques to minimize impact on wildlife.
- Specify closure and restoration of unnecessary roads, asphalt and the restoration of recently acquired parcels in action items.
- Provide more background on dogs, bikes and boat issues.
- The canine community are very passionate about imposing restrictions on dogs.
- Active recreation within the Park was not supported by the public.
- Provide more information on why invasive plants need to be removed.
- Explore a trail connection from Admirals Road/ Admirals Bridge.
- Keep some of the "goat" trails for exploring/sense of adventure experience. Allow bikes to continue to use these trails.
- Reconsider the bench placements by the river.
- Address the run-off from the mall and the Trans-Canada Highway/Admirals intersection.

- Improve pedestrian access to the Trans-Canada Highway and Admirals Road.
- Allow for the creation of a Park Steward program.
- Public valued the natural aspect of Cuthbert Holmes Park and felt strongly that the Park should remain a natural park.

The Chair and Committee thanked staff for their presentation. The Committee felt that the thorough public consultation process has resulted in a Management Plan for Cuthbert Holmes Park that captures the vision of the community.

Motion: MOVED by T. Hatcher and Seconded by P. Carroll, “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee endorse the draft Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan and support staff taking the Plan forward to Council for endorsement.”

CARRIED

PARKS WAY FINDING AND INTERPRETIVE SIGN PROGRAM

The Parks Planning and Design Manager presented an overview of Parks Way-finding and Interpretive Sign Program and the following was noted:

- Saanich has two types of signage for Parks; Directional and Interpretive.
- Numerous sections of the OCP provide supporting policies for Saanich Interpretive and Way-finding Sign Program.
- Directional signs include Maps and Way-finding signs.
- Interpretive signs:
 - Historical
 - Environmental
 - Park Information
 - Feature/Event Information
- Current sign projects:
 - Cadboro-Gyro Park History
 - Cordova Bay History
 - Gorge Waterway History
 - Cuthbert Holmes Park Way-finding
 - Rithet’s Bog Way-finding

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- The Gorge was a significant First Nations Settlement area and this could be reflected in signage.
- First Nations history should be proactively included in Saanich signage.

PARKS UPDATE

Committee members had no questions about the parks update.

RECREATION SERVICES UPDATE

Committee members had no questions about the recreation update.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Councillor Brice, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary