

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
JANUARY 28, 2016 AT 7:00 PM

Present: Councillor Susan Brice (Chair)

Members: Ted Austin; Pamela Carroll; Daryl Dagneault; Warren Ellam; Tom Hatcher; Stefanie Yao and Dex Owen (Student Liaison)

Regrets: Terrance Berscheid

Staff: Doug Henderson, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks; Mark Boyson, Sustainability Coordinator, Planning Department; and Penny Masse, Senior Committee Clerk

Guests: Carolyn Stewart, Planner, Capital Regional District

MINUTES

MOVED by D. Dagneault and Seconded by P. Carroll “That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held November 26, 2015 be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Brice 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. Off-site meetings may be scheduled at recreation centres.

RECREATION CENTRE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The Sustainability Coordinator, Planning Department, presented on recreation centre energy efficiency and sustainability, the following was noted:

- The Climate Action Plan has aggressive reduction targets which have evolved through initiatives like the BC Hydro / Fortis BC incentive and rebate programs, which help meet energy conservation targets. Recreation centres are included in the programs as they are significant energy consumers.
- Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs), which were 50% funded by BC Hydro in 2014, helped develop the ECM actions for 2015 / 2016 and will result in \$300,000 in annual energy savings and cumulative energy savings of approximately \$1,200,000 by 2020.
- Some energy conservation highlights include: LED pool lighting and solar roof panels installed at Saanich Commonwealth Place; detailed energy studies on heating systems at Saanich Hall and Gordon Head Recreation Centre (GHRC); and a top three ranking for Power Smart partners.

- 100% renewable energy is a goal and an important factor in moving away from fossil fuels; an air-sourced heat pump hybrid system is being proposed for GHRC which will take 80-90% of the load, if successful other large heating systems would utilize this hybrid system. Older buildings that have been refitted but still have old boiler systems can be saved from demolition if the high efficiency system replacing the boiler at GHRC is successful.
- Pearkes Recreation Centre energy efficiency initiatives include a new electric Zamboni, installation of high efficiency ice plant, Real Ice Technology and an Energy Loop Study. Consumption is down 25% and savings are already being seen.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- The noted energy conservation initiatives are not cost neutral; no new monies will be coming from Council, the Carbon Fund is utilized and recreation facilities pay into it based on footprint.
- The electric vehicle fleet is now at a total of nine, however, charging stations are needed and resources are being explored.

The Chair thanked the Sustainability Coordinator for the presentation.

DRAFT REGIONAL TRAILS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Carolyn Stewart, Planner, Capital Regional District presented the Draft Regional Trails Management Plan, the following was noted:

- The draft Regional Trails Management Plan (RTMP) was sent to all municipalities and electoral areas for review with comment to be received by end of January, 2016.
- Work to date has included a 2013 survey, work groups and public consultation in 2014 and a drafted plan in 2015.
- The Vision Statement includes the key aspects from a wide range of opinion and input.
- Regional trails are active and equally important for both transportation and recreation.
- Priority actions of the plan include updated or new signage and trail widening or increased separation between cyclists and pedestrians.
- The CRD Board is responsible for final approval of the draft RTMP.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- The budget for the draft RTMP is ongoing and is tied to overall goals and objectives. Fiscal contributions are through municipalities based on which services are provided and utilized.
- The widening of most trails will not have significant environmental impacts as most areas have already been developed, although a focus will be on linking to parks and keeping as much natural, green space as possible.
- Evaluating and monitoring security and safety is a constant focus for the CRD.
- No practical evaluation of the health outcomes of having community trails has been formally undertaken; however, utility has been measured via counters on trails. Social connections can be correlated but not qualitative. Studies between nature and human health have been undertaken by Alberta, it is a complex question to evaluate.
- An education process would be an effective way to keep the peace between all users of trails; however, the national practice of keeping right except to pass is logical.

The Chair thanked the CRD Planner for the presentation.

PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MANDATE

The Chair reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Committee.

MOTION: Moved P. Carroll and Seconded by T. Austin, “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee receive the Terms of Reference for the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee.”

CARRIED

2016 TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS

The Director of Parks and Recreation circulated a tentative meeting schedule for committee consideration. Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Holding committee meetings at different venues within Saanich would continue to be appreciated.
- Tentative dates will be amended and confirmed during the upcoming year.

DIVISION UPDATE, PARKS

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

- Pulling Together program support continues to grow, the number of volunteer hours is equal to the work hours of seven FTE employees through an estimated 120 volunteers.
- Emily Carr playground is almost complete, there are now added features along the trail as you traverse from playground to forest. A recognition event may be organized when complete, staff will look into this.
- Copley East Playground replacement has seen active community input, a fundraiser is slated for April 23, 2016 to augment the park and perhaps add a new feature.
- Wilkinson Lindsay Bridge / Pathway project discussions are still underway; a tree replacement ratio of 2:1 would be ideal, as would a non-stop connection through the park right-of-way, which Council approved acquiring. Next steps include negotiating with the Agricultural Land Commission on the location of the connection.
- Staff expect a decision from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding the McKenzie interchange project soon, Saanich is open to negotiate,
- Planning process for Tolmie Park has received productive and valuable input through consultation and open houses. Staff is gathering and assembling feedback regarding a couple of design options. It might be beneficial to gather feedback from students at nearby schools.

DIVISION UPDATE, RECREATION

The Senior Manager, Recreation Services, provided an update.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2016.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary