

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
February 25, 2016 at 7:00 PM

Present: Councillor Susan Brice (Chair)

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

Staff: Doug Henderson, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks; Ron Proskow, Marketing Specialist; and Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

MINUTES

MOVED by W. Ellam and Seconded by T. Austin “That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held January 28, 2016 be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

FITNESS SAMPLER

The Senior Manager Recreation presented the Committee with information on the 2016 Fitness Sampler week in Saanich, and the following was noted:

- Staff capacity challenges prevented the Arts from being included this year.
- Participation was lower this year, but fewer classes were offered during the 2016 Fitness Sampler Week.
- Staff have begun looking for ways to promote Fitness Sampler Week 2017.

2016 CAPITAL PROJECTS REVIEW

The Director of Parks and Recreation provide the Committee with a review of capital works projects, the following was noted:

- Some capital projects are in conjunction with Engineering.
- Capital Projects in recreation centres frequently involve sustainability updates, facility aesthetic improvements and functionality upgrades.

2016 MEETING DATES AND AGENDA ITEMS

The Director of Parks and Recreation facilitated a discussion of meeting dates and agenda items for PTR 2016 meetings, the following was noted:

- The nursery on Markham Street requires work to improve the facilities. The work that is required at the nursery may be in conflict with the neighbours of the property.
- Mount Douglas Park access study has been approved by Council. The approved motion from Council mentions that the PTR Advisory Committee will be involved with the work to determine access needs and opportunities for the park.

GORGE MARINE TRAIL CONCEPT

The Director of Parks and Recreation facilitated a Committee discussion of the Gorge Marine Trail Concept. The Committee discussed the Gorge Marine Trail Concept and the following was noted:

- The Gorge waterway is federally identified as an important migratory bird habitat.
- Putting a walkway under the Tillicum Bridge would be difficult.
- There is a perception that by making boat access easier under Tillicum Bridge this increased boat traffic into migratory bird areas may occur and create negative impacts.
- Restrictions could be imposed on boat movement during certain times of the year to limit disruption to the migratory birds in this area.
- Developing a portage trail under Tillicum Bridge would be very expensive.
- A trail under the Tillicum Bridge would be a good linkage between Gorge Park and the Gorge Waterway Park.

SPONSORSHIP

The Director of Parks and Recreation presented the Committee with information on corporate funding of public buildings/spaces for committee consideration. Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Sponsorship of Saanich recreation building/spaces has been identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a potential alternate revenue source.
- Municipalities are starting to enter into sponsorship arrangements with private companies.
- Sponsorship can help offset maintenance expenses of public centres.
- Lots of sponsorship occurs in minor sports. The sponsorship of minor sports is a critical component of funding for these sports organizations.
- It is attractive to see sponsorship as a potential way to ease the tax burden to citizens, but many citizens may not be comfortable with the sponsorship of public spaces.
- The Island Health Authority has said no to corporate sponsorship of their buildings/spaces.
- A recent project undertaken by students at Royal Roads University surveyed municipalities across Canada regarding value in exploring the sponsorship issue.
- An evaluation of the inventory held by Saanich that would lend itself to sponsorship could be done.
- Corporate sponsorship is unlikely to reduce centre usage.
- It is the volume of the people who use a centre that is appealing to the potential sponsor.
- If sponsorship is approved some of the revenue would need to go directly to the facility being sponsored.
- Consideration would need to be given to:
 - What the sponsorship money would be used for;
 - Consistency of the sponsorship money for budgetary purposes;
 - Plan for termination of a sponsorship; and
 - How much staff time the sponsorship requires.

- Saanich could look to see how the City of Victoria has dealt with the issue of sponsorship.

MOTION: Moved T. Berscheid and Seconded by T. Austin, "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee requests that Council direct staff to report on what a corporate sponsorship program could look like for Saanich Parks and Recreation."

CARRIED

DIVISION UPDATE, PARKS

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

- The Parking issues at Mount Douglas Park need to be accessed and perhaps a traffic study undertaken as part of the recent direction from an access study for the park.
- Education of the parking options available at Mount Douglas Park could elevate some of the parking issues. Typically there is parking available in the "beach" parking lot.
- Cadboro-Gyro Park parking lot is open and functioning well.
- First Nations and post-contact signage at Cadboro-Gyro Park is underway.

DIVISION UPDATE, RECREATION

The Senior Manager, Recreation Services, provided an update. The following was noted:

- Staff have begun the implementation on initiatives from the Youth Development Strategy. Staff held planning sessions at Reynolds High School and Cedar Hill Middle School to engage youth who would like to have a say in what happens in one of their local parks.
- The new Queer, Trans and Allied Youth Drop-In at the Upside Youth Activity Centre is seeing a high turn-out each week.
- Pickleball is continuing to be growing sport and Pearkes Recreation Centre will be opening options for court rentals in March 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2016.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary