

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held in Committee Room #2 Saanich Municipal Hall
September 29, 2016 at 7:00 PM

Chair: Susan Brice

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

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks; Gary Durrah, Parks Planning and Design Manager; Shari Holmes-Saltzman, Senior Planner; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Tom Hatcher; Rick Paynter (SD 61 representative)

Guests: Darrell Wick, Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society; Janet Power, Rotary Club of Victoria; Janet Neale, Rotary Club of Victoria; Allan Neale, Rotary Club of Victoria; Ken Walton, Rotary Club of Victoria; Murray Ramsbottom, Rotary Club of Victoria; Kim McGowan, Rotary Club of Victoria; Don Jenson, Rotary Club of Victoria; Bud Buchan, Rotary Club of Victoria

MINUTES

MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by D. Dagneault “That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting June 23, 2016 be adopted as amended.”

CARRIED

ROTARY PLAQUE

The Chair and the Senior Manager Parks gave background information on the historical Rotary plaque from Mount Douglas Park, and the following was noted:

- To acknowledge the Rotary Club of Victoria’s donation of providing a lookout at the summit of Mount Douglas Park, the Rotary emblem was incorporated into the marker.
- A key design feature of the lookout was a large bronze cast geographical marker mounted on a raised concrete pedestal in the center of the lookout, The Rotary emblem was originally at the centre of the marker.
- The original geographical marker disappeared and a replacement marker was installed (in approximately 1980), prior to Mount Douglas Park coming into Saanich’s jurisdiction.
- The new marker differs from the original Rotary marker is that it corrected a few minor geographical errors, indicated distances in metric instead of imperial distances and did not include the Rotary emblem.
- The Rotary marker re-appeared on the Rotary office steps in approximately 2002.

- With the re-appearance of the original bronze marker, the Rotary Club of Victoria expressed a desire to have it re-installed as a historical point of interest near its original location at the summit lookout.
- A proposal was discussed with the Rotary Club of Victoria and the preferred option was mounting the marker and a small descriptive bronze plaque on the interior of the concrete wall of the lookout.
- This would satisfy Rotary Club's request to have the Rotary Club's past contributions to the design, funding and construction of the visitor lookout recognized.
- The Friends of Mount Douglas Park had some concerns regarding the re-installation of the marker and staff contacted the Friends of Mount Douglas Park to apprise them of the Rotary Club's request.
- The Friends of Mount Douglas Park have the following concerns in relation to the re-installation of the marker as a historical point of interest:
 - It sets an inappropriate precedent in the natural setting of the park
 - It is primarily a recognition plaque for funds donated 55 years ago
 - Lack of policy for plaques other than commemorative benches
 - The plaque serves no benefit to park users
 - Other opportunities may exist to recognize the Rotary Club's contribution
- It is staff's believe that placing the historical bronze cast along with an explanation in the inside of the concrete structure as a historical point of interest to recognize the Club's past contribution is a reasonable compromise.

M. Ramsbottom, Victoria Rotary Club spoke in favour of reinstalling the plaque as per staff recommendation.

D. Wick, Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society, spoke in opposition to the reinstallation of the plaque as a historical point of interest on the inside of the concrete structure and suggested alternate locations for the installation of the plaque.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- The Rotary Plaque should not be physically altered.
- The Plaque was unlawfully removed and should be returned to the position it held prior to its un-authorized removal.
- The plan proposed by staff to place the plaque on the concrete wall with an explanation is a good compromise.
- To remove the marker that is currently on the pedestal and replace it with the original Rotary marker will cost approximately \$1000.00 assuming the pedestal is not significantly damaged.
- The Rotary Club of Victoria has indicated that they are willing to provide funds to help have the original plaque re-installed.
- Victoria is a "quaint" city and there are many historical things that are not 100% accurate, but are left in place as a nod to the history of the region.

MOTION: Moved by D. Marecek and Seconded by P. Carroll: "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends Council direct staff to return the historical Rotary marker to the summit of Mount Douglas Park on the inside of the lookout as a historical point of interest."

DEFEATED

MOTION: Moved by P. Carroll and Seconded by T. Austin: "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee forward the reinstallation of

the historical Rotary marker to the summit of Mount Douglas Park to Council for consideration.”

CARRIED

LGBTQ AND THE SAANICH INCLUSION STATEMENT

The Senior Manager, Recreation provided the Committee with feedback from the LGBTQ Committee regarding the inclusion statement and the following was noted:

- The inclusion statement is primarily an internal tool for staff reference and training.
- Following the feedback received from the LGBTQ Committee the inclusion statement was updated to reflect more encompassing language.

MOTION: **Moved by D. Marecek and Seconded by S.Yao: “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends that the Inclusion Statement be amended to:
Saanich Parks and Recreation provides a welcoming environment that supports social and financial accessibility, cultural diversity and people of all abilities, and genders and sexualities.”**

CARRIED

UPTOWN DOUGLAS CORRIDOR UPDATE

The Senior Planner provided an update on the Uptown Douglas Corridor Plan and the highlights are noted:

- Planning is currently completing Phase 2 and are starting on Phase 3 of the Uptown Douglas Corridor Plan (UDCP).
- The UDCP is a 30 year land use plan.
- 322 respondents were recorded on the on-line survey. To date approximately 600-700 respondents have participated in community consultation.
- Not all respondents are citizens of Saanich.
- The plan seems very idealistic. Many cost implications to consider.
- There will be opportunities for all stakeholders in the plan area. Currently this area seems to have a “shopping/retail” focus.
- Planning will continue to update the PTR Committee with the progress of the Uptown Douglas Corridor Plan.

CAPTIAL PROJECT SPENDING

The Senior Manager, Parks gave an overview of the guidelines for community driven capital projects. The guidelines is an important document for facilitating community driven capital projects. The Parks and Recreation Department supports the development of community driven capital projects that develop and improve facilities that serve the community.

The guidelines attempt to provide clarity for community groups, staff and the public regarding the process of determining feasibility of a community driven capital project and expectations of the stakeholders involved if projects are supported.

Committee discussion occurred and the following comment was noted:

- An exception clause should be considered within the guidelines to allow for flexibility for any unusual community driven capital projects that may come before the Parks and recreation Department.

SUMMER 2016 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Senior Manager, Recreation gave the Committee an update on the summer 2016 programs. A highlight was the Saanich Neighbourhood Playground Program Adventures (SNPP). The SNPP program was targeted towards 11-14 year olds who were looking for something more adventurous than the traditional summer camp experience.

IVOR ROAD ACQUISITION

The Senior Manager, Parks and Parks Planner gave an update on the acquisition of 1.5 hectares of undeveloped private land at 310 Ivor Road and the following was noted:

- This parcel was unique in that the condition of the property is a terrific natural state with very few invasives and an abundance of wildlife such as owls, amphibians and small mammals.
- The acquired property along with the four adjacent undeveloped Saanich lots and rights of ways will create a natural park of approximately 2.8 hectares.
- The parkland features a mature fir forest and rocky Garry oak outcrops along with a seasonal stream.
- The new park will act as a stepping stone or refuge for wildlife in the area and provide connectivity between Francis King Regional Park to Layritz and Quicksbottom Park.

DIVISION UPDATE, PARKS

The Senior Manager of Parks, provided a Division update. The McKenzie Road Interchange project has resulted in \$450,000 from the Federal and Provincial governments to implement the Cuthbert Holmes Management Plan (CHMP). This funding has allowed Saanich to accelerate the CHMP.

DIVISION UPDATE, RECREATION

The Senior Manager, Recreation Services, provided an update.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Stormwater detox correspondence forwarded by D. Chambers was accepted by the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2016.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary