

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held in Council Chambers, Saanich Municipal Hall  
**October 27, 2016 at 7:00 PM**

Chair: Susan Brice

Members: Ted Austin; Terrance Berscheid, Pamela Carroll; Daryl Dagneault; Dave Marecek; Stefanie Yao, Tom Hatcher 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; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Rick Paynter (SD 61 representative)

Guests: John Rogers, Victoria Waterways Loop Group; David Poji; Peter Savage

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**MINUTES**

**MOVED by T. Hatcher and Seconded by T. Austin “That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting September 29, 2016 be adopted.”**

**CARRIED**

**ROTARY PLAQUE**

The Chair updated the Committee that the two parties involved with the Rotary Plaque item are in discussion and the Committee will be updated accordingly.

**VICTORIA WATERWAYS LOOP**

The Chair introduced Mr. John Rogers from the Victoria Waterways Loop Group. Mr. Rogers gave the Committee an overview of the proposed Victoria Waterways Loop. The following highlights were noted:

- The Waterways Loop provides a healthy, non-polluting recreational amenity.
- The loop traverses through 5 municipalities with 15 rest stops and creates regional economic development opportunities.
- The Waterways Loop fosters awareness for environmental protection and preservation. Promotes good stewardship.
- The “Loop Group” is seeking to promote ease of use by:
  - Installing wayfinding signs along the Portage Trail portion
  - Site selection and features of each location.
  - Signposting at the rest stops, where boaters can launch and/or come ashore.
  - Paddle friendly docks
- Fundraising for the Gorge Rapids safety-signage and dock portage.
- Saanich and other municipalities could consider supporting the Victoria Waterways Loop as a regional recreation amenity.
- Adoption of standardized signage.
- Print and distribute information brochure in municipal facilities.

- Include the Victoria Waterways Loop in municipal parks/trails maps.

Committee Discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Good to see that provisions within the project have been made to protect the bird sanctuary areas.
- The bird sanctuary areas are largely bypassed by the course of the loop.
- Continuing paddling/boating best practices are important.
- Publicity and education are hoped to encourage respectful activity by the public.
- Signage is an important component to the success of the project.
- Enforcement of the estuary rules and ongoing maintenance will be overseen by the Victoria Waterways Loop Group.

The Committee thanked the speaker for the informative presentation.

### **COMMUNITY CAPITAL PROJECTS DOCUMENT**

The Senior Manager Parks presented the Committee with additional information on the Community Capital Projects document and the highlights are noted:

- The document is being compiled as a reference tool for clarification for community associations, the public and staff.
- Saanich Parks has undertaken many successful public-private partnership projects.
- This document is formalizing the process which has largely been informal in the past.
- An exception clause has been added.
- It will be helpful for all parties to be clear on the process of community capital projects.
- Guidelines will be flexible so that they can be adjusted to accommodate unusual projects.

**MOTION:**     **Moved by T. Berscheid and Seconded by T. Austin “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee receives the Community Capital Projects Guidelines as a working document.”**

**CARRIED**

### **DIVISION UPDATE, PARKS**

The Senior Manager of Parks, provided a Division update. Committee member D. Marecek updated the Committee on the Haro Wood Working Group. Many of the Haro Woods Working Group members have high expectations that many of the requests identified will be funded.

### **MOUNT DOUGLAS ACCESS STUDY**

The Manager of Parks Planning and Design gave the Committee an update on the Mount Douglas Access Study and the highlights are noted:

- On February 15, 2016 Council endorsed a staff recommendation to develop options to address concerns regarding access to Mount Douglas Park by some members of the public. With particular interest into to parking restrictions at the north end of Glendenning Road.

- Council requested that access options should minimize impacts to the special nature, character and access routes themselves.
- Pedestrian, bicycle, transit and vehicular access were included in the study.
- Public survey results are available on the Saanich website.
- Feedback on the draft recommendations via the online survey will be accepted until October 31, 2016.
- The data gathered throughout the summer identifies a number of ways to improve visitor access facilities to the park.
- These included enhancements to infrastructure for all transportation modes.
- Several key findings were revealed from the data gathering and analysis and draft recommendations have been compiled:
  - 6 recommendations to improve pedestrian access
  - 6 recommendations to improve cycling access
  - 4 recommendations to improve transit access
  - 10 recommendations to improve vehicle access

The Chair invited members of the public to speak to the issue.

Peter Savage, Saanich resident:

- Glendenning is an easy trail to navigate for members of the public who have mobility issues and for dog walkers.
- There is a lack of parking on Glendenning that did not exist until the no parking signs went up.
- Many people ignore the no parking signs.
- Fire access would not be a problem if more parking was available.

David Poje, Saanich resident:

- Glendenning is problematic for parking.
- There is a disconnect between the observations of the Access Study and the recommendations.
- Proportionality of the parking available has been stated but there does not appear to be much in the recommendations to fix the parking problems.
- More parking should be created on Glendenning. Five additional parking spots could be created in the scrub brush area and allow for 7 parking spots on the street.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Overall the parking issue in the park is a distribution issue. There is adequate parking for park access, but limited parking in some key access points.
- Glendenning and Churchill have the most challenges with parking availability.
- Glendenning is popular as it the parking area with access to an “easy” trail and is popular with persons with mobility concerns and dog walkers.
- Lights and or signage could be considered for the “beach’ crossing as it is currently difficult to cross the busy road safely.
- The crosswalk with the flashing lights is too far north.
- Parking needs to match accessibility. Tying parking to trail ease would be a valuable way to determine adequate allocation of parking.
- Formalizing the 5 parking spots on Glendenning will require relocating the trailhead to the left of the current trailhead.

**DIVISION UPDATE, RECREATION**

The Senior Manager, Recreation Services, presented the Committee with the Recreation Report and the following was noted:

- The 3 playboxes have been removed as the pilot project is over. Reassessment of the playbox locations and equipment in the boxes will be done over the winter.
- Staff are busy planning for the January 2017-June 2017 Active Living Guide.
- Cedar Hill Recreation Centre has applied for a Rick Hansen 2017 Celebration Grant.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 24, 2017.

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Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary