

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
October 26, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Chair: Dean Murdock

Members: Pamela Carroll; Chris Spicer, Stefanie Yao, Dex Owen (Student Liaison), Dave Marecek, Tom Hatcher, Daryl Dagneault

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Eva Riccius, Manager Parks; Troy McKay, Acting Manager of Transportation and Development Services; David Williams, Engineering Supervisor; Gary Durrah, Manager of Park Planning and Development; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Dex Owen (Student Liaison), Anne Whiteaker, SD 61 Trustee

Guests: Darrel Wick, Ed Weibe, Bill Dancer, Graham Shorthill

MINUTES

MOVED by D. Dagneault and Seconded by D. Marecek “That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting October 26, 2017 be adopted.”

CARRIED

FRIENDS OF MOUNT DOUGLAS PARK

D. Wick presented the Committee with the Friends of Mount Douglas Park-Park Plan (3rd edition), and the following comments were noted:

- There is a need for a park ambassador to facilitate user experience at the Park.
- The volunteer Park Ambassadors would help maintain the park and educate the public about issues associated with off-trail adventures, smoking and picking vegetation.
- Many tourists visit Mount Douglas Park and the opportunity to interact with out of town visitors would be beneficial for the municipality.
- Saanich Parks and the Friends of Mount Douglas Park will meet to discuss the possibility of creating the Park Ambassador program for the Park.
- The Park Ambassadors would be in the Park ideally 7 days a week at random times.
- Optimum number of volunteers for the Park Ambassador Program is thought to be 6-12 volunteers.

- Important to educate the volunteers to speak in affirmative language.
- Parks would assist in training of the volunteers.

MOTION: **Moved by T. Hatcher and Seconded by P. Carrol: “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommend that Council ask staff to involve key stakeholders, including the Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society, to develop a proposal for a Park Ambassador Program for Mount Douglas Park to run as a pilot project starting the summer of 2018. The proposal should include information about resources required, rollout timeline and measure of success.”**

CARRIED

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Acting Manager of Transportation and Development Services gave the Committee an update on the Active Transportation Plan. Highlights of the discussion are noted:

- The Active Transportation Plan (ATP) is a prioritization plan for what Saanich will work towards over the next 30 years.
- Engineering is working with Parks on trail connectivity.
- Transit partnerships are being explored.
- The Trails Master Plan is a significant upcoming project.
- CRD and Transit have been involved in the development of the ATP as part of the planning board.

HARO WOODS DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Manager of Park Planning and Development updated the Committee on the Haro Woods Draft Management Plan, and the following comments were noted:

- A mini workshop was held to gather further information on the Management Plan.
- Issues in the Draft Management Plan align with what the PTR Committee saw when touring the Park.
- Trail plan looks to minimize damage.
- Improvements to daylighting effort to Finnerty Creek could be looked at.
- Bike issue should be a compromise.
- The Executive Summary should list actions.

GUIDELINES FOR PARKS PROJECTS UNDER \$10,000

The Senior Manager of Parks presented the Committee with guidelines for park projects under \$10,000, and the following comments were noted:

- More interest from user groups partnering with Saanich on smaller projects.
- Guidelines provide clarity on how to apply and how funds are distributed.
- These partnerships are good value for the money invested.

DIVISION UPDATE, PARKS

The Senior Manager of Parks, provided a Division update to the Committee.

DIVISION UPDATE, RECREATION

The Senior Manager, Recreation Services, provided the Committee with the Recreation update.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2017.

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary