

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
September 27, 2018 from 7:00 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Dean Murdock

Members: Pamela Carroll, Daryl Dagneault, Dave Marecek, Dex Owen, Stefanie Yao and Ted Austin

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director Parks and Recreation; Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager Recreation; Nathalie Dechaine, Manager of Community Development/Business and Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk

Absent: Elise Cote, Chris Spicer Ann, Whiteaker (SD61 Representative)

Guests: Chris and Karen Leach, Michelle Sealey

MINUTES

MOVED by D. Dagneault and seconded by D. Marecek, "That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held April 26, 2018 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair thanked the committee member's for their ongoing service and noted that this would be his last committee meeting as District of Saanich Councillor. Noting that there were guests in attendance the Chair thought a roundtable of introductions would be appropriate.

After the conclusion of the introductions the Chair advised that public delegation that was to be heard under New Business would be moved to the top of the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

The committee received a verbal presentation from Chris Leach, a local Saanich resident, regarding the potential introduction of outdoor exercise equipment in Cuthbert Holmes Park. Mr. Leach had previously presented to Council during their Open Forum session on Monday, September 17, 2018. The following highlights are noted:

- The perception is that the Park is not as safe and well used as it once was.
- Construction in the area will create an opportunity for revitalization.
- A potential loop of up to 12 pieces of outdoor exercise equipment, beginning near Pearkes, would be utilized by the community and improve the overall wellness of both the park and the community, and provide a new programming option for the recreation centre.

- Increased usage as a result of the loop could result in increased recreation activity in the park in general.
- The potential impacts to the natural area are expressed and recognized; any installation should be complimentary, and mindful of existing natural features.
- Estimates that the equipment will be approximately \$10,000-\$15,000 per piece or roughly \$120,000-\$180,000 for 12 pieces.

Committee discussion followed the presentation, the following highlights are noted:

- Ideally the equipment would be designed to be appropriate for all weather; however, the design options would be dependent on budget and proposed use.
- Ideally the equipment would be in some form of a loop and not spread throughout entire park area.
 - Beacon Hill equipment is spread throughout park, whereas the equipment in Henderson is a more concentrated design along the chip trail.
- The Tillicum side of the Park is a better area for the loop.
- Idea is for daytime (daylight) use. There would be no lighting.
 - Friends of Cuthbert Holmes are not supportive of lights in the park area.

Following the committee discussion the Chair asked the Director of Parks and Recreation to advise the committee on process as it pertains to the any potential upgrades in the park area. The Director of Parks and Recreation noted the following:

- The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has committed funding for the Cuthbert Holmes Master Plan.
- The area closest to Pearkes would be most appropriate as the remaining area is a P4N natural space.
- The funding is based on the previous contours and will be subject to a refresh and check-in.
- The District will undertake community engagement when the construction is further along.
- The Parks and Recreation mandate for the area is tied to the Management Plan's implementation.
- It would be appropriate to refer this matter to the check in process and any future management plan discussions.

MOTION

MOVED by D. Dagneault and Seconded by D. Marecek "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee refer this item to the Cuthbert Holmes Master Plan Check-in process."

Committee Discussion ensued, the following is highlighted:

- Safety will be a component of the Master Plan.
- Increased traffic and usage of the park is the goal.
- The area being a construction site for so long has not helped the perception of the parks safety.
- There have been very few calls for service to the Police since the Bylaw change in July.

- Camping is not permitted in a P4N designated area.
- There is great potential for enhanced connectivity with Pearkes and potentially Saanich Commonwealth Place, where there has been a huge increase in outdoor usage of the surrounding areas.
- The Ministry will be repairing the pathways at the conclusion of construction.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

PARK AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The Manager of Community Development/Business Systems provided the committee with a report on the 2018 Park Ambassador Pilot Project End of Season Report. The following was highlighted:

- The pilot project was approved on March 19, 2018.
- Council allocated \$30,000 from the Strategic Initiatives Fund to fund the program.
- Soft launch in May.
- The pilot project's goals were to:
 - Enhance the visitor experience at Mt. Doug.
 - Engage First Nations in meaningful relationships and participation.
 - Providing rewarding volunteer opportunities for the community.
 - Build capacity for visitor information.
 - Provide information for Saanich Parks to improve management objectives.
- 2018 Season Summary:
 - 17 Ambassadors
 - Ages ranging from 8 – 78.
 - Ambassadors greeted visitors with a friendly smile; provided directions; educated visitors about etiquette in fragile ecosystems; collected refuse and 100's of cigarette butts.
 - Ambassadors also reminded visitors about the rules for dogs in the park.
 - Submitted monthly logs.
 - There was a mid-season check-in in July that included a knowledge sharing event with Earl Claxton and JP Williams of the Tsawout First Nation.
 - The Park Ambassadors had a walk and talk with the Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society.
 - There was a Park Ambassador Recognition event in September.
- Pilot Project Summary:
 - The pilot project met or exceeded numerous key performance indicators including:
 - Enhance visitor experience
 - Engage First Nations
 - Rewarding volunteer opportunities
 - Park visitor education
 - Improve park management objectives.
- Management Priorities:
 - Garbage (particularly cigarette butts)
 - Dogs and dog waste
 - Bylaws are communicated clearly

- Signs
- Budget Status:
 - Approximately \$15,000 or 50% of the budget was spent
- The report on the October 1, 2018 Council Agenda will include a recommendation that council continue to support the project with the remaining allocated budget until spring 2019.

Committee discussion followed the presentation, the following highlights are noted:

- Ambassadors were able to avoid confrontation regarding dog issues through the use of “face saving” techniques, i.e. were you aware that, did you know etc.
- A training session was held to assist ambassadors with these techniques.
- Ambassadors provided written feedback regarding their experiences.
- 7 out of the 14 are continuing through the fall.

MOTION

MOVED by D. Dagneault and Seconded by T. Austin “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee support the recommendation that Council continue supporting the Park Ambassador project with the remaining allocated budget until the spring of 2019.”

CARRIED

MOTION

MOVED by D. Dagneault and Seconded by D. Marecek “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommend that Council supports an ongoing Park Ambassador Program.”

CARRIED

DIVISION UPDATE – PARKS

The Senior Manager – Parks provided an overview of the Parks Division Update – September 2018, Memo, and dated September 27, 2018.

DIVISION UPDATE – RECREATION

The Senior Manager – Recreation provided an overview of the Recreation Division Update – September 2018, Memo, and dated September 27, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2018

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary