

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #1  
**Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Chair: Councillor Wade

Members: Jim Anderson, Terrance Berscheid, Daryl Dagneault, Tom Hatcher, Harry Lewis, Martin Roberts

Staff: Garry Darrah, Parks Planning and Design Manager; Steve Holroyd, Engineering Planner/Designer; Doug Henderson, Director of Parks and Recreation; Rae Roer, Senior Manager, Parks; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Stefanie Barber, Jesse McClinton

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**MINUTES**

**MOVED by H. Lewis and seconded by D. Dagneault, "That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held January 22, 2014 be adopted as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

**WILKINSON ROAD/WILKINSON BRIDGE/COLQUITZ RIVER TRAIL**

The Engineering Planner/Designer presented and the following was noted:

- This is a joint project between Engineering and Parks.
- The project is part of a 1998 study that was endorsed by Council. The 1998 study recommended bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides of Wilkinson Road.
- The goal is to upgrade Wilkinson Road from Mann Avenue to Quick's Bottom trail and includes installation of curbs, sidewalks and bike lanes.
- The existing bridge at Lindsay Street and Wilkinson Road will be replaced. The new bridge will be raised to accommodate an underpass walkway so that pedestrians will not have to cross Wilkinson Road.
- Pedestrian lights maybe installed at the trail head at Quick's Bottom.
- A 2:1 tree replacement process will be followed for any trees that are removed during construction.

The Parks, Planning and Design Manager presented and the following was noted:

- The vision is to have the Colquitz River Trail connect to Elk/Beaver Lake Park.
- The municipality applied and was approved for a Federal Gas Tax grant for this project.
- The Colquitz River Trail classified as a community trail. The guidelines for community trails are widths between 3-5 meters with gravel or asphalt surface.

- As the municipality has acquired property along Wilkinson Road, trail extensions have been completed.
- Constraints for this project include topography, grade of slope and location of trees.
- The area has a large amount of invasive species which will have to be removed.

Committee discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- The length of the proposed trail extension is 500 meters.
- Elevated boardwalks are being investigated in steep terrain to minimize tree removal.
- Historic high water levels were used to determine the elevation of the trail.
- Further investigation of the trail course should be considered:
  - Routing the trail under the bridge to the northwest side was proposed. Concern was raised over the complexity and associated cost with moving the trail to the northwest side under the bridge.
  - Having the trail curve up to the beginning of Lindsay Street and then crossing Wilkinson Road to link up with the Quick's Bottom Trail maybe a viable route.
- The new trail could be used by cycling commuters traveling to Camosun College and the Vancouver Island Technology Park.
- Next steps include holding a public Open House in early March 2014, finalizing the conceptual design and issuance of a construction tender.

## **JANUARY 2014 FITNESS SAMPLER REPORT**

The Senior Manager, Recreation Services provided an update to the Committee and the following was noted:

- When compared to last year, overall participation increased and fewer participants were turned away due to classes being full.
- For 2014 there was a 10% increase in both new and total participation over 2013.
- A large, 31%, increase in participation from current Saanich pass holders was seen over 2013.
- Several new programs were offered this year including: Zumba Gold, Buddhist Meditation, Athletic Drill and Pickleball

## **PARKS UPDATE**

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

- A final concept plan for the Gorge Park Community Garden is available for viewing on the website.
- Staff are working with geotechnical engineers to develop the plans for a new inclusive playground and other accessibility improvements at Cadboro-Gyro Park.
- Saanich is partnering with the Prospect Lake Soccer on the design and project coordination details for the new Layritz Changehouse.

## **RECREATION SERVICES UPDATE**

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services provided a verbal update and the following was noted:

- Cedar Hill Arts Centre is hosting "Embrace Aging Through the Arts and Community".
- An "Olympic Corner" was set up at Saanich Commonwealth Place (SCP) for patrons to view the Olympics.
- The annual, all girls "Pro-G Day" was held at SCP on February 21, 2014.

- Community Kitchen for Seniors has been successful in securing a \$4000.00 grant from the Eldercare Foundation to continue funding the community kitchens through both the Pearkes and Gordon Head Recreation Centres.
- Fitness programs continue to be full at Pearkes Recreation Centre since the start of the year. Several new classes have been added to meet the demand.
- Registration for the full year preschool program took place in early March. The Nature Preschool at Swan Lake program was filled, while the new program at Elk Lake had moderate registration.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 27, 2014.

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Councillor Wade, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary