

MINUTES
PARKS TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
G.R. Pearkes Recreation Center
June 27, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Taylor

Members: Ted Austin; Pamela Carroll; Daryl Dagneault; Peter Haddon; Dex Owen; and, Stefanie Yao

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation); Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks; Cristina Caravaca, Manager Community Services; and, Jeff Keys, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Lyndsay Edgar; Wyatt Matthews; and Elise Cote

MINUTES

MOVED by P. Caroll and Seconded by D. Dagneault: "That the minutes of the Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held May 23, 2019 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair thanked the members for attending the joint ENA/PTR walking tours of Mt. Doug and Colquitz/Cuthbert Holmes, noting that they were fun and informative sessions.

The September meeting of PTR will include a presentation from a community organization. Due to a conflict with the annual UBCM meetings the September the meeting will need to be rescheduled. The date has yet to be determined. Dates being considered are September 18 and October 3, 2019. The clerk will advise members when the date is confirmed.

BIKE PARK UPDATE

The Senior Manager, Recreation provided the committee with a status update of the youth bike park planned for development on the Tripp Substation lands. The following was noted:

- Staff are in the process of completing the lease agreement with BC Hydro.
- The lease agreement is conditional on the park being for youth use only.
- The project charter will lay out the process for public engagement.
- Engagement, and park planning/design initiatives, will commence in Fall of 2019.
- Construction is slated to begin in 2020.
- No trees will be removed from the site.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was noted:

- Parking capacity in this area could be an issue.

- The immediate community has been subjected to numerous infrastructure and road work projects over the past few years; accordingly, it is reasonable to assume that there may be a heightened sensitivity towards construction work in the area.
- The Capital Region District is installing a pit toilet near Mann Park and will be accessible to the youth park users.

PARKS AND RECREATION CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY AND RESPONSE

The Senior Managers of Parks and Recreation provided the committee with a high-level overview of the Parks and Recreation's Climate Adaptation Strategy.

The Senior Manager, Parks provided an overview of the division's initiatives with regard to sustainability and climate adaptation. The following was noted:

- The Natural Saanich Environmental Policy Framework proposed work plan was tabled at Council on June 10, 2019.
- The proposed framework is a result of direction from Council to implement interim measures after the repeal of the Environmental Development Permit Area (EDPA).
- The framework will help to ensure the sustainability of our parks and natural areas.
- Identified themes for Parks initiatives include:
 - A park within 499m of every house in Saanich.
 - Smart Planting: Increased support for community gardens; drought resistant shrubs; right tree in the right place initiatives; and, further development of rain gardens in both parks and streetscapes (Layritz parking lots).
 - Water Conservation: Updating irrigation systems; eliminating irrigation for passive lawns; installing drip irrigation for newly planted street trees; and, converting sand based sports fields (Glanford 2019, Braefoot 2020) to a sustainable growing medium requiring less watering.
 - Continuous Improvement: Natural area restoration; allowing select lawn areas to grow wild; field testing of electrified maintenance equipment such as leaf blowers, mowers and trimmers.
 - Making Connections: Building community resilience, trust and wellbeing one person at a time; fostering volunteerism (Pulling Together, Mt. Doug Ambassadors, Boulevard Tree Partnership Program and School-Park Partnerships).
 - Building Natural Intelligence: Every Saanich resident actively enhancing our natural world by 2025.

The Senior Manager, Recreation provided an overview of the division's initiatives with regard to sustainability and climate adaptation. The following was noted:

- The average temperature in 2018 was 9% hotter than 2017.
- Despite the significant increase in temperature in 2018, GHGs were reduced by 100 TC02e (tonnes) over 2017.
- Saanich Commonwealth Place, G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre and Gordon Head Recreation Centre are the highest GHG emitters amongst Saanich's building inventory. Accordingly each of these facilities have undergone (or is planning) work that will improve energy efficiency and significantly lower their carbon footprint(s).
- **G.R. Pearkes:**

- A REALice system was installed in the Gold Arena in 2016, resulted in savings of over 45 TC02e per year.
- A installation of a REALice system for the Green Arena is being planned for 2019.
- The REALice systems eliminate the need for hot water when building and/or resurfacing ice. Savings from continuously running the boiler to keep the water hot.
- The installation of energy saving LED lighting in the Gold Arena was completed in 2016 and lighting upgrades in the Green Arena is planned.
- Low Emission (LE) Ceiling Tiles were installed in the Gold Arena to mitigate the effects of the heat load radiating downward from the ceiling to the ice plant.
- The installation of LE ceiling tiles is also planned for the Green Arena.
- The contract for the procurement of an Electric Ice Zamboni has been awarded.
- **Saanich Commonwealth Place:**
 - LED lighting has been installed throughout the building
 - A renewable biomass heating system will be installed to replace existing fossil fuel boilers. It is anticipated that this will result in a 90% reduction in GHG emissions.
 - The purchase and use of renewable/sustainable natural gas (RNG/SNG) is being considered as an alternative fuel source in order to offset the building's remaining (non-renewable) natural gas use making the building 100% renewable.
- **Gordon Head Recreation Centre:**
 - The installation of a new high efficiency air source heat pump, commissioned in 2018, is expected to reduce GHG emissions by 400 TC02e annually.
 - Solar panels to heat domestic hot water have been installed.
 - A Low Emission exhaust system has been installed
 - LED lighting has been installed throughout the building.
 - Staff are researching updating pool filters from sand to crushed glass. The performance of glass filtration systems result in lower run-times for recirculation, and require less water for backwashing.
- **Cedar Hill Arts Centre** has also undertaken numerous sustainability and design/build measures (resulting in its LEED certification) including:
 - The building has a partial green roof.
 - The roof system redirects storm run-off into the on-site gardens.
 - Programmable LED lighting has been installed throughout the building.
 - The facility has implemented the regular use of green cleaning supplies and eco-friendly bags.
 - The café facility utilizes a low flow dishwasher, reducing water consumption.
- **All facilities noted above have:**
 - On-site Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.
 - On-site bike repair "kitchens" available to users to help support Active Transportation.

DIVISION UPDATE RECREATION

The Senior Manager – Recreation provided and overview of the June Recreation Division Update report dated, June 19, 2019.

DIVISION UPDATE PARKS

The Senior Manager – Parks provided an overview of the June Parks Division Update report dated, June 27, 2019.

DIVISION UPDATE COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services Manager provided an overview of the June Community Services Division Update report dated, June 27, 2019.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The committee discussed potential future agenda items. In addition to the planned presentations from community organizations and associations noted during the Chair's Remarks, members would appreciate updates on:

- The proposed Environmental Policy Framework;
- The King's Road Hydro property; and
- A presentation from Engineering on the provisions of the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) as it pertains to the signalization/signage of pedestrian crosswalks – specifically those serving the lower loop of Mt. Douglas.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was noted:

- On June 15, 2019, members of the PTR committee, along with members of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee, toured the lower loop of Mt. Douglas Park
- Committee members noted that the trail crossing located on Ash Rd. (approximately 150m East of the Cedar Hill Rd. intersection) abutting the Western shore of the Douglas Creek Bridge, is aligned (on a corner) in such a manner that it limits the visibility of both pedestrians and motorists.
- It was noted that a second crosswalk on Ash Road, located approximately 120m to the East of the aforementioned crossing, has the benefit of pedestrian crossing signage and road markings.
- Advanced pedestrian crossing signage, road markings or pedestrian activated signalized crosswalks for this area would enhance the safety for both pedestrians and road users.
- There may be technical restrictions related to signalizing or signing those crossings
- It would be appropriate to request that the engineering department attend a future meeting to provide and update/comment on the matter.
- The Clerk can work with staff to ensure that an update is provided at the September meeting.

MOTION

MOVED by D. Dagneault and Seconded by P. Carroll: "That the Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee send correspondence to the Manager of Transportation and Development Services (Engineering), regarding possible improvement options for signage, signalization and road markings for pedestrian crossings in Mt. Doug park area."

CARRIED

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date TBC.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Councillor Taylor, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary