

AGENDA
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Committee Room 2, Municipal Hall
Tuesday October 25, 2016, 5:15 PM – 7:15 PM

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (attachment)
 - Adoption of September 27, 2016 minutes.
2. **CONSERVATION TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM**
 - Discussion led by Alf Birch, Land Trust Alliance of BC
3. **MOUNT DOUGLAS ACCESS STUDY** (attachment)
 - Presentation by the Manager of Parks Planning & Design
4. **ENA AWARD GUIDLINES**
 - Discussion led by the Manager of Environmental Services
5. **UPDATES**
 - Environmental Bill of Rights
 - Federal Trans-Pacific Partnership
 - Stormwater Management
 - Uptown-Douglas

Adjournment **
Mark your calendars:
Next Regular Meeting is November 22, 2016

**To ensure a quorum, please call Elizabeth van den Hengel
at 475-1775 ext. 3430, if you are unable to attend**

GO GREEN

Members are encouraged to bring a mug to the meeting

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
September 27, 2016 at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Councillor Dean Murdock (Chair), Harry Drage, Hal Gibbard, Kevin Brown, George Klima, Mary Haig-Brown, Al-Nashir Charania

Staff: Adriane Pollard, Manager Environmental Services; Shari Holmes-Saltzman, Senior Planner; Jeff Howard, Manager of Underground Services; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Regrets: Jude Coates, Roberta Hesselgrave

Guests: Bob Bridgeman, Douglas Creek Steward

Minutes

MOVED by A. Charania and Seconded by H. Gibbard: "That the Minutes of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee meeting held June 28, 2016, be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

UPTOWN DOUGLAS CORRIDOR UPDATE

The Senior Planner provided an update on the Uptown Douglas Corridor Plan and the highlights are noted:

- Planning is currently completing Phase 2 and are starting on Phase 3 of the Uptown Douglas Corridor Plan (UDCP).
- The UDCP is a 30 year land use plan.
- 322 respondents were recorded on the on-line survey. To date approximately 600-700 respondents have participated in community consultation.
- Not all respondents are citizens of Saanich.
- The plan seems very idealistic. Many cost implications to consider.
- There will be opportunities for all stakeholders in the plan area. Currently this area seems to have a "shopping" focus.
- Planning will continue to update ENA Committee with the progress of the Uptown Douglas Corridor Plan.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The Environmental Manager introduced B. Bridgeman, Douglas Creek Steward. The following was noted:

- Pollution and stormwater runoff surges are an ongoing issue and impede the restoration of and conservation efforts in Saanich watersheds.
- Thousands of volunteer hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars including cash and in kind have been put toward the restoration of Douglas Creek.
- Efforts towards absorbing the destructive influence of unregulated stormwater surges.
- The following are abiotic filters that continue to impact Douglas Creek:

- Excessive downstream bed movement and streambank erosion.
- Irregular flow
- Water pollution
- Biotic filters that continue to impact Douglas Creek:
 - Extirpated salmonid populations
 - Simplified and reduced invertebrate communities
 - Lack of seral vegetation
- The abiotic and biotic filters are all linked to unregulated urbanization of the watershed.
- Social filters that impact Douglas Creek:
 - Long term urbanization of the watershed
 - Undervaluation of urban adjacent natural systems
 - Municipal bylaws, policies and schedules
- Schedule H to Bylaw 7452 is contributing significantly to the blockage and filtration issues in Douglas Creek.

The Manager of Underground Services stated that Type 1 and Type 2 classifications in Schedule H to Bylaw 7452 may have originally been a practical solution to stormwater management. This was a small step in the right direction to manage stormwater surges.

- A fresh look at Schedule H to Bylaw 7452 may be warranted in light of the ongoing problems with stormwater surges into Douglas Creek and other watershed within Saanich.
- The ENA Committee should consider doing a careful review of the Schedule H to Bylaw 7452.

The Committee thanked the speaker and look forward to future presentations to further discuss the stormwater management.

ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS

Committee member A. Charania led a discussion on the evaluation of the progress towards fulfilling Council Resolution #2560-50: Healthy Environment as passed on January 26, 2015. The following was noted:

- MOTION:** **MOVED by A. Charania and Seconded by K. Brown: “That the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee in support of Council resolution #2560-50: Healthy Environment, requests that Council consider as part of the Strategic Planning process, providing staff resources to work with the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee on the following:**
- 1) To catalogue current District of Saanich environmental actions;
 - 2) To conduct a gap analysis by reviewing Council Resolution #2560-50 objectives, targets, timelines and actions (information to be provided by District of Saanich staff, and deliberations of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee);
 - 3) To develop a list of model environmental rights provisions including, but not limited to, substantive and procedural rights;
 - 4) To provide recommendations on new objectives, targets, timelines and actions as it pertains to the right to a healthy environment; and
 - 5) To consult District of Saanich residents and other key stakeholders as part of this process.”

CARRIED

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The Chair gave the Committee an update on the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP), and requested feedback from the Committee. The following was noted:

- The Committee has four areas of concern with the TPP:
 - Legal
 - Environmental
 - Food Security
 - Investor-State Dispute Settlement Process.
- Consideration should be given to the costs of not being part of the TPP.

MOTION: Moved by G. Klima and Seconded by A. Charania: “That the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee requests that Council express opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement for its restriction on the ability of Saanich to protect the natural environment.”

CARRIED

SIGNIFICANT TREE TOUR

The Committee discussed the Significant Tree Tour. A thank-you was extended to the enthusiastic guide, for his extensive knowledge of significant trees in Saanich. A suggestion for more advertising of the tour for next year was made. The brochure that was distributed is a draft version and contains errors that will need to be corrected. An “App” for significant trees could be developed that would list all the trees and the backstory as to why the tree was designated as significant.

UPDATES

The Chair provided updates to the Committee, and the following was noted:

- Council has requested that the ENA Advisory Committee review the Tree Protection Bylaw.
- Derelict vessels and enforcement of the Gorge Bylaw continue to be a challenge, with staff looking at potential solutions.
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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 2016.

Councillor Murdock, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Memo

To: Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee
From: Gary Darrah, Manager Park Planning and Design
Date: 10/18/2016
Subject: Mount Douglas Park Access Study – Draft Recommendations

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to brief the Committee on the project findings and draft recommendations prior to taking a final report to Mayor and Council in November, and to receive feedback from the committee that could be used to refine the final report.

BACKGROUND

On February 15th, 2016 Council endorsed a staff recommended process to develop options to address concerns raised regarding access to Mount Douglas Park by some members of the public, especially related to recent parking restrictions at the north end of Glendenning Road. Council further stated that the access options should minimize impacts to the special nature, character and access routes themselves. All forms of access including pedestrian, transit, bicycle and vehicular were included in the study. Since February, staff have undertaken the following;

- Developed a Project Charter
- Created a Terms of Reference and established a community based project advisory team (PAT)
- Developed a detailed inventory of existing parking areas, bicycle facilities, pedestrian routes and transit facilities
- Undertaken a public survey throughout the summer months
- Undertaken a detailed access study employing a transportation consultant (Urban Systems)
- Developed draft recommendations to enhance all forms of access
- Hosted a public open house, provided a virtual open house on the Saanich website and undertaken a second survey for the public to provide input on the draft recommendations

The public survey results from the summer, Urban Systems study and project overview are available for review on the Saanich web site. An opportunity to provide feedback on the draft recommendations via online survey is available until October 31st.

DISCUSSION

The data gathering and analysis points to several key findings and recommendations. The proposed draft recommendations are organized by access mode as follows;

- 6 recommendations to improve pedestrian access
- 6 recommendations to improve cycling access
- 4 recommendations to improve transit access
- 10 recommendations to improve vehicle access

Some of the recommendations will be relatively easy to implement while others will be more costly, or as is the case with transit, be referred to other jurisdictions for review and implementation. Still others such as the recommendation to add bike lanes on Cedar Hill Road will be referred to the Active Transportation Plan project which Engineering has just initiated.

Mount Douglas Park is the largest natural park in the Saanich. Given that the park serves the entire region, a large majority of park visitors arrive by automobile and there is a significant amount of existing infrastructure devoted to automobiles in the park. As such, the transportation consultant's work focused mainly on gaining a better understanding of the current situation with vehicular traffic. Some key findings that emerged from their analysis indicates that:

- Turnover analysis supports the survey finding that the majority of park visitors stay for less than 2 hours
- Weekdays were shown to be busiest in the evening
- Weekends tended to be busiest in the early afternoon
- Glendenning (5 designated spaces) and Churchill (28 designated spaces) lots were consistently the busiest locations and most likely to exceed 85% occupancy
- Overall, parking facilities in the park are generally sufficient; however, there is room for improvement and opportunities to expand parking availability in key locations

In order to obtain public feedback on the draft recommendations Saanich Parks hosted an open house on October 12th at Gordon Head Middle School. 43 people attended the event and preliminary feedback on the key recommendations was generally quite positive.

Staff will be presenting the draft recommendations and preliminary feedback to other relevant advisory committees including Bicycle and Pedestrian (BIPED), and Parks, Trails and Recreation (PTR) through October. The public survey will conclude at the end of October. The feedback gathered from this survey, the open house and the advisory committees will be used to refine the report to be presented to Council in late November.

SUMMARY

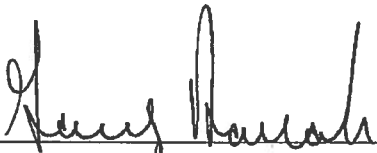
The data gathered throughout the summer identifies a number of initiatives to improve visitor access facilities to the park. These include enhancements to cycling, transit, pedestrian and vehicular infrastructure. None of the proposed recommendations when implemented will negatively impact the park. Following review and approval by Mayor and Council, staff from Parks and Engineering will develop an implementation plan and where necessary, coordinate details with the Saanich Fire Department to ensure public safety concerns are appropriately dealt with. While one or two initiatives have already been completed (e.g. an additional bike rack

at the main beach parking lot), it is anticipated that implementation of the recommendations will commence in early 2017 pending budget approvals.

NEXT STEPS

That the Committee review the relevant materials and provide comments to staff by October 31st so that they may be included in the final report which Council has indicated they would like to review in November.

Prepared by



Gary Darrah,
Manager Park Planning and Design]

Approved by



Eva Riccius
Senior Parks Manager

GD

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