

AGENDA
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
Thursday, February 22, 2018, from 7:00PM

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (attachment)
 - January 26, 2018
2. **CEDAR HILL PARK PLANNING – DRAFT VISION STATEMENT** (attachment)
 - Presentation from Park Planner
3. **PHYLLIS PARK AND LOCKEHAVEN TRAIL**
 - Presentation from Senior Manager of Parks
4. **RECREATION SYSTEM REPLACEMENT UPDATE**
 - Presentation from Senior Manager of Recreation
5. **DIVISION UPDATE, RECREATION** (attachment)
 - Presentation from Senior Manager of Recreation
6. **DIVISION UPDATE, PARKS** (attachment)
 - Presentation from Senior Manager of Parks

**** Adjournment ****

Next Meeting: March 22, 2018
In order to ensure a quorum, please call Jeff Keays at 475-5494 ext. 3430 or
jeff.keays@saanich.ca if you are unable to attend.

Go Green!
Members are encouraged to bring their own mug to the meeting.

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
January 25, 2018

Present: Chair: Councillor Dean Murdock

Members: Ted Austin, Pamela Carol, Elise Cote, Connie Larochelle, Dave Marecek, Stefanie Yao, Ann Whiteaker (SD612 Representative)

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director Parks and Recreation; Eva Riccius Senior Manager Parks; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager Recreation.

Absent: Chris Spicer, Daryl Dagneault, Dex Owen

Guests: MaryAnn Backstrom, Susan Miller

MINUTES

MOVED by P. Carol and seconded by S. Yao, "That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held November 30, 2017 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Councillor Murdock welcomed the committee members to the first meeting of 2018, taking the opportunity to thank all the members for their service. The Chair invited a roundtable of introductions by all members and staff in attendance.

INFORMATION ITEM – ROYAL OAK GOLF COURSE

The Chair provided a brief overview of the correspondence circulated by the Clerk in their January 25, 2018 memo regarding the Royal Oak Golf Club. This item was circulated for information only. The following highlights are noted:

- The parcel is located within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)
- Only Council has authority has the authority to make a recommendation, on behalf of the District, to the remove land from the ALR.
- Land can only be removed by the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC).
- Application for the parcel known as the Royal Oak Golf Course has been received.
- Council takes these requests very seriously. There is no current timeline associated to the application.
- PTR staff will receive internal application for comment.
- Unless Council feels it necessary for the report to go forward for public consultation it will not come to committee.

Committee discussion followed the Chair's comments, the following highlights are noted:

- Inquiry – How many parcels of land have been removed from the ALR and how many has Council commented on?
- High usage of the golf course's pathways by walkers. It has become a de facto park.
- Great for persons with mobility issues.
- Fits with the tenants of the Older Adult Strategy.
 - How many mobility parks are within the District?
 - It is possible that this is the only one.

MOTION

Moved by T. Austin and seconded by P. Carol "That the Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee receive the January 25, 2018 correspondence for information."

CARRIED

SCHEDULE OF REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Director of Parks and Recreation provided an overview of the proposed meeting dates, along with a targeted work plan for 2018.

The adopted meeting schedule will be published on the District's website.

******Anne Whiteaker arrived at 7:20PM******

The Director confirmed that the committee will host four (4) meetings outside of City Hall including potential site visits (i.e. Harrow Woods).

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

- Council will receive an update regarding the McKenzie Interchange once the Ministry begins to fill the site. The Ministry's webpage has been reengaged.
- Parks and Recreation Budgets will be presented at the Financial Plan meetings scheduled for February 28 (operating) and March 1, 2018 (capital).
- Committee members would like to receive regular updates on the various strategies i.e. Youth.

PETITION TO RENAME GORDON HEAD EAST PARK

The Senior Manager Parks provided a brief overview of the District's park renaming policy, reiterating the department's support of the renaming before turning the floor over to the petitioners.

MaryAnn Backstrom (petitioner) provided the committee with an overview of the life and historical significance of Jack Rowe, including his legacy as a landowner, steward and active and influential community volunteer.

Committee discussion followed the Chair's comments, the following highlights are noted:

- The current name of the park, Gordon Head East, was derived from the park's physical location (East of Gordon Head Rd.) as per the Council approved Park Naming Policy.

- The District has only received a small number of renaming requests in recent times.
- The District has made a commitment to creating and fostering relationships with First Nations and their respective governments.
- Any renaming recommendation put forward by the committee will include consultation with the local First Nation governments before rising to Council.
- Gordon Head East Park is classified as a Natural Area Park.
- Current development along the Park is resulting in a loss of trees, and significant erosion along the pathway.

MOTION

Moved by T. Austin and seconded by D. Marecek “That the Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee support the renaming of Gordon Head East Park to Rowe Park, based on the information contained within the neighbourhood petition.”

The Chair opened the floor to debate on the motion. The following is noted:

- Concern that proposed name takes into account only the last 100 years of history, and makes no reference to first peoples.
- The support of the local First Nation communities should be sought before any renaming occurs.

The Chair inquired if the committee members would provide consensus to amend the original motion to include a provision for consultation with First Nations communities. The petitioners acknowledged that consultation with First Nations would have been welcomed by Jack Rowe. The amended motion is as follows:

AMENDED MOTION

Moved by T. Austin and seconded by D. Marecek “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee support the renaming of Gordon Head East Park to Rowe Park, based on the information contained within the neighbourhood petition and subject to consultation with First Nations.”

CARRIED

2017 COUNCIL RELATED ACTIVITIES IN REVIEW

The Director of Parks and Recreation provided an overview of the committee’s Council related activities in 2017. The following highlights are noted:

- Parks Naming Policy (updated in 2017) will be updated again to include Government to Government consultation with First Nations.
- Lockehaven Trail report coming forward.
- Budget coming forward to Council for 2018 Park Ambassador Pilot Program for Mount Douglas.

CAPITAL PROEJCTS REVIEW

The Director of Parks and Recreation provided the committee with an overview of the department’s proposed 2018 Capital Projects. The following highlights are noted:

- The Parks and Recreation Capital Budget will be presented at the February 28th March 1 Financial Plan meeting.
- Parks and Trails – \$2.773M (proposed)
- Recreation – \$598,400 (proposed)

Committee discussion followed the Chair's comments, the following highlights are noted:

- Parks and Recreation facilities are developed to meet needs of divergent communities.
- Limited Information Technology (IT) capacity makes interactive trail maps a long-term project.
- Supply of washrooms in the District is challenging, accordingly a public washroom strategy is required.
- Washrooms designs are location specific. Staff currently working with an engineering firm on a simplified washroom design.
- Recreation Market Analysis will help the District to understand community needs and inform recreation and park facility capital needs. An update will be provided at a future meeting.
- The new on-line registration system will be active within the next couple of months.
- Playing fields are heavily subsidized, with no additional capacity for other sports or users. Staff currently conducting a comparative analysis of regional rates.
- Playing field maintenance is a hybrid of user groups (clubs) and staff. Some issues with unreported work carried out by groups etc. Otherwise working well and helping keep rates low.
- Increased demand for streetscaping elements in traffic circles and boulevards. No increase in staffing resources to meet this demand.
- An audit of boulevard irrigation is underway. Staff will receive a report in Q2.

DIVISION UPDATE – RECREATION

The Senior Manager – Recreation provided an overview of the January Recreation Report Memo dated January 15, 2018.

DIVISION UPDATE – PARKS

The Senior Manager – Parks provided an overview of the Parks Division Update – January 2018, Memo, dated January 25, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00PM

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2018

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

DRAFT



Project Update

Cedar Hill Park

Visioning and Planning Project

Thank you for your interest in the Cedar Hill Park Visioning and Planning Project. We thought this was a good time to reach out as we have reached an important step in our process.

The project's Stakeholder Working Group have developed a DRAFT Vision Statement for the park.

DRAFT VISION:

Cedar Hill Park balances nature, community, and recreation in a harmonious way. People, place, and the environment share an intimate connection that fosters mutual health and well-being. We are all stewards of the park, committed to its long-term preservation and enhancement.

The next step, which is currently underway, is to determine the most appropriate type of plan required for the park. For more information on the project please visit the project website at Saanich.ca/parks.

To comment please contact:
Saanich Parks
(250) 475-5522
parks@saanich.ca



Item 2



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee
From: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager - Recreation
Date: 2/15/2018
Subject: February 2018 Monthly Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks, Trails and Recreation and Healthy Saanich Advisory Committees receive this report as information.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committees with an overview of the previous month's Recreation Division activities.

DISCUSSION

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre

With the number of people walking the TC 10K race increasing each year, the 2018 TC 10K clinics offer a specific training plan for walkers. The Cedar Hill clinic, offered on Sundays from 9-10:30 am, currently has 53 runners and 23 walkers registered. This is a large increase over 2017 numbers. We hope to see this number continue to grow over the years, since walking is a highly accessible form of exercise with many health benefits.

Community Services

In 2017, while the Coordinator of Volunteers role was vacant, Saanich Recreation's Volunteer Program still saw 69 active volunteers, who contributed 4117 hours of service.

Gaileen Flaman is the new Coordinator of Volunteers and with crucial administrative support and a clear Work Plan, her intention is to review feedback from program users, research and implement Best Practices, build and rebuild relationships and launch an improved program to attract and retain greater numbers of invaluable volunteers to serve our Saanich community.

The 2018 LIFE program is well underway supporting numerous individuals and families. Additional grant funding to assist children in recreation and sport opened up Jan. 15th and within one month over \$5000 of support funding has been allocated to assist children.

Gordon Head Recreation Centre

Our January school age Jazz and Ballet class had strong registration with 12 little dancers. We are hoping to see growth in our school age dance programs and showcase our beautiful dance studio.

Our water fit ladies host a potluck in our front foyer once/month and in January they celebrated Robbie Burns Day (without the haggis!). These community-led potlucks engage patrons representing many cultures from our community and they bring food to share with each other. Even though language may be a barrier for some, this event breaks down all barriers, builds community and provides opportunities for social connection.

Gordon Head hosted a swim for 2-Spirit, Trans Gendered and Non-Binary community members and their families on February 12th. In partnership with members from the community, approximately 30 people attended.

Our weightroom is trialling two decline benches; staff are asking patrons for face to face feedback during all hours of operation on what they like or don't like with this equipment.

Saanich Parks has been awarded the grant monies of \$50,000 for the Accessible Pathway from Feltham Road to the Gordon Head Recreation Centre. We look forward to working with Saanich Parks, and Recreation Integration Victoria in the next year to design and install the pathway (including pathway seating and lighting).

G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre

February has been a busy month, with a variety of trade shows Health Show, Kids Garage Sale, Boat Show, and the Home Show scheduled.

G.R. Pearkes celebrated its 50th Anniversary on Monday Feb 12, 2018 (Gold Rink built 1968). We offered a free family skate, cake, and hot drinks for the community. Information boards were posted around the building showcasing our history and namesake, Lt-Gov George R. Pearkes. Anthony Pearkes, grandson of Mr. G.R. Pearkes, attended and spoke on behalf of the family. As he said "My grandfather would be tickled pink to see all these smiling faces, and families enjoying their time together today".

Saanich Commonwealth Place

Seven SCP athletes and their coaches and support staff have qualified to participate in the upcoming Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games in diving and swimming events. The 2018 Commonwealth Games will be held April 4-15, 2018.

In January, SCP experienced record setting drop-ins for programs like Water Fit, Weight Room and Aerobics. One class topped out at 101 participants in a single class!

Work Safe BC will be including an article in its upcoming Worksafe Magazine about the innovative improvement to SCP's chlorine room with automatic shut off valves.

SCP is piloting a new drop in class Babies First Steps program. This is a partnership with Island Health. The program is volunteer driven and so far is a success with 10 moms with babes dropping in regularly. We hope to see the program grow.

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF SAANICH

REPORT TO: Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee

DATE: February 22, 2018

FROM: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks

SUBJECT: Parks Division Update – February, 2018

The following update is provided for the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee:

Maintenance – EI-2 Staff are working on the maintenance of tennis courts and bleacher repairs at our sportsfields. We continue field marking and inspections of soccer fields as the playing season continues. Annual meetings with ball clubs continue. Our turf technician is expecting to begin some renovations of streetscape and park turf sites soon so they are ready before mowing season begins. Staff are planning upcoming sportsfield renovations that will begin this spring between sport seasons.

Construction – EI-3-3 – The Construction Section was working on the following major projects:

- 1 Trail resurfacing work in Quadrant 2** - started in December and is continuing through January and February with trail on Elk Road, Quale Road, sections of trails behind Layritz Park, Gerda Road trail and Swan Creek Park completed.
- 2 Initial activities of football field renovation in Copley Park West** are expected to commence in second part of February. The field has been fenced off in preparation for construction. The field will remain closed to accommodate the installation of new drainage system, irrigation and new turf establishment. Completion of construction is expected in June and field opening is expected in September.
- 3 Trail construction in Ambassador Park-** Depending on the weather, construction of a new trail across the park is scheduled to take place in mid-March.
- 4 Installation of New Roofing – Gyro Park washroom building** – The contractor is nearing completion. The old shingle roofing was removed and new waterproof membrane and metal roofing is being installed.

Horticulture – EI-2 – Horticulture staff are completing work on neighbourhood traffic circles by mid February before continuing with winter pruning at parks and recreation facilities sites. Some renovations of streetscape plantings will also begin this month and will be completed before attention turns to turf in early March.

Irrigation staff are working on some valve replacements on our systems and some small installations in streetscapes in the Royal Oak area and on the Gorge Waterway. We are also awaiting the results of our recent Irrigation Audit to help identify priorities for this section.

Urban Forestry – EI-1-3 –Arborists are conducting proactive boulevard tree pruning in the Gordon Head area to align with recent BC Hydro pruning along transmission lines in the area. Staff are also working with Engineering on plan design as it relates to trees for streetscape improvement projects scheduled for 2018. Staff continue to respond to Requests for Services to deal with hazardous tree related issues.

Natural Areas – EI-1-5 – The boulevard tree planting program is almost complete for the 2017/2018 winter planting program; the crew has planted ~400+ trees since the end of October. There are just two park sites remaining plus a few scattered single trees left. We recently took delivery of 306 Camas bulbs that we will be planting in a few Garry Oak restoration sites including the Public Works & Parks Yard Borden entrance and Bruce Hutchinson Park. We also took delivery of 108 Garry Oak trees that we are planning to plant in many of our parks.

The Mt. Douglas trail assessment program is complete, with crews continuing with the smaller trail upgrades to help control water erosion issues. We have worked closely with Friends of Mt. Douglas Park Society to help identify some of the issues.

The Small Tree Maintenance program (STM) continues with mulching, pruning, and general care for the 1200+ active trees being managed in parks and boulevards.

The crew treated English Holly and English Hawthorn in over a dozen Parks, removing and treating over 200 trees. The Pulling Together Volunteers were an integral part during the treatment process with their initial pruning/cutting to help identify the locations of the trees.

We've had some excellent Pulling Together Volunteer work parties in several of our parks including: Vic Derman Park, Broadmead Park, Mt Tolmie Park, Mt Doug Park, Ferndale Forest and many more. These work parties take place during the week and during special events held on the weekends. We've had participation from many youth groups including various elementary and middle schools and Scout Troops. We continue to support weekly/monthly Pulling Together Volunteers at many of our parks with pile pick-ups, mulching and invasive removal.

The last of the restoration planting at Douglas Creek was completed by Parks staff with the help of 10th Garry Oak Scouting. The event saw ~15 Big leaf Maple and Western Red Cedar trees planted along with ~140 shrubs including: Sword fern, Nootka rose, Dull Oregon grape, Salal, and Salmon berry. A short section of cedar split rail fencing was installed creating a great viewing area of Douglas Creek.

Projects, Planning and Design

McMinn Park – We are anticipating to construct Phase 2 this year. Staff are preparing requests for proposals for a public washroom building and small beginners' bike skills area.

McKenzie Interchange – Staff are continuing to meet with Ministry staff every couple of months to review and coordinate design details particularly with the new berm which will separate Cuthbert Holmes Park from the highway. Actual construction of the berm itself will not begin until late this year and well into 2019 but some on-site geotechnical work is currently underway to ensure the long term stability of the berm.

Haro Woods Management Plan – Staff are in the process of arranging a meeting with the biking community to discuss the issues with off trail riding and impacts to the park. This is a follow up from the third public event held last November which had a lot of participation by cyclists. This will be a good opportunity for a fulsome discussion about biking opportunities and constraints that will better inform the draft management plan. Prior to taking the plan to council staff will check in with this committee for final comments. Find out more at: <http://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-culture/parks/projects-in-saanich-parks/active-projects/haro-woods.html>

Cedar Hill Park Visioning and Planning Project – The Stakeholder Working Group has completed a DRAFT Vision Statement for the park (attached). The Draft Vision has been posted to the project website and at both the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre and Cedar Hill Golf Course, as well as circulated to members of the public who have signed up for project updates.

Gorge Waterway Park – Parking Lot Upgrades – in order to to replace some damaged asphalt, the four-stall parking lot between Dysart Rd and Austin Ave will be re-paved within the next month. As part of this project, the traffic island surrounding a Sequoia tree will be expanded, thereby reducing the amount of pavement in this area. The grass turf that currently surrounds the tree will be replaced with mulch and native plantings.

Bow Park Interpretive Sign – A new sign developed in partnership with the Friends of Bow and Brodick Parks and illustrated by local artist Kristi Bridgeman was installed on Feb 19th.

Rainbow Park Playground Replacement – The playground equipment concept was available for review and feedback until February 15th. Final comments will help shape the playground in keeping with underground service challenges in the park and budget. Working drawings and cost estimates are underway with construction anticipate to start April 2018.

2018 Capital Budget – Staff have submitted the proposed 2018 capital budget as well as the 5 year multi-year capital budget to Finance. Typically, the budget receives final Council approval in early May; however, there is a process in place where early approval for some key projects takes place in order to allow them to proceed earlier in the year. Early approval requests have been recently submitted so that staff can begin implementing key projects soon.

Shelbourne “Street of Unfinished Dreams” – Staff have been working on a report to council regarding this proposal which was put forward by the Memorial Committee, a delegation of Saanich citizens. The Shelbourne “Street of Unfinished Dreams” proposes a number of measures that will ensure the longevity of the London plane memorial trees along Shelbourne Street, a plan for planting and replanting new trees, as well as providing various ways of recognizing the trees and their historical significance to the region.

The London plane trees were originally dedicated on October 2, 1921 to honour BC soldiers lost in the First World War. Originally it was anticipated that there would be one tree for every BC soldier lost and that Shelbourne Street would be called Memorial Avenue. Given the high numbers of lost soldiers not all of the trees were planted and


the proposed name was never implemented. What is known is that over the years some of the trees have been lost as Shelbourne Street has been widened and housing has grown in the area. Because of this, there is concern that the historical significance of the trees are at risk of being diminished as future growth takes place.

Community Development:

Various Park Partners have begun using the new process to submit requests to conduct works in parks. Here is a summary of projects that have already occurred or are currently in process (approved):

- Hampton Park by Hampton Little League
 - scoreboard electrification project
- Layritz Park –Layritz Intermediate Baseball
 - Scoreboard replacement project
 - Bleachers replacement (to increase seating capacity)

Saanich Parks (Operations, Permit Administration and Community Development) is in the process of meeting with each sports club for annual reviews. We are currently focused on softball, baseball and lacrosse to catch each group before their season starts. We have discussed the new process and each president is given a copy of the new application form and guidelines so they are personally aware this process is available to them. Most clubs have thanked us for clarifying the process to get projects approved in parks.



Project Update

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