

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2

**Thursday, April 24, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor Susan Brice (Chair), Daryl Dagneault, Stefanie Yao, Pamela Carroll, Terrance Berscheid, Martin Roberts, Natalie Ross, Saanich Youth Council Representative

Staff: Doug Henderson, Director of Parks and Recreation; Gary Darrah, Parks Planning and Design Manager; Becky Goodall, Park Planner Designer; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Absent: Jim Anderson, Stefanie Barber, Tom Hatcher

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**MINUTES**

**MOVED by D. Dagneault and Seconded by M. Roberts, "That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held March 26, 2015 be adopted as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

**CUTHBERT HOLMES MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Parks Planning and Design Manager and the Park Planner Designer presented detailed information about the Cuthbert Holmes Management Plan. Committee members provided comments and asked questions of staff. Highlights were noted as follows:

- Cuthbert Holmes Park includes Tillicum Park and road right-of-ways. The zoning is P4-N and A-1 Rural. This area became a Saanich Park in 1986.
- The Provincial Capital Commission has a 99-year lease agreement with the provincial government for half of the park; this lease expires in 2086.
- Acquiring property across the Colquitz River would be desirable when it comes up. Acquiring the provincial portion of the park is also on the radar.
- The Centennial Trail, and the Colquitz River are located within the park. There are a variety of ecosystems and wildlife, including at risk species. Invasive plants are a problem. There is also an estuary in part of the park.
- An environmental review was done in 2011 which evaluated the ecosystems and sensitivity to human disturbance. Some areas can handle activity better than others.
- Public events (community mapping/open house/workshop) have been held, and results from the current online survey were provided to date. The majority of people are in support of the plan.
- Most people would like to have recreational activities in the park that do not impact the environment negatively. A bicycle park is not included in the Plan as it did not receive enough public support.
- A discussion about boating (eg. canoes) on the Colquitz River occurred. At this time staff will look at incorporating education items in the plan regarding boating.
- Park users will be encouraged to stay on the main trails. The goat trails that exist within the park encourage invasive species and destroy the ecosystem and habitat.
- An overview was given of the Policies surrounding this Plan as was information on key stakeholders and resources.
- Natural Areas, Trails, Recreational Opportunities, and Safety and Security management goals and key actions were presented.
- It is felt that safety and security in the park can be improved when dense invasive thickets are removed and converted into an informal open space.
- In terms of implementation strategy, the timeline has been broken into 1-3, 4-6 and 7-10 years and this will have to go through the annual budget process.

- Members felt that the Plan should include a summary of the groups/organizations, particularly those that are potentially contentious, and members of the public that were consulted during this process.
- The Committee requested that staff return to provide a summary of the feedback currently being collected, and how it was addressed.

The Chair thanked staff for the presentation.

### **INCLUSION STATEMENT FOLLOW-UP**

The Chair noted that there are few changes in the April 15, 2015 memo from the Senior Manager of Recreation Services regarding Inclusion Statement Follow-up. The Director of Parks and Recreation noted that the document reads better now and future documents (eg. contracts with other agencies) will incorporate the inclusion statement.

**Motion:      MOVED by T. Berscheid and Seconded by P.Carroll, “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee endorses the proposed inclusion statement as presented in the memo dated April 15, 2015 from the Senior Manager of Recreation Services.”**

### **PARKS UPDATE**

A request was made for an update on the work being done on the Lindsay and Wilkinson Road area (east of Mann Avenue).

A brief discussion occurred regarding Cadboro/Gyro Park. Staff is working on the completion of the drainage plan for the parking area which will need to be done before summer. A pump system will be required as gravity systems will not work in the area. The whole park is settling; original catch basins are now too high and new ones will be installed in some of the grass areas to try and assist with drainage in these areas as well. Minor elevation changes to some of the pathways may also be done. Input from First Nations has been requested for the interpretive signage that will provide the history of the park. It was noted that the Management Plan for this park is dormant at this time.

Information was provided about a new unnamed park at 4000 Shelbourne Street.

### **RECREATION SERVICES UPDATE**

Committee members had no questions about the recreation update. The Chair noted that various budget requests from the Parks and Recreation Department were approved including a new Parks Planner position, special events funding, and an Older Adult Strategy has received funding; this strategy will follow the format similar to that of the Youth Development Strategy.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

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Councillor Brice, Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary