

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Gordon Head Recreation Centre, Teen Lounge
Thursday, November 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Tom Hatcher (Acting Chair), Jim Anderson, Daryl Dagneault, Stefanie Yao, Pamela Carroll, Terrance Berscheid

Staff: Doug Henderson, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager Recreation Services; Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks; Sandra Pearson, Manager, Community Services; Jason Jones, Programmer II Recreation; Chris Filler, Programmer I Recreation; Gary Darrah, Manager of Park Planning and Design; Elizabeth van den Hengel, Committee Clerk

Absent: Councillor Susan Brice (Chair), Stefanie Barber, Martin Roberts

Guest: Dr. Neil Smith, Pacific Leadership Design; Mr. Ken Wyncroft

MINUTES

MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by D. Dagneault “That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held October 22, 2015 be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHAIR FOR NOVEMBER 26/15 MEETING

The Chair will be away for the November 26, 2015 meeting and accordingly the Committee resolves as follows:

Motion: MOVED by S. Yao and Seconded by P. Carroll, “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee appoint Tom Hatcher as the Acting Chair for the November 26, 2015 Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting.”

CARRIED

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Senior Manager of Recreation introduced Dr. N. Smith, Pacific Leadership Design, Sandra Pearson, Manager, Community Services and Jason Jones, Programmer II Recreation. Dr. Smith, Ms. Pearson and Mr. Jones provided an update on the Youth Development Strategy (YDS) and the following was noted:

- Youth population (defined for the strategy as ages 11 – 18) in Saanich has been steadily declining since the previous Youth Development Strategy 2003.
- Young people ages 11 -18 are experiencing unprecedented challenges from multiple social, economic and health related forces.
- The youth and public engagement phase involved over 1100 persons in 44 engagements including youth, community members, schools and other youth serving organizations.
- Work was done using a process called “Appreciative Inquiry” which taps into the positive elements of recreation and parks and captures participants’ dreams of the future.

- The following challenges have influenced the document's strategic priorities:
 - Sedentary lifestyle
 - Anxiety and stress
 - Over-protection
 - Nature Deficit
 - Financial Pressures
 - Lack of Introductory Activities
 - Skill Deficits
- The identified challenges evolved into the six strategic priorities in the document:
 - Increase Participation
 - Collaboration
 - Social Well-Being
 - Risk and Outdoor Play
 - Youth Spaces
 - Communication
- The six strategic priorities are supported by specific goals, action and outcomes which are detailed in the implementation plan.
- The Vision Statement for the 2015 Youth Development Strategy is "Inspired youth, creating their future".

Committee comments and responses to committee questions were noted as follows:

- Saanich should investigate opportunities for youth activities such as; skateboarding, bike parks and paddle-boarding.
- The YDS document is a shift from parent driven to youth driven strategies.
- Challenging to encourage youth to utilize recreation centres and programs.
- Collaborating with Saanich based sports associations and associated cross promotion of sports/activities could be useful in increasing youth participation.
- Adult education on the benefits of risk in play for youth would be valuable.

MOTION: Moved by D. Dagneault and seconded by P. Carroll, "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee endorses the Youth Development Strategy 2015, and recommends Council adopt the Youth Development Strategy 2015."

CARRIED

2016-2017 FEES AND CHARGES

The Director of Parks and Recreation provided an overview; the following was noted:

- Fee increases are looked at annually.
- Last year a 2% increase in drop-in and pass rates was implemented.
- Rentals and the majority of parks fees received a 1% increase last year.
- Saanich recreation drop-in admission fees are currently among the highest in the region, while participation levels have been static over the last three years.
- A frequent request from customers regarding recreation fees is adding an annual family pass.

MOTION: Moved by J. Anderson and Seconded by D. Dagneault, "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends to Council approval of Option #2 as presented in the November 20, 2015 report from the Director of Parks and Recreation, regarding April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017 Fees and Charges."

CARRIED

PARK NAMING

A presentation on park naming in Saanich was given by the Manager of Park Planning and Design and the following was noted:

- The District of Saanich typically acquires park land through development, purchase and donation.
- Parks that are not named during their acquisition remain unnamed until official names are desired.
- Four parks are currently proposed to be officially named; 2 have been recently acquired and 2 have been in the park land inventory for a number of years.

The Committee thanked the Manager of Park Planning and Design and resolved as follows:

MOTION: **Moved by J. Anderson and seconded by P. Carroll, “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends Council approve the following park names for:**

- A. 4112 Carey Road be named Panama Flats Park; and**
- B. 4000 Shelbourne Street and 4009 Cedar Hill Road be named Glencraig Park; and**
- C. The Lot north of 5110 Lochside Drive be named Catalina Park; and**
- D. The parcel opposite 3281 Linwood Avenue be named Cecelia Creek Falls Park.”**

CARRIED

PARK MANAGEMENT PLANS PROCESS

The Manager of Park Planning and Design gave the Committee an overview of the park management plan process. The following was noted:

- A park management plan outlines the general vision and management direction for a park.
- A park management plan is developed with public and stakeholder consultation.
- Management plans are frequently developed as a means of resolving conflict or addressing specific concerns.
- Park management plans often include:
 - Detailed development and operations instructions for carrying out the actions
 - Overview reference to relevant policies along with environmental, recreational, historical and other relevant key background information
 - A summary of the planning process including public participation, implementation steps and general budget information are often included.
- Generally, the larger more heavily used and less programmed a park is the more likely it is to have management issues.
- The 2013 Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan calls for Management Plans for all major parks, to be reviewed on a ten year cycle.
- The 2011 Park Natural Areas Management Guidelines and the 2012-2017 Park Natural Areas Action Plan also call for the creation of Park Management plans.
- The draft 2015-2018 Strategic Plan specifically states that plans be developed for the management and use of the following areas:
 - Cuthbert Holmes
 - Beckwith/Blenkinsop Lake/Valewood
 - Haro Woods
 - Munt Douglas
 - Colquitz River Linear Park

- Cedar Hill Park
- Future acquisitions
- Additional parks that would be classified as a major Saanich park would include:
 - Mount Tolmie
 - Lambrick
 - Konukson
 - Knockan Hill
 - Quick's Bottom
- Depending on the complexity of issues some of the major parks may be better suited for a Natural Areas Management Plan or a Natural Areas Action Plan.
- Planning resources are limited, complex plans take time and expectations for public engagement are high.
- The establishment of criteria that could be evaluated to determine the need for and urgency of undertaking a park management plan would be a useful tool.

Committee comments and responses to committee questions were noted as follows:

- Progress statements on Parks projects that are underway should be regularly given to Council.
- The evaluation table could be split into qualitative and quantitative elements to make the critical list more manageable.
- Haro Park is on the list as numerous complaints about the unauthorized use of the Park as a bike jump area have been forwarded.

The Committee thanked the Manager of Park Planning and Design and resolved as follows:

MOTION: Moved by D. Dagneault and seconded by S. Yao, "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends Council approve the following Park Management Plan schedule for:
A. 2016-2017 i) Haro Woods ii) Cedar Hill Park (assessment of plan scope relative to established park uses); and
B. 2018-2019 Mount Douglas Park; and
C. Endorse the criteria that would assist staff in determining needs and priorities for future park management plans."

CARRIED

PARKS REPORT

The Senior Manager, Parks circulated the November 18, 2015 Parks Report. No questions were raised.

RECREATION SERVICES UPDATE

The Senior Manager, Recreation circulated the November 13, 2015 Recreation Division Highlights update. No questions were raised.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary