

**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 Laroche, 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

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**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 PROJECTS 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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

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Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary