

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2
February 22, 2018

Present: Chair: Councillor Dean Murdock

Members: Ted Austin, Pamela Caroll, Elise Cote, Connie Larochelle, Chris Spicer, Daryl Dagneault, Dex Owen

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director Parks and Recreation; Eva Riccius Senior Manager Parks; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager Recreation; Julie Lommerse, Park Planner and Designer; Andrew Burger, Manager, Parks Operations; Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk.

Absent: Dave Marecek; Stefanie Yao, Ann Whiteaker (SD61 Representative)

Guests: Bill Dancer; Sheila Linder; Elissa McMuririe; David Smith; Luis Netter; Peter Haddon; Al Lubkowksi.

MINUTES

MOVED by C. Spicer and seconded by T. Austin, "That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held January 25, 2018 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CEDAR HILL PARK PLANNING - DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

The Senior Manager of Parks introduced the item before turning the presentation over to the Park Planner and Designer. The Park Planner and Designer provided the committee with an overview of the Cedar Hill Park, Visioning and Planning Project and the DRAFT Visioning Statement. The following highlights are noted:

- Public and Stakeholder Feedback sought on the following:
 - Strength, Weakness, Values, Emerging Themes and Out of Scope Items.
- Considerable public engagement.
 - Six Cedar Hill Park Stakeholder Working Group meetings from January 2017 – January 2018.
 - Public Ideas Fair
 - Virtual Open House
 - Stakeholder Workshop (Invitation only)
 - DRAFT Vision Statement circulated to interested persons and groups.
- The DRAFT Vision Statement is a culmination of public feedback and input from the stakeholder working group.
- Next Steps:
 - Finalize Vision Statement
 - Determine what type of plan is required
 - Report to Council - Spring 2018

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

- Natural Area Plan could be a future recommendation.
- Visioning statement exercise was a complex process, finding balance was difficult due to the broad lens and numerous moving parts within the Park area.
- Two prominent themes from the visioning exercise were the management and restoration of the environment and connectivity/mobility in the park. Additional themes noted, but not limited to, were:
 - Recreation, Play and Gathering spaces for all ages and abilities
 - Park Management and maintenance
- These themes will inform the plan going forward

Following the committee discussion the Chair opened the floor to comments from the guests in attendance:

Peter Haddon – Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association:

- Learned a lot through the engagement process.
- Considerable collaboration between community and staff.
- Tension between natural area and the business of the park (e.g. tennis courts, restaurant) was inevitable, particularly with such a diverse user group.
- Issues were destructive; however they ultimately drove the initiative.
- Recognizes that this is the 1st step of a multi-year plan.
- Inherent potential for controversy, implores that staff move forward with a formal framework for continues engagement.

Al Lubkowski – Camosun Community Association:

- Park allows community to engage in affordable and available natural activities such as walking, cycling.
- Park planning should meet the needs of the future, changing community.
- Narrow scope – not including the golf course – of working group resulted in flawed process.
- Concern that the process was dominated by staff lead committee.
- Took too long.
- Golf course usage takes up 80% of the total area.
- Does not feel like a park.
- Suggested that the District could setup an arms-length Management Committee. The committee should be comprised of community, and not be staff dominated.

The Chair advised Mr. Lubkowski's that his concerns would have been more appropriately shared with Mayor and Council through a letter or e-mail. The Director of Parks and Recreation noted the following:

- The Golf Course was not included in the scope of the project, this was Council's decision.
- A Management Plan is likely the most appropriate plan going forward.
- Staff are compiling data sets, trail counts etc. with regard to park usage.

MOTION

Moved by D. Dagneault and seconded by P. Carroll "That the Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee receive the Cedar Hill Park Visioning and Planning Project presentation dated February 22, 2018."

CARRIED

PHYLLIS PARK AND LOCKEHAVEN TRAIL

The Senior Manager – Parks, and the Manger of Parks Operations provided the committee with an update on Phyllis Park and Lockehaven Trail. The following highlights are noted:

- Staff undertook Feasibility Assessment in Fall/Winter of 2017.
- Staff are recommending that no new trail be established. Rationale for the decision includes:
 - Steep terrain (85% slope for 50m).
 - Limited Right-of-Way (only 2.8m wide), no room for switchbacks.
 - Poor trail medium.
 - Large unknown concrete structure in the ROW. Bypassing it results in a trespass into private property.
 - Difficulty rating would make it inaccessible for many users.
- Cease trail building/marketing activity by volunteers from Lockenhaven Drive into the Park.
- Staff proposal to develop connector (70 metres) from the Seaview Trail to Lookout Trail.
 - Requires a Species at Risk Assessment.
 - Assessment will occur in 2018.
- Recommending repairs along Seaview and Lookout Trail to bridge.

Following the Staff presentation the Chair opened the floor to comments from the guests in attendance.

Sheila Linder – Lead Steward, Phyllis Park

- The absence of this connector means that the natural beauty of the area will remain inaccessible.
- Trespassing issues on neighbouring property will remain unabated.
- Community has developed a petition, currently 40 plus signatures.
- Private donor has pledged \$100K if there is a development plan.
- The Phyllis Park stewardship group does not have utilization data.

Following the guest's comments, committee discussion ensued. The Director of Parks and Recreation and the Manger of Parks Operations provided the committee, and guests, with additional information regarding the trail's feasibility. The following highlights are noted:

- District is not repeating the mistakes of the past by creating trails that won't hold up to erosion.
- Developing a balance between use and reasonable expense.
- Historically, Saanich often formalized existing foot trails in challenging terrain resulting in environmental degradation that is expensive to maintain and repair.
- Trespassing issues are directly related to the topography – it's too steep and too dangerous.
- Existing trail network is in varying states of disrepair, this will be focus of staff work in the area.
- Feasibility study isn't just about budgeting or capital costs, many factors are considered.
- District currently has over 100km of managed trails, partial inventory exists (surfaced, recreation and natural); however, more robust classification and

ratings system would require some data manipulation. This is currently not a staff priority.

RECREATION SYSTEM REPLACEMENT UPDATE

The Senior Manager – Recreation provided the committee with an update on the department's new RECONLINE service, including a demonstration of the new system's features. The following highlights are noted:

- 107,400 customer records transferred.
- Staff have received significant training.
- Initial feedback has been positive.
- Project has been 3 years in development.
- This interface is the foundation for the Parks and Recreation Department's financial infrastructure.

DIVISION UPDATE – RECREATION

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

DIVISION UPDATE – PARKS

The Senior Manager – Parks provided an overview of the Parks Division Update – February 2018, Memo, dated February 22, 2018.

OTHER BUSINESS

Staff provided a number of responses to committee inquiries. The following highlights are noted.

- Copley West Park playing field will be re-oriented, repairs will be made to the field's drainage system.
- Pulling Together Saanich volunteers have contributed more than 17,000 hours (the equivalent of 8 FTEs) and have helped remove weeds and an invasive species from over 10 hectares.
- Staff continue to monitor developments at the McKenzie interchange. There was a breach on the View Royal side on February 13th. Contractor assumed immediate responsibility.
- District recognizes events like Tree Appreciation Day. Events are managed for effectiveness, i.e. areas of need
- Saaanich Neighbourhood Place has an approved Development Permit. Securing funding. Staff will support the landscaping aspect of the development. Daycare has a (renewable) lease of 25 years. If daycare operations ceased the facility would revert to a municipal asset.
- Per committee direction, staff are working with First Nations on the renaming of Gordon Head East Park.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:07PM

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2018

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary