

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

Present: Chair: Councillor Dean Murdock

Members: Pamela Carroll, Elise Cote, Daryl Dagneault, Connie Larochelle, Dex Owen, Chris Spicer and Stefanie Yao

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director Parks and Recreation; Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager Recreation; Gary Darrah, Manager Park Planning & Development; Pam Hartling, Community Planner and Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk.

Absent: Ted Austin, Dave Marecek, Ann Whiteaker (SD61 Representative)

Guests: Murray Clarke, President - Greater Victoria Minor Football Association; Tracy McCallister, Vice-President – Greater Victoria Minor Football Association, Dorothy Chambers.

MINUTES

MOVED by D. Dagneault and seconded by E. Cote, “That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held February 22, 2018 be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S REPORT

The Chair thanked the Silver Threads staff for hosting the meeting, and providing the committee with both a tour and presentation of the agencies many programs and services.

The Chair noted that the previously circulated correspondence regarding Cuthbert Holmes Park would be presented for discussion as part of Item 9 – Updates.

VICTORIA MINOR FOOTBALL CLUB

The Chair welcomed both Murray Clarke, President, Greater Victoria Minor Football Association (GVMFA) and Tracy McCallister, Vice-President, GVMFA to the meeting.

M. Clarke provided the committee members with an overview of the Club’s history and program. The following highlights are noted:

- The association has sought to maintain low registration fees and has partnered with KidSport to provide funding for those with demonstrated financial need.
- Copley Park is the only dedicated football field in Saanich.
- There are a significant number of Saanich youth enrolled in their minor football program.

- The association has a good working relationship with District staff and the surrounding neighbourhoods.
- The lights were deemed unsafe and removed in March of 2017.
- Practices are typically held from 6-8 p.m. in the Spring and Fall; accordingly, lights are imperative to the field's continued use as a football facility.
- Copley Park Filed is currently being renovated by Parks and Recreation and the GVMFA feels it would be an appropriate time to install new lighting.

M. Clarke turned the presentation over to T. McCallister, who provided an overview of the association's forthcoming application to the District for an interest free loan totalling \$150,000. The following highlights are noted:

- Musco Lighting Systems provided a quote for the proposed lighting system (equipment only) totalling between \$172,000-\$182,000 (plus taxes).
- Musco was provider for the current lighting system for the West Hills Stadium.
- The proposed energy efficient LED system will provide a consistent light level of 300 lux, resulting in a reduction of both light spill and glare by 50% coupled with a potential savings of up to 75% over a standard lighting system.
- The proposed system comes with a 25 year warranty (parts and labour).
- The association is still waiting on quotes from both geotechnical engineering firms (footings) and hardware installers (poles and lights).
- The GeoTech Report is estimated at approximately \$10,000
- The installation of the system is estimated at approximately \$10,000-\$15,000.
- District of Saanich will provide the conduits for electrical service.
- GVMFA is in good financial standing.
- GVMFA will contribute \$50,000 in 2018 and proposes to pay back the loan at \$6000 per year over 25 years.

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

- GVMFA is the only user of the facility 8 out of 12 months per year.
- Lights are not in Parks and Recreation's capital work plan.
- Saanich'Capital Grant program does not cover big ticket items like this.
- The District approving interest free loans for large capital projects like this is a standard model.

****** C. Larochelle arrived at the meeting, 7:30 p.m. ******

- Parks and Recreation now bringing these items to committee for information and support.
- Lights enhance and improve the facility, but will not necessarily result in growth.
- GVMFA is open to additional non-football use. A rugby group has expressed interest in using the facility.
- Parks and Recreation will continue to manage the bookings/rentals of field.

MOTION

MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by E. Cote "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee support the Greater Victoria Minor Football Association's lighting project proposal as presented."

CARRIED**CORDOVA BAY AND CADBORO BAY LOCAL AREA PLANS UPDATE**

The Community Planner provided the committee with an overview of the status of the Local Area Plan (LAP) process for both Cadboro Bay and Cordova Bay. The following highlights are noted:

- Terms of Reference adopted by Council in November, 2017.
- Planners are meeting with Advisory Committees and preparing for public engagement.
- Planning Village Design workshops.
- The LAPs will provide detailed guidance to Council, staff, property owners, developers, and the public to address growth and change within a neighbourhood.
- LAPs aid in decision making, provide a reasonable level of certainty about future uses, development and quality of life and set the context for considering development proposals.
- New areas of focus for the LAPs include:
 - Climate change
 - Range of mobility options
 - Housing affordability and choice
 - Centres and Villages
- Numerous opportunities for public engagement before targeted adoption in Spring of 2019, including (but not limited to):
 - Open houses and workshops
 - Pop-up events
 - Walking tours
 - Surveys
 - Focus groups
- Saanich has developed a speaker series; the first event, Building Neighbourhoods for the Future, featuring Gordon Price was held on March 21, 2018.
 - Second event, Our Community in a Changing Climate, to be held on Monday, May 7th.
- Initial comments staff have received include:
 - Trail connection enhancements
 - Safe access to beach
 - Lochside Trail conflicts (pedestrians, motor vehicles and bicycles)

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

- Successful outreach efforts have included email lists and social media.
- Pop-Up events have proven successful in engaging people where they are not necessarily engaged (i.e. Recreation Centres)
- Task is to filter Official Community Plan direction down to the neighbourhood level.
- LAPs will test these policy directions.
- Planning staff working with CRD Parks Planner to look at reducing vehicular traffic on the Lochside Trail between McMinn and Maddox.
- Staff have reviewed relevant census data for the Saanich, key indicators show a need for increased affordable housing options, aging in place programs, and more services within walking distance.

DIVISION UPDATE – RECREATION

The Director of Parks and Recreation provided an overview of the February Recreation Report Memo, dated March 15, 2018.

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

- New Managers in Recreation Department, staff will introduce them at a future meeting.
- A significant proportion of the committee's visioning exercise has been realized in over the past four years. Is it time for visioning exercise 2.0?
- Staff are to be commended for the large body of successful programs and initiatives completed to date.

DIVISION UPDATE – PARKS

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

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

- Staff are working with an engineering firm to develop a universal design washroom.
- New design will be modular and accessible.
- New gate design at Mt. Doug is a component of existing park work plan, including enhancements to parking and way-finding signage.
- They were designed and manufactured locally, with the funding coming from antennae lease revenues, not tax revenues.
- Staff have retained a contractor to organize the recently approved Mt. Doug Park Ambassador pilot project.
- Interpretive signs for the Shelbourne St. Memorial Trees are being developed.

OTHER BUSINESS

CUTHBERT HOLMES PARK

The Chair introduced the item and provided a brief overview of issues pertaining to camping in the Cuthbert Holmes Park area. The Chair noted the previously circulated correspondence of March 18 (E-mail, D. Chambers) and March 22 (E-mail, D. Chambers, and the Saanich Police Department Information Note) before welcoming Dorothy Chambers to the meeting. The committee members were advised that D. Chambers would be afforded an opportunity to address the committee after the staff presentation.

Following his comments the Chair turned the floor over to the Director of Parks and Recreation who provided an update on the matter from a staff perspective. The Director of Parks circulated, on table, a document titled, Homelessness in Parks and District Owned Land, which provided an overview of the issue throughout the District and highlighted the CRD's Regional Housing First Strategy. The following highlights are noted:

- Individuals cannot be evicted from area parks as there are currently not enough shelter beds to accommodate the regional demand.
- Noting that the process to house an individual can take upwards of 18 months, both the District (By-law and Park's staff) and Saanich Police Department (SPD) employ a compassionate approach with regard to enforcement and continue to operate within the parameters of existing policy framework.
- Council deliberated a proposed amendment to the Chattels Bylaw that will provide enforcement agencies with a new tool remove and store items not considered to meet basic needs.
- The intent of the amendment is to provide staff with a tool to address the proliferation of large permanent encampments that present risks to both public health and safety, as well as ongoing environmental degradation.
- The proposed amendment to the bylaw will support staff in addressing broader encroachment issues in parks throughout the district.

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

- Numerous communities have endorsed higher density targets.
- Intent of Bylaw is to address large permanent camps.
- Council is examining other best practices, including Victoria's model.
- Proposed amendment would be in interim step and address issues in the short-term.
- Supplies (i.e. tent and sleeping bags) considered to be providing basic needs will not be removed.
- Helping campers to relocate to less environmentally sensitive areas is important.

The Chair recognized the continued stewardship efforts of D. Chambers and provided her with an opportunity to comment on her experiences, and to the correspondence she provided the committee. The following highlights are noted:

- Trying to elicit meaningful change.
- Camping in the park is a longstanding issue
- Concerned that important matters, like the ongoing issues in Cuthbert Holmes, are not being brought to the attention of the Advisory Committees.
- Feels that the role of the Advisory Committees is to advise council on matters that are important to the residents.
- Main concerns are health and safety, as well as the potential negative impacts on the environment, including the Colquitz Estuary.
- Concerned that the Salmon in the City program is at risk.

Committee discussion followed D. Chambers presentation, the following highlights are noted:

- Members feel that they are adequately apprised of issues.
- Staff provide the committee with numerous updates and seek the formal opinion of the committee where and when necessary.
- The advisory committee does not have the authority to direct council, but rather provide them with recommendations; however, Council has the final authority to act upon the recommendations
- PTR members spent a great deal of time working on the Cuthbert Holmes management plan

- Parks staff can't speak to Police matters, will invite SPD to a future meeting.
- Will the District take a broader look at issues associated to camping in Parks?
- Committee can support efforts to make it safer for all users.

MOTION

MOVED by E. Cote and Seconded by C. Larochelle "That the Park, Trails and Recreation Committee recommend that Council revisit BYLAW NO. 7753, being the PARKS MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL BYLAW, 1997"

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2018

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary