

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Mt. Douglas Park
May 24, 2018 from 6:00 p.m.

Present: Chair: Councillor Dean Murdock

Members: Pamela Carroll, Daryl Dagneault, Dave Marecek, Dex Owen, Chris Spicer and Stefanie Yao

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director Parks and Recreation; Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks; Graham Thomson, (A) Senior Manager Recreation; Jillian Tuson, Natural Areas Practitioner and Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk

Absent: Ted Austin, Elise Cote, Connie Laroche, Ann Whiteaker (SD61 Representative)

Guests: None

MINUTES

MOVED by D. Dagneault and seconded by D. Marecek, "That the minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held April 26, 2018 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair welcomed the committee members to Mt. Douglas Park. Prior to turning the floor over to the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Chair advised the committee that the June 26, 2018 meeting will be canceled. The Clerk will circulate formal notice.

The Director of Parks and Recreation introduced the Natural Areas Practitioner, Jillian Tuson, who will be leading the walk through Mt. Douglas Park. The Director noted that the timing of the walking tour was perfect as staff had recently completed much of their spring work in the park.

The Director of Parks and Recreation then provided the committee with updates on several ongoing files. The following highlights are noted:

- Haro Woods
 - Discussions on park usage have been extended.
 - On-line survey remains open.
 - There will be additional meetings and facilitated discussions.
 - The report to Council will reflect these ongoing discussions.
- Cedar Hill Park Planning
 - Working Group discussions are ongoing, continuing to receive feedback.
 - Some concern that not all the information is accurately being disseminated/reported back to community groups by their representatives

- The ALC denied the District's application to use a portion of the golf course's clubhouse for health services (physiotherapy, chiropractic services and general wellness programs).
- The Strategic Facilities Master Plan was approved by Council. An internal working group for the public works/parks yard has been struck.

DIVISION UPDATE – PARKS

The Senior Manager – Parks provided an overview of the Parks Division Update – April 2018, Memo, and dated May 16, 2018.

DIVISION UPDATE – RECREATION

The (A) Senior Manager – Recreation provided an overview of the Recreation Division Update – April 2018, Memo, and dated May 24, 2018.

WALKING TOUR – MT. DOUGLAS

The committee, led by the Natural Area Practitioner and the Sr. Manager of Parks embarked on a walking tour to the South Ridge Trail and to the head of the Glendenning Trail. The following highlights are noted:

- Churchill Dr.
 - Churchill Drive is closed to vehicles until noon each day to promote an active, enjoyable leisure experience for pedestrians and cyclists.
 - The newly installed gates on Churchill Dr provide ample room for bicycles and strollers to travel through the middle unobstructed, thus minimizing the impact of people travelling off trail to bypass them.
- Southridge Trail
 - Significant erosion has occurred in various areas along the South Ridge trail.
 - Staff have undertaken mitigation efforts, including signed trail closures, the installation of large rocks to fill cavities and the installation of cedar rail fencing to prevent access to significantly damaged areas.
 - In an effort to mitigate the impacts of water runoff and erosion along the trail network, staff have installed a series a large in-trail wooden diverters, and rocks. The diverters are angled in a manner that is meant to divert the flow of runoff away from the trails.
 - Staff have restored the area around a young Garry Oak by installing a natural rock retaining wall and backfilling with some of the eroded materials.
 - The root structure of several Garry Oaks have been undermined by long-term trail running and walking. Staff have made repairs around the root systems and have closed trails in order to allow the area to return to a more naturalized state.
 - Staff installed a small staircase and trimmed two lower branches of a Garry Oak in effort to redirect traffic from a sensitive area.
- Upper Glendenning Trail
 - Staff continue to monitor significant damage and erosion along Glendenning trail.

- Heavy winter/spring rains combined with sandy trail mediums and heavy trail use has resulted in significant erosion along the upper portion of the Glendenning trail.
- Several trees in the area have experienced significant erosion to their root systems and are considered at risk.
- Staff are developing a restoration strategy for the area and will begin implementing it over the summer.
- Materials are being transported from the Blenkinsop side of the park. As with Southridge restoration work, staff will utilize a powered, tracked wheelbarrow, to transport rocks up to the restoration areas. Cedar rails and other materials are being transported by hand.
- Staff are utilizing recovered soil from the impacted areas in their restoration efforts.
- Other items of interest
 - The committee observed a culturally modified Cedar along the Harrop trail.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2018

Chair

I hereby certify these minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary