

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
February 27, 2020 at 5:30 pm

Present: Councillor Ned Taylor (Chair), Ted Austin, Alabama Chevrier, Amy-Jade Louie, Erin Lumley, Dexter Owen, Stefanie Yao

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks, Chris Filler, Programmer, Community Services; Gary Darrah, Manager Park Planning & Development; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Trevor Barry, Kathleen Burton, Pamela Carroll, Lyndsay Edgar

Minutes

MOVED by S. Yao and Seconded by T. Austin: "That the Minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held January 23, 2020, be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed newly appointed committee members and spoke about the work done by the committee. He noted that Council values the perspectives of advisory committee members and encouraged all to bring forward items that they feel warrants discussion. Meetings are scheduled to be two hours duration and the Chair will try to stay within that time frame.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chair noted that the Terms of Reference (circulated to members) outlines the committee's purpose and were recently updated and adopted by Council.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

The Community Services Programmer presented information about the Youth Development Strategy which was adopted by Council in 2015. There are six strategic priorities and a total of 39 goals with 71 outcomes has been achieved. Strategic priorities were described as follows:

- Increase Participation
 - Considering how to give access to those who cannot afford.
 - New summer camp programs.
 - Free weight room access pilot at Cedar Hill Recreation.
- Collaboration
 - New partnership programs with the school districts (eg lunch hour clubs).
 - Start-up funds for youth groups (over \$3000 provided to the community).
- Risk and Outdoor Play
 - Looking at how to support; working towards a youth park at Tripp Station, and adding youth elements to park design projects.
 - Advocating for authentic outdoor challenge play areas for youth between 11-17 years.

- Social Wellbeing
 - Considering how health and wellness can be supported and recognizing the importance of youth mental wellbeing.
 - Working with key partnerships including Island Health, Ministry of Children and Family Development, Saanich Police.
 - Offering teen centres and mobile youth services.
- Communication
 - Staff are investigating better ways on how to reach out to youth. This is one of the biggest challenges.
 - Some social media (eg. Instagram) poses challenges at this time due to privacy and marketing issues.
- Youth Spaces
 - Recognizing the importance of safe spaces and resources for youth.
 - Keeping spaces and programs relevant with free access.
 - Developing new programming to attract youth.
- In 2020 staff will continue to explore a youth clinic with Island Health, host a youth summit, collaborate on providing service to Indigenous youth and continue working on a youth park at the George Tripp Substation.

Committee members commented and asked questions of staff. The following responses were noted:

- There will be more spaces for camps this year. Some years it is challenging to accommodate the number of youth who register for camps.
- For communication, Saanich currently uses Twitter and Facebook along with some school connections, e-newsletters, other online streams and the Active Living Guide.
- Having Instagram would also boost outreach; there are a number of youth that are not aware of any of the Saanich programs offered.
- The amount of youth that attend the teen centre and other programs can vary from 10-40 youth. It is important to keep the space for youth; some groups have asked for the space when they see lower youth attendance.
- Saanich no longer has a bus to pickup/drop off youth due to insurance issues, however staff are looking at walkable programming, similar to Safe Routes to School, as schools such as Colquitz, Royal Oak and Cedar Hill are within walking distance to recreation centres.

The Community Services Programmer was thanked for their presentation.

CEDAR HILL PARK PLAN

The Manager of Park Planning & Development provided information about a proposed plan for Cedar Hill Park. He noted that the draft Management Plan is available to view on the Saanich website and he is here to present information, but does not require endorsement at this point in time. He also provided responses to committee questions. The following was noted:

- A description of the community engagement done and information about the stakeholder working group was given.
- Phase 1 included the development of a vision and determine the type of plan for the park with much public engagement and a report to Council.
- The project is now at Phase 2; the draft management and implementation plan was developed, more working group meetings and public engagement occurred and currently a management and implementation plan is being finalized with internal and external review. Staff hope to take this to Council in May 2020.
- Park composition: 25% public park, 71% golf course and 3% recreation centre with the remainder being natural areas.

- Engineers have been hired to investigate daylighting opportunities for the stream within the park. Excess water runoff would be put in the Reach 17 (tributary of Bowker Creek). Water would also be held in Kings Pond.
- A history of the park is included in the draft Management Plan.
- Responsibilities for the golf course and the park had to be worked out.
- Themes that emerged through public engagement include: environmental management and restoration, connectivity and mobility in the park, recreation, plan and gathering places for all, park management, and opportunities for enhanced recreational opportunities.
- The reserve fund will have to be built up for some of the proposed improvements.
- This presentation is a broad overview of the plan. Staff will go back to the community when detail design happens.

Staff will request endorsement of this plan at a future Advisory Committee meeting.

HORNER PARK RENEWAL PLAN

The Manager of Park Planning & Development provided information about the Horner Park renewal plan. He noted that input can be given to the Parks department until March 16, 2020. The following was noted:

- Staff have been working with the Mount Tolmie Community Association on this project and public engagement has occurred.
- Some of the proposed improvements include: volleyball courts, solar lighting, a path around the park, washrooms with better service levels, possible community garden, enlarged play court that can host both hockey and basketball play, lots of natural planting, bicycle racks, expanded playground.

Committee members expressed appreciation for the concept plan. The Manager of Park Planning & Development noted that Committee endorsement is not required as the park renewal plan is already part of the Capital Plan. The next phase of the project will be the creation of construction drawings.

DIVISION UPDATES

Division updates were circulated to members with the agenda and regular updates will be provided to committee every other meeting, or as items arise. In reply to a question, the Manager of Park Planning & Development stated that going forward, park identification signage will now be made from metal and recycled plastic, and signage will all be swapped out in the next 3-4 years.

ROUNDTABLE

Possible item for future discussion:

- Dogs in parks and the current policy for this topic.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Councillor Taylor, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary