

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
September 3, 2020 at 5:00 pm

Present: Councillor Ned Taylor (Chair), Ted Austin, Trevor Barry, Kathleen Burton, Pamela Carroll, Lyndsay Edgar (5:34 pm), Amy-Jade Louie (6:04 pm via telephone), Erin Lumley (via telephone), Dexter Owen, Stefanie Yao

Staff: Cris Caravaca, Senior Manager of Community Services; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Alabama Chevrier

Minutes

MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by T. Austin: "That the Minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held February 27, 2020, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed members back and stated he is pleased that the committee work can now continue. He noted that this meeting will be fairly informal, and that some members have chosen to attend this meeting via telephone.

COMMITTEE BRAINSTORM

The Chair referred to a handout that includes ideas from Committee members for future discussion/action. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to prioritize ideas to explore/pursue at upcoming meetings, and also prioritize items members wish to learn about.

Ideas to explore/pursue at upcoming meetings:

- Using technology in recreation centres to increase recreation users, reduce barriers and improve accessibility to recreation.
- Allowing the consumption of alcohol in certain parks for responsible adults.
- Food truck festival
 - Separate from food truck pilot project.
- Youth bike park/skate park, McMinn bike park, etc.
- New ice rink.
- Projects to support local pollinators
 - Ask staff about what we plant, what is safe and what is not safe for pollinators.
 - Native species and non-native species, are we planting to attract native pollinators, etc.
 - Public education/awareness, learning opportunities for the public to support pollinators.
 - People can plant certain plants in their gardens to attract pollinators, can be affordable and effective.

- Partner with local organization undertaking work in this regard already (ex. HCP, HAT, etc.).
- Establish more island gardens, community food gardens or pollinator attractions /hives.
- Parking Policy/charging for parking at recreation centres and parks
 - Electric vehicle charging parking policy.
 - Discussion.
- More art/art projects in parks, particularly art which supports messages and learning opportunities for anti-racism, multiculturalism, inclusivity and local First Nations culture.
- More multiculturalism in parks.
- Butterfly dome (example in Montreal).
- Controlled burns in natural/forested areas to support regeneration.
- More 'natural feeling' in parks.
- Create a 'Nature walks' program for the public through Saanich Recreation.
- Swimming lessons in lakes.
- Offer the projects at local schools to enrich the landscape and show children how to better steward the land.
- More youth development/youth engagement.
- Revitalization of the Saanich Youth Council.
- If COVID-19 spikes again in the CRD, can we continue to meet virtually?
- More involvement with post-secondary institutions. Engage recreation, kinesiology, education, psychology students and programs for ideas, round tables and some job shadowing.
- More small events/community gatherings.
- Inspire long term volunteering and public participation.

Items members wish to learn about:

- How will Parks and Recreation manage through the pandemic, with higher usage of people in the parks, etc?
- New science of water retention, as it applies to sports fields. What combination is best between sand and soil?
 - Climate change adaptation.
- Dogs in parks, bylaws, policies, what will happen with Cadboro Bay Gyro Beach, etc?
 - Fenced areas for dogs to be safely off-leash.
- Are recreation centres at capacity? What is at capacity, what do we need more of?
- Vital Signs Report is a good resource and committee could discuss.
- Natural Intelligence Program, some ideas listed could be incorporated into the larger NI Program.
- Update parks and assets as found on Google Maps and other external mapping sites for a cohesive understanding of park boundaries, parking lots, accessible bathrooms, playgrounds, etc.
- Pulling together, other volunteer programs already in place in Saanich, opportunities for new volunteer programs.
- Pocket parks.

- What are our plans for more parks in areas such as the Shelbourne Valley and Uptown Douglas Corridor?
- The hidden gems of parks in Saanich and various activities and services that Saanich Parks and Recreation offers.
- Park systems for walking/biking & how they are built when private lands are invested.
- What is the long-term plan/vision for the Gorge?
 - Shared with the Township of Esquimalt and the Town of View Royal.
- Saanich Youth Council - what is the current situation?
- What do the citizens of Saanich think about our Parks, Trails and Recreation?
- Recreation Market Analysis.
- The bylaws/procedures which govern our resources and how to participate at meetings following Robert's Rules of order.
- How can we support reconciliation in Parks? Do we know the traditional, First Nations place names of our parks?
 - What do our First Nations neighbors' want?
 - Renaming Mt Douglas Park to P'kols.
 - Could we rename other parks to their original First Nations place names?
 - At times places do have multiple names.
 - Very exciting work underway in Community Services Division.

It was suggested that it would be of benefit to streamline the above lists to 6-7 items.

In reply to some comments and questions, the Senior Manager of Community Services noted that:

- Staff can provide information on Saanich Recreation Market Analysis.
- Saanich is working with the Victoria Urban Reconciliation Dialogue, whose areas of focus include supporting urban Indigenous voice, enabling community engagement and generating ideas for tangible actions.
- There is an upcoming diversity report going to Council on September 14, 2020.
- Regarding names of places, this can be challenging as there are different names for one place, depending upon the geographic footprint.

REPORTS FROM PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Division reports were provided by the Parks, Community Services, and Recreation Departments in the agenda package for Committee's information.

A brief discussion occurred regarding the pandemic cancelling four meetings this year. Committee members would be interested in an opportunity to extend their membership considering this was out of their control.

Motion: MOVED by A. Louie and Seconded by K. Burton, "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends to Council that consideration be given to a one-year extension for the term of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee Chair and Committee members, in light of the impacts of COVID-19 on Advisory Committee meetings in 2020."

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday,
October 1, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Councillor Taylor, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary