

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2  
**January 23, 2020 at 5:00 pm**

Present: Councillor Ned Taylor (Chair), Ted Austin, Trevor Barry, Pamela Carroll, Dexter Owen, Stefanie Yao

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks, Graham Thomson, Manager, GR Pearkes Recreation Centre; Mike Goldsworthy, Park Planner Designer; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Lyndsay Edgar

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### **Minutes**

**MOVED by T. Austin and Seconded by D. Owen: "That the Minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held November 28, 2019, be adopted as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

### **CHAIR'S REMARKS / WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed new member Trevor Barry, and congratulated Dex Owen on officially becoming a voting member of the committee. He also noted that:

- More appointments are to be made in the next month and hopefully the committee will have full membership soon. Members are encouraged to spread the word about the upcoming appointments.
- Members are asked to complete a form from the Chair, which will help to steer the committee's activities for the year.
- It is hoped that each member will have a one-on-one coffee meeting with the Chair to share ideas and ask questions.
- The Terms of Reference have proposed changes and these will be going to Council for approval in the near future. Committee will be able to review these in an upcoming meeting.
- The work done by the committee in 2019 is something to be proud of and includes a recommendation to support inclusive services in recreation centres and also a potential food truck pilot project.

Roundtable introductions were then made and members shared their favourite parks with each other.

### **2020 MEETING DATES & ORIENTATION**

Members discussed the available meeting room space for the year as presented in the January 13<sup>th</sup> memo from the Senior Committee Clerk. Committee consensus is to hold regular meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 5:00 pm, with the exception of the February meeting, which will be held on February 27, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Members also received orientation information, and a brief overview was given by the Senior Committee Clerk.

## FEES AND CHARGES

The Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services spoke to the January 17, 2020 report regarding 2020-2021 proposed Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges, and replied to questions from committee members. The following was noted:

- There is an expectation for recreation to have a certain recovery rate in order to help offset taxes.
- Rates were set after a review of services and a comparison of fees and charges throughout the region was completed.
- The LIFE program is based on a person's ability to pay. As part of the review the minimum income level was adjusted to increase the number of individuals and families that can access the program.
- There will be a significant change with passes and the annual pass will no longer be available. The cancellation policy will need to be reviewed.
- Recreation facility users will see about an average of 2% increase in fees.
- Changes are proposed for golf course fees and charges as well. The course continues to be the most affordable in the region.
- Staff will look at possible administration fees in the future for registering programs and are working to ensure that people continue to have access to recreation. Users will not be paying significantly more to access the recreation centres.

Committee thanked the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services for the information and expressed support for the recommendations in the report.

**Motion:            MOVED by D. Owen and Seconded by P. Carroll, “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends that Council endorse and adopt the proposed 2020-2021 Fees and Charges Schedules as described in the January 17, 2020 report from the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, and include the schedules in the 2020 Financial Planning discussions.”**  
**CARRIED**

## GEORGE TRIPP BIKE PARK

The Senior Manager of Parks and the Park Planner Designer provided information about a potential youth park on the BC Hydro property on Lochside Drive. The following was noted:

- In 2015 the Youth Development Strategy was done and one of the items in the strategy was to explore looking at a youth park. At the time there were no appropriate land parcels available.
- In 2019 BC Hydro performed upgrades to their George Tripp substation and these upgrades should last for 20+ years. There is about one acre of land at this substation that has been offered to Saanich for use. It sits off Lochside trail and is an optimal spot for a youth park.
- Staff met with the North Quadra Community Association (NQCA) Chair last fall to discuss ways of engaging the neighbourhood.
- Youth were engaged at workshops at Reynolds, Lambrick and Spectrum schools. A survey was also done, with the majority of participants being youth.
- Concerns raised from the public at a NQCA meeting in November included overnight campers/shelters, traffic, parking, noise, youth and vandalism. After discussing the issues with the attendees, actions are being developed to address concerns. For example, there will be no overnight parking in the Lochside parking lot, parking will be time limited, and a crosswalk will be installed from the trail to the park.

- Staff are working with the Purchasing department to find a design-build company who can build a proper and safe youth park, with a bicycle component.
- A public open house will be held to receive feedback. It is hoped that the park can be constructed in time for a fall opening.

Staff responded to questions from committee members as follows:

- The average age targeted for the youth park is between 13 – 19 years.
- A beginner course would likely be included in the project.
- No programming is planned at this time to teach people how to ride however the members in the biking community are very likely to come out to help. Saanich Recreation will partner with bike organizations in this regard.

Members expressed appreciation and support for the project and noted this is an ideal location for a youth park with biking components.

**Motion: MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by T. Austin, “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee supports in principle the proposed youth park in George Trip Substation, and recommends that Council consider an additional funding request for this project through the 2020 budget process.”**

**CARRIED**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting will be held Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

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Councillor Taylor, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary