

MINUTES
Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee
Via Microsoft Teams
January 26, 2022 at 4 p.m.

Present: Councillor Judy Brownoff (Chair), Pam Carroll, Ted Austin, David Little, Dex Owen, Leigh Campbell, Amy-Jade Louie, Rachel Corder.

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks; Tiana Solares, Senior Manager Recreation; Nathalie Dechaine, Manager Community Development/Business Systems (5:33 pm); Mike Goldsworthy, Park Planner Designer; Julie Lommerse, Park Planner Designer; Becky Goodall, Park Planner Designer; Nancy Chaggar, Senior Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Annie Djotsa; Darryl Wick

Guest(s): Keith Davidoff

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair and Committee members introduced themselves.

2. 2022 MEETING DATES/TERMS OF REFERENCE

MOVED by D. Owen and Seconded by T. Austin: "That the 2022 Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting dates be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by L. Campbell: "That the minutes of the November 24, 2021 Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

4. BOWKER CREEK

The Park Planner/Designer presented to the Committee an update on the Bowker Creek planning process (PowerPoint presentation on file). In response to questions from the Committee, it was noted:

- The Bowker Creek daylighting feasibility study was completed recently and outlines areas where the Creek could be daylighted.
- The vision for the Bowker Creek Greenway is that it be a 9 km long greenway which will be a regional asset and connector.
- Currently the only section of the Bowker Creek greenway that has been completed is at Browning Park.
- Wayfinding signs along the greenway may be relocated after they've been installed to guide the public to better routes as they are developed, for example when the Shelbourne Street Improvement Plan is completed.
- Work with the District of Oak Bay and City of Victoria is required in order to have

them collaborate in this project.

- A cost assessment will be prepared for installation of signs in early 2023.
- There are funds set aside for this project and may be used for sign installations.

5. UPDATE ON PICKLE BALL COURT

The Park Planner/Designer presented to the Committee (PowerPoint presentation on file) and the following was noted:

- The presentation provided an update on pickle ball noise issues and possible mitigation measures.
- There have been noise complaints particularly stemming from Tolmie Park. This is mainly due to the court's proximity to neighbouring homes.
- The courts are popular and are in use almost all day long.
- A September 23, 2021 report to Council proposed options for plans of action for pickle ball courts. Council approved recommended guidelines for distance and mitigation.
- Acoustic panels, both in-house and outsourced, have been trialed at Tolmie Park but feedback is that they aren't helping.
- Correspondence received from residents neighbouring the Tolmie Park courts indicate requests to have the courts removed.
- The pickle ball association is not supportive of court closures at Tolmie Park.
- Staff would like to move forward in exploring other options such as limiting play hours, staggering play times, implementing a booking system, and locking of gates. Staff wish to continue exploring sound attenuation options and locations for future courts.
- Another progress update will be brought forward to the Committee in a few months.

In response to questions from the Committee, it was noted that:

- Saanich has indoor pickle ball courts at Pearkes and Saanich Commonwealth Place.
- There are ongoing inter-municipal discussions about pickle ball and a regional strategy is being explored. Discussions on a provincial level will also be taking place.

6. 2022 POP UP DOG PARK LOCATION OPTIONS AND PROGRAM TWEAKS

The Park Planner/Designer presented to the Committee and the following was noted (PowerPoint presentation on file):

- In 2021, the pop up dog park pilot program operated in five different locations for two weeks each.
- Feedback collected from the 2021 program was positive. The Cadboro-Gyro Park location was the least desired location by the community.
- 80% of people who used the parks indicated they would return if the program continued.
- Staff propose to expand the program to nine locations in 2022, and that the dog park be held at each location for a full month.
- Based on feedback received, there is room for improvement in the enclosures used, the gates, and shaded areas of the dog parks. The 2022 program will include a drinking bowl for dogs and a bench.
- The total cost to run the program in 2022 is expected to be \$28,000.

In response to questions from the Committee, the following was noted:

- The pilot program provides an opportunity to collect preliminary data for the People, Pets and Parks strategy which may include recommendations for permanent dog parks.
- The strategy will take place in 2022 and results will likely go to the next Council term.

MOVED by A. Louie and Seconded by L. Campbell: “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee support the 2022 pop up dog park program being implemented and funded through the budget.”

**The Motion was then Put and CARRIED
with T. Austin OPPOSED**

7. FIELD NAMING AT LAYRITZ PARK

Keith Davidoff, representative of the Victoria Mariners Baseball organization, presented to the Committee and the following was noted:

- This is an initiative to name a baseball field at Layritz Park “The Zack Downey Memorial Field”.
- Zack was a sports enthusiast and baseball was his passion. He was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma in October 2012 and passed away in May 2014 at the age of 18.
- A memorial tournament was established and has continued annually at Layritz Park.

MOVED by T. Austin and Seconded by D. Owen: “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee support the re-naming of field 7 at Layritz Park to be re-named “Zack Downey”, and that the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee ask Staff to bring a report and the supporting letter from the Home Club to Council.”

CARRIED

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m. The next meeting is February 23, 2022 at 4 pm.

Councillor Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary