

Minutes of the Cowichan Station/Glenora/Sahtlam Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of April 9, 2013, held at the Sahtlam Fire Hall

Present: Frank McCorkell, Chair, Larry Whetstone, Howard Heyd, Ron Smith, Mike Lees, Paul Slade, Director Loren Duncan, Irene Evans, Also present as our guests, were Roland Brown and Ryan Dias, Parks Operations Superintendent.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:01

Minutes: The minutes of the February 28, 2013 meeting as previously distributed were discussed.

Business Arising: There was no business arising.

New Business:

1. Community Parks Volunteers:

Ryan Dias provided Commission members with a memorandum dealing with the matter of using volunteers which outlined the procedure the Parks and Trails Division staff and administration of the CVRD wants all Commissions to follow. There were six points to this interim protocol that will allow Commissions to have volunteers to undertake various projects within the park and at the same time ensure the staff knows what is proposed to be done, when, and who will be supervising the work.

Mr. Dias also briefly touched on other parks matters including the department's wish to finalize the plan for Currie Park as soon as possible after an on-site meeting this coming Thursday, April 11th. He also mentioned they wanted to see a number of improvements made to the new park later this spring and early summer that included the split rail fence along Creighton Road and the parking lot in the north-east corner of the park.

2. Wake Lake Kiosk:

The Commission was informed that the kiosk is being prepared for Wake Lake nature area. Also there will be a need to pour an appropriate cement pad for the picnic table for the site.

3. Busy Place Creek:

Mr. Dias informed the Commission that there was now some funding available for a trail and observation platform of some kind near the creek. Frank McCorkell indicated that he was not in favour of undertaking this project. He felt that the area should be left in its natural state with a minimum of people, if any, getting near the salmon spawning area. Larry Whetstone also mentioned that if we were to protect the entire little creek that we must stop the dumping of the asphalt and any other contaminants at the headwaters of Busy Place Creek. Director Duncan was not aware of this site which is located on Cowichan Band land across the creek from their elementary school. The Commission was in general agreement that no work be undertaken as proposed at this time.

4. Currie Park Update:

Chairman Frank McCorkell informed the Commission that Irene Evans, one of our Commission members, has donated \$5,000 towards the new Currie Park to assist us with the acquisition of playground equipment. The Commission greatly appreciated this very generous donation and thanked Irene who said it was done 'for the kids'.

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Also, the Chairman McCorkell told the Commission that Drillwell had drilled a well at Currie Park at their own expense, and at 60 feet found a good source of water; 3 gallons per minute. Again the Commission thanked Paul Slade, one of the principals of Drillwell, and also a Commission member, for undertaking the project on behalf of the Commission and Sahtlam community. It will greatly enhance the park and with some additional improvements such as a 6,000 gallon, or larger, reservoir will allow for some irrigation at the park, provide water to the planned washroom facilities and assist with the fire protection for this area of Sahtlam.

5. Sahtlam Easter Egg Hunt:

Mike Lees wanted to thank all the volunteers who assisted with the clean-up of Currie Park prior to Easter. He said that because of their efforts the park looked great and that approximately 60 area children participated in the Easter Egg Hunt. It will no doubt become an annual community event.

6. Parks Improvements Tour:

This will likely occur sometime in May with staff and summer employees and allow the Commission to outline what they would like to see undertaken over the summer months. Chairman McCorkell will organize this with the staff and inform other Commission members should they wish to be part of the tour.

Other Business

1. Sahtlam Petition:

Director Loren Duncan requested that the petition requesting a street light in the area of Currie Park be provided to him as soon as possible. He explained that the quicker he gets it the faster it can be send to B.C. Hydro.

2. Commission Membership:

Director Duncan informed the Commission that Commissioner Jeff Hunter has resigned and that he is going to appoint Mr. Roland Brown. Mr. Brown had been a Commissioner for a number of years and has agreed to the re-appointment.

3. Bill's Road Property:

Chairman McCorkell brought the Commission up-to-date on the property and the improvements that were proposed for the site that will allow public access. Bollards are now in place at the entrance to the site and other improvements are still required and any outstanding issues will be research and addressed by Mr. McCorkell, Director Loren Duncan and parks staff.

Next Meeting: The meeting will be held on May 14th at the Glenora Hall. The start time will be determined by the Chair prior to the meeting and all members will be informed by the Secretary.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

