

MINTUES OF ELECTORAL AREA “G” (SALTAIR/GULF ISLANDS)
PARK COMMISSION

DATE: September 09th, 2013

TIME: 7:04 pm

MINUTES of the electoral Area “G” Parks Commission Meeting held on the above noted date and time at the Water Board office, 10705 Chemainus Rd, Saltair, BC.

PRESENT:

Chairman: Harry Brunt

Secretary: Jackie Rieck

Members: Tim Godau, Kelly Schellenberg, Paul Bottomley, and Dave Key

ABSENT:

Members: Glen Hammond and Hans Nelles

ALSO PRESENT:

Director: Mel Dorey

Guest: David Hope

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded to approve the Agenda as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded to accept the Minutes of Area “G” Parks Commission Meeting, held on June 17th, 2013.

MOTION CARRIED

CVRD UPDATE:

-CVRD is preparing a repair and maintenance schedule of all park structures and beach accesses.

Members determined approximate age of the following structures:

Centennial Park washrooms and dugouts = 46 yrs

Picnic Shelter = 12 yrs

Tennis courts = 15 yrs

Bezan Beach Access = 15 yrs and Boulder Point Access 14yrs

Harry will forward information to CVRD.

-Parks and Trails Division staff meeting of July 09,2013 Area "G" action items:

-Graham Gidden is waiting to receive a copy of the amendments to the Mountain View Rd site plan landscaping project.

-Brent Wilson has confirmed that the landscaped area near the South Oyster School entrance has been weeded.

-Brent Wilson confirmed that the baseball dugouts will be swept regularly and the trash in the area will be picked up.

-Brent Wilson has followed up on the Commission's comments regarding Student painting methods.

-Tanya Soroka will follow up with Mel Dorey regarding the status of the "Stocking Creek" signage request to MOT at Gait Rd/Chemainus Rd intersection.

-Ryan Dias and Dan Brown will update Harry Brunt on the status of the MOT permit from Cliffcoe road thru to Chemainus Rd.

-Budget rough draft deadline is October 11, 2013. Surplus is currently, \$156,000.

-Projects planned for 2014 :

Members approved a budget of **\$30,000** for Centennial Park washroom roof, perimeter drains and heat lamps.

Stocking Creek Park: **\$10,000** allocated for improvements to newly named "Huckleberry Trail" This trail can be located by walking west over the Stocking Creek bridge and continuing towards the west bank hill. At the top of the hill walk another 100 feet or so and on the right hand side you will see a single track path, which will take you to waterfall staircase.

-Kelly Schellenberg distributed hand outs, titled "**Gardening with Native Plants**" which included information on Top Ten Plants, Attracting Birds and Butterflies, Garden Design Tips, Controlling Weeds, Creating Habitat for Wildlife, and How to Save Water & Money. Thank you Kelly!!

-Discussed invasive plant issues.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

-Easy Living's maintenance contract is due to expire at the end of November. Landscaping companies are required to submit their bids for a 3 year contract to the CVRD.

Commission requests improvements be made to the way the grass is mowed and exuberant leaf blowing is removing bark mulch and exposing gravel on perimeter path next to the field. It was strongly recommended to ask Easy Living to ensure their mower blades be sharpened on a regular basis, and use a mulching blade to reduce the amount of clumped up grass clippings left on the field.

-Mel Dorey reviewed correspondence received from Lynne Smith dated August 20th, 2013. Mrs. Smith had noted that "there were quite a bit of funds in one of the Area "G" Recreation Funds" and suggested we look into purchasing Outdoor Exercise Equipment for Centennial Park. Commission discussed the feasibility of this notion and Mr. Dorey suggested we could begin with installing a "Chin Up Bar".

MOTION:

It was moved and seconded to install a Chin Up Bar in Centennial Park.

MOTION FAILED

Commission has other priority projects planned for 2013/14 and Mrs. Smith's suggestion would be reviewed again in the future. In the mean time, there is a nearby outdoor exercise equipment facility that can be utilized at Chemainus Elementary School.

In the same letter, Mrs Smith pointed out that there had been a number of vehicles parked on the grass near the picnic tables during a baseball tournament in July. Harry Brunt will pass on this information to Brent Wilson CVRD.

-Mel Dorey will contact MOT regarding Beach Access signage at Lagoon Bridge.

-CVRD passed a "All Dogs Must Be on a Leash" bylaw. Commission discussed the potential of having an designated "Off-Leash" Park or "Off Leash" Trail and will review again at next meeting.

CENTENNIAL PARK:

-Discussed feasibility and costs of maintaining the baseball diamonds. There is some frustration within the Community and Commission regarding the Baseball league's conduct. It has been noted and appreciated that Saltair Slo-Pitch League strives to improve their behaviour and respect for Centennial Park grounds, however, there have been complaints and concerns regarding the consumption of alcohol, use of illegal substances and foul language. There is a direct danger to the community when persons using alcohol/and or drugs drives off in his/her vehicle. Commission requests that CVRD Bylaw enforcement, liaison with Ladysmith RCMP, drop by randomly during Baseball season. This would entail not just a drive by in both parking lots but, a walk through the diamond zones. It is felt if the RCMP make their presence known, this situation will be taken seriously by the ball league. Commission also requests, that ball players should be out of the park by 9:30pm. There have been situations where the gate keeper is having to search in the dark to usher out stragglers.

- A community volunteer work party needs to be organized as soon as possible to apply a top coat of bark mulch on perimeter trails and fitness trail due to leaf blowers inadvertently removing too much mulch.

Harry to follow up with CVRD staff.

-See "Director's Report" for Commission's maintenance requests regarding Easy Living's lawn mowing practices.

-Commission requests that the chain link gate on the Lytton Rd entrance next to Harry Brunt's home be removed and replaced with one bollard (we should have a surplus bollard in storage). This task should be combined with the Mountain View Rd project.

The main gate on Mountain View Drive is not being opened during the week. CVRD to follow up with Easy Living.

-South Oyster School Rd parking lot has some large pot holes that require filling.

-Mountain View Drive Entrance proposed landscape design "Concept #3" was reviewed and heavily discussed.

MOTION:

It was moved and seconded to accept Graham Gidden's Mountain View Drive landscape design "Concept #3" with the following exceptions:

- (1) Remove 1.5 metre wide cart path and bordered split rail fencing from Concept #3 plan.**
- (2) Wood hand rail next to staircase has already been sanded and painted by the student crew. Please remove from plan.**
- (3) Need clarification of top left hand corner of plan "removal of cedar, ivy, and juniper"
Does "cedar" refer to a large cedar tree or cedar shrubs? If it is a large cedar tree, please do not remove the tree, it requires limbing only.**

MOTION CARRIED with one vote against.

PRINCESS DIANA PARK:

-Harry will follow up on CVRD progress with Kiosk and benches.

-There has been property development on private land bordering the park, Commission requests CVRD to orange flag Kess marsh zone area to determine park boundaries for a potential trail to link this section to the main trail asap.

-Commission request CVRD to assess previously flooded, "dead tree" area to determine what can be done to reforest this area.

PARKINSON TRAIL:

-One member of the Commission suggested that approximately 6 large trees that are in the middle of the 3metre CVRD trail near Chemainus Rd be removed before development takes place on the neighbouring private property. Discussion ensued.

STOCKING CREEK PARK:

-A tree fall needs to be removed. Located on lower trail beyond Finch Place septic field.

-Commission would like to be updated by CVRD Bylaw enforcement regarding the “Lagoon Tree Fall indecent.

-Artery trail beginning from right-side top of the hill off of main Stocking Creek trail has been named the “Huckleberry Trail”. Commission plans on making improvements to this trail in 2014.

-A sign to indicate “Stocking Creek Falls” is required at the head of trail leading off Trans Canada path. There is a CVRD post already in place, just requires signage.

-Stocking Creek entrance at Finch Place could use a split rail fence to distinguish it's entrance from the neighbouring property. CVRD to follow up.

BEACH ACCESSES:

-Skinner Rd Beach Access has a large Japanese Knot weed plant requiring removal, it is located at bottom left hand side of stairs to the beach.

SALTAIR BALL LEAGUE:

-Refrigerator was not cleaned after concession was closed for the season.

-Bollards were left open during ball games and a few vehicles were parked next to the washrooms.

-Refer to “Centennial Park” section for recommendations regarding ball player conduct solutions.

LADYSMITH PARKS & REC:

-Summer hiatus, next meeting September 18th, 2013.

GUEST: David Hope left meeting at 9:30 pm.

CLOSED SESSION: Land aquisition

NEXT MEETING: is scheduled on October 7th, 2013, at 7:00 pm, Water Board Office.

ADJOURMENT:

Meeting adjourned 9:40 pm.

