

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**MINUTES OF ELECTORAL AREA 'E' PARKS AND OPEN SPACES ADVISORY
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING HELD**

Monday May 13, 2013

At Nanoose Place, Nanoose Bay

Attendance: Director Geo Holme - Chair
Peter Law – Secretary
Gordon Wiebe
Robert Rogers
George Jarvis
Vicki Voros

Staff: Elaine McCulloch, Parks Planner
Dave Palidwor, Superintendent of Park Planning and Development
Wendy Marshall, RDN Manager of Park service

Regrets: Randy Orr

CALL TO ORDER

Director Holme called the meeting to order at 3:30pm

MINUTES

MOVED G. Wiebe, SECONDED G. Jarvis that the minutes of the March 4, 2013 meeting of the Nanoose Bay (Area E) POSAC be approved.

CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Blueback Park Implementation

A timeline and events spreadsheet was provided by Ms. McCulloch. She pointed out that we are now at the end of Phase 1 of a 3 Phase process to determine the park's new design, to be completed by the spring of 2014.

P.Law asked whether some of the requests from the diving fraternity can be accommodated in this small park (parking, staging area, toilets). Ms. McCulloch thought they could be considered in the design.

R.Rogers asked about the high recreational dive use at the park now, and whether the commercial use by outfitters/instructors is going to be allowed to operate as they have in the past. Ms. McCulloch indicated there are issues in how this park is being used by commercial operators without proper permitting, and that this will have to be part of the process going forward.

R. Rogers asked about how the Dive Community will be engaged through the process. Perhaps we can encourage their early involvement if we organized a meeting at Blueback Park sometime in the mid to late summer. Ms. McCulloch will organize this.

REPORTS

Fairwinds Rezoning Update

Ms. Marshall provided an update on the rezoning application. She noted that RDN planners have met with Fairwinds to negotiate park issues over the past number of months. She indicated that a meeting may be scheduled with Area E POSAC in August to discuss/comment on the Fairwinds application.

Director Holme commented that he had attended a “public” meeting called by the Fairwinds Community Association to discuss the status of the Fairwinds CDP process. He stated that there was pressure being applied by the developer to speed up the RDN approval process. He stated the application process is proceeding, but due to the number of issues and players involved, they are about two months behind.

Electoral Area ‘E’ Community Parks and Trails Strategy (CPTS)

Mr. Palidwor provided a summary of the results of the Community Parks and Trails Strategy Survey for Area E. He handed out the following material:

1. Community Parks and Trails Strategy – Electoral Area E Public Engagement #1 Summary: Survey and Open House.
2. RDN Area E Park “Classifications” (by park)
3. CPTS Draft Key Principles
4. (Community) Parks Class Comparison

Mr. Palidwor commented that only 14 residents responded to this survey. He noted that half of the respondents were from the Fairwinds area. The sample size is so small that the RDN cannot derive any conclusive results from the survey. He noted that a “Parks Classification” was recently completed by an Area E POSAC “subcommittee”. This was helpful for this CPTS process, however these classifications are not written in stone, and can be changed over time.

An Executive Summary was then reviewed by Mr. Palidwor, where he provided a staff analysis and recommendations:

- The need for a community park in the Beachcomber area.
- There is a community desire for improved and managed “water access sites” in the Northwest Bay area, Craig bay, Madrona Point and Nanoose Harbour area.

Mr. Palidwor provided a summary of what to expect in Phase #2 of the CPTS. The 2nd Open House was held immediately after the POSAC meeting.

P.Law asked about the Area E Park Classification table, and why the subcommittee had not identified any parks in the “surplus” category, specifically Crab Road. Subcommittee members provided their rationale for not placing this park in a surplus category.

G. Jarvis gave positive note to the proposal for having a link trail between Red Gap and Moorecroft Reg. Park.

Monthly Update of Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects -Feb/March 2013

Ms. McCulloch provided a brief summary of the Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects for Area E – Feb and March 2013.

Electoral Area 'E' Community Parks 2013 Detailed Project Plan

Ms. McCulloch asked POSAC members whether they had any objections to allowing the results of the Blueback Park - Community Survey to be made public (to be posted on the RDN Parks website). POSAC members had no concerns.

Ms. McCulloch referred to the Community Parks Area E 2013 Detailed Project Plan. There are two projects slated for 2013: A letter to Schooner Cove Yacht Club and the Blueback Park Master Plan.

P.Law asked about why this park remediation project is going to take so long to implement? Ms. McCulloch responded that her workplan for other RDN Electoral Areas limits her time to deal with this project. She indicated that the biggest workload for the project this year will be to hire a consultant who will develop a design through open houses and stakeholder interviews.

MOVED G. Wiebe, SECONDED R. Rogers to receive the reports.

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED G. Wiebe, SECONDED R. Rogers that the meeting be adjourned at 4:30 pm.

CARRIED

Chairperson