

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL AREA 'A' PARKS, RECREATION AND  
CULTURE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
HELD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2015  
7:00PM  
(CEDAR HERITAGE CENTRE)**

**Attendance:** Alec McPherson, RDN Director, Chair  
Jim Fiddick  
Bernard White  
Angela Vincent  
Patti Grand  
Andrew Thornton  
Graham Gidden  
John O'Connor

**Staff:** Hannah King, Superintendent of Recreation Program Services  
Elaine McCulloch, Parks Planner  
Ann-Marie Harvey, Recording Secretary

**Regrets:** Kerri-Lynne Wilson

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair McPherson called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS/INTRODUCTION**

Commission members introduced themselves and spoke a bit about their backgrounds and where they live.

**MINUTES**

MOVED Commissioner Fiddick, SECONDED Commissioner White that the minutes of the Regular Electoral Area 'A' Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission meeting held October 21, 2014 be received.

CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

MOVED Commissioner Grand, SECONDED Commissioner Vincent that the following Communications/Correspondence be received:

V.Sudaby, Cedar Skate Park Association to E. McCulloch, RDN, **Re: Picnic Table Donation**

H. King, RDN to K. St. Cyr, Cedar Family of Community Schools, **Re: 2014 Grant Application**

CARRIED

## **REPORTS**

### **Monthly Update of Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects–Nov-Dec 2015**

Ms. McCulloch reported that some graffiti had been identified by RDN parks staff and removed. She noted it wasn't in a highly visible place.

MOVED Commissioner Grand, SECONDED Commissioner O'Connor that the Monthly Update of Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects–Nov-Dec 2015 be received.

CARRIED

### **Nanaimo Bridge Crossing (verbal)**

Chair McPherson gave a brief review of the feasibility report and reported that the type of surface of the bridge needs to be determined and if equestrian accessibility is a need for the community. This will be done by way of a survey and he will be sure to advise the Commission when this is available. Funding sources for the bridge need to be determined. A public open house will be held in June before moving forward with the detailed design.

MOVED Commissioner White, SECONDED Commissioner Fiddick that the Nanaimo Bridge Crossing Update be received.

CARRIED

### **Beach Access Report (Commission)**

Chair McPherson thanked the Commissioners for their work on the Beach Access Report during the last year. Commissioner Vincent reported that the report is complete. The Commission discussed some priorities but decided to meet again to discuss further and then hold a site visit with Ms. McCulloch to discuss details about the chosen sites and present her with their priorities for each site.

Chair McPherson will email members to coordinate a date to meet.

MOVED Commissioner O'Connor, SECONDED Commissioner Grand that the Beach Access Report be received.

CARRIED

## **RECREATION**

### **Recreation Update (verbal)**

#### **Cedar Sport Court**

Chair McPherson gave a history to the new members and people in the gallery of the Cedar Sport Court collaboration with Snuneymuxw First Nations. He noted that Herold Engineering have donated their services for engineering and design of the area. He hopes to have a report from Herold near the end of March. The Commission discussed some details of the proposed project and funding clarifications.

Chair McPherson is looking forward to the steps ahead with the Snuneymuxw First Nations and what the project will bring to the community.

#### **School District #68**

Ms. King updated that RDN staff are still waiting to meeting with the School District staff to talk about the possible relationships with Community Schools as requested from the Commission previously. She has met with the Community School Coordinator, Karen St. Cyr and was informed of the programs she is offering and what is happening through the schools. They discussed the underutilization of the grant program and

Karen offered some suggestions on that area. Ms. King will present these to the grant sub-committee to discuss.

MOVED Commissioner Grand, SECONDED Commissioner O'Connor that the Recreation Updates be received for information.

CARRIED

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2014 Accomplishments**

Chair McPherson explained the list of accomplishments for 2014, noting the Skate Park was the large project for 2014 in Area 'A'. Ms. King noted that this was to give the committee an idea of the projects in other Electoral Area's as well.

### **2015 Budget**

Chair McPherson explained the budget process and noted that the biggest changes for the area will be an increase to the maintenance budget due to the new maintenance standards for parks and the addition of the Cedar Skate Park. The Plaza Kiosk will be funded 50/50 by Community Parks and Regional Park budget. Surplus parks money is trying to build up a reserve for future facilities so that no borrowing is necessary when the time comes.

Ms. McCulloch will have summary of the final budget at the next meeting.

Commissioner Gidden asked if with the new parks standards, if the work will still be completed by part contractor, part staff. Ms. McCulloch replied that it will still be a split but more contracting as there are only two parks staff on the ground for the entire Regional District, Bowser-Cassidy and Gabriola Island. Contracts will be altered to achieve the new standards. She noted these new standards would be for the front country parks – for EA 'A' will be Thelma Griffiths, Cedar Skate Park and the Cedar Plaza. Other parks would be kept up with clearing of brush, ect. She reminded members that increased maintenance costs come with the development of Parks.

Ms. McCulloch reviewed the planning worksheet that was in the agenda and noted the projects and budget of the project priorities for Area 'A' Parks.

### **Grant Committee Election**

MOVED Commissioner Grand, SECONDED Commissioner Vincent that Commissioners O'Connor, Gidden and White be appointed to the Grant –in –Aid Sub Committee.

CARRIED

### **BCRPA Symposium**

The Commission decided to send Commissioner Thornton and Commissioner O'Connor to the 2015 BCRPA Symposium in Victoria May 6-8.

### **COMMISSIONER ROUND TABLE**

**Commissioner White** has been doing Firefighter Training. All is well.

**Commissioner Gidden** contacted Parks Operations about a hazardous tree at Thelma Griffiths. He mentioned the Daphne issue at Thelma and that he removed some. Ms. McCulloch discussed the Coastal Invasive Species and that the Daphne would be added to that list.

**Commissioner Grand** was at a meeting in Nanaimo at the Port Theatre and received a document about receiving Grants in the future and she thought it could be applied in Area 'A'. She gave it to Ms. King to review.

**Commissioner Thornton** is wondering when the Cranberry Firehall gymnasium might come available again? Chair McPherson thought about July or August. Commissioner Thornton inquired about the possibility for more commission meetings, formal or informal to get more done. Chair McPherson mentioned the beach access gatherings to inventory the beach accesses. He felt those to be very productive for the committee but also spoke of the need for transparency when meeting as a group with more than a quorum and the perception of moving forward without a formal meeting. He noted workplan workshops are a great way to get discussions progressing.

**Commissioner Fiddick** talked about Deborah Bloom and him meeting with BC Parks for equestrian access to Hemer Provincial Park for the potential of getting Morden Colliery railroad track into public hands so that we can get right to Boat Harbour. He would like to access all the way to the TransCanada Trail. He helped develop a parking lot on Spruston Rd for equestrians to back up horse trailers and now ATVers have started tearing up the area.

**Commissioner Vincent** mentioned that at the Ladysmith Heritage Commission meeting, the Nanaimo Archives spoke and they said in relation to Black History Month that while it's hard to find information hard to find black history in the area, with some research they found that in 1901 half of the black population in BC was in Extension.

**Chair McPherson** talked about the Morden Tipple and that the engineering plan was done and gives an idea of the costs that would be required. He said immediate work for safety would be \$45,000 and the Friends of Morden mine and staff are looking for funding options. He noted the need to celebrate our coal history and in his view is worthwhile saving and has the potential of being a great tourist attraction. The cost would entail 2.7million to restore it.

#### **GALLERY GUESTS QUESTIONS**

Chair McPherson took some questions from the attendees in the gallery.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED Commissioner Grand that the meeting be adjourned at 9:29pm.

CARRIED

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*Chair*