

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**MINUTES OF ELECTORAL AREA 'E' PARKS AND OPEN SPACES ADVISORY
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

(Nanoose Place)

Attendance: Director Bob Rogers - Chair
Peter Law – Secretary
Gordon Wiebe
Diana Young
Scott Rowswell
Vicki Voros
Debbie Mitchell

Staff: Elaine McCulloch, Parks Planner
Wendy Marshall, RDN Parks Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Director Rogers called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Three new members and a new chair for Area E POSAC were welcomed. Bob Rogers (Chair) along with Peter Law, Diana Young, Debbie Mitchell.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Peter Law volunteered to fill this position.
As no other nominations were received, Director Rogers declared Peter Law Secretary.

DELEGATIONS

MOVED Director Rogers, SECONDED G. Wiebe to receive the late delegation – Randall Zahn.

CARRIED

Randall Zahn – 1359 Madrona Drive.

Mr. Zahn attended this meeting to register his concerns about a portable toilet being proposed for a “road end” on Madrona Drive, to service a growing number of (compressed air) divers who are parking in the area to access shore-diving sites.

Ms. Marshal responded that the “road end” is not an RDN Community Park, but a BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) road end. A Permit to construct an amenity would first have to be authorized by MOTI, and the RDN would be consulted about this. To her knowledge, RDN has not received a referral about this site.

MINUTES

MOVED G. Wiebe, SECONDED S. Rowswell that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Nanoose Bay (Area E) POSAC held October 20, 2014 be approved.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Director Rogers noted that Mr. Kirschner, a current member (2014-2015) of the Area E POSAC, passed away in December 2014, and that a letter expressing condolences has been forwarded to the family (by RDN staff). Diana Young was approached by Director Rogers and has volunteered to replace Mr. Kirschner's for 2015.

REPORTS

Monthly Update of Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects (Nov. 10, 2014)

Ms. McCulloch reported that a new community park is being donated to the RDN Parks, through the subdivision of property on Oakleaf Drive. This development was approved by RDN many years ago. The park will be located on the shoreline, at the end of Oakleaf Drive. There are several issues that will need to be addressed in the Park's future development, including:

- Shoreline access for kayakers and divers
- Sensitive ecosystems on the site
- Archeological issues

A ten car parking lot is being proposed and will be built by the developer.

D. Young - noted that it would be a good idea to consider linkages to Moorecroft Park.

P. Law - suggested RDN Park staff investigate establishing a water lease adjacent to the park.

District 69 Recreation Commission Report (verbal)

G. Wiebe provided a summary of his role on the District 69 Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission's role is in oversight of major RDN recreation facilities (Arena and Swimming Pool).

Blueback Community Park – Revised Concept Plan and Cost Estimates

Ms. McCulloch referred members to maps and spreadsheets in our meeting package. There are 2 options provided for park development, along with cost estimates. These are the second "draft" plans from the landscape architect, and represent the following changes from previous versions:

- More gear-up space for divers and kayakers near tidewater
- Some open space in the park for kids/family play activities

Some of the specific amenities added:

- Log benches
- Crushed rock near tidewater to allow for divers/kayakers to gear up near water.
- Paths in the park to be low-maintenance flagstones
- Use of clover as a groundcover
- Porta-potty on site, but hidden
- Native plants along beach at high tide.

The concept plans include:

Option 1- a defined development area where amenities (above bullets) will be provided.

Option 2 – a similar development area as in Option 1, with expanded removal of invasive Blackberry and restoration of a major portion of the park using native plant species.

Discussion by members favoured the development of amenities as proposed; however there was concern over the scope and method of restoring native vegetation in the park.

P. Law – suggested that a Plant Restoration Ecologist be retained to provide an opinion on the proposed park plan, and how best to remove blackberry and restore native plants to this park.

MOVED D. Young, SECONDED S. Rowswell that the Blueback Community Park Development Plan Option 2 be endorsed, with the condition that a Qualified Plant Restoration Ecologist be hired to complete and on-site review and provide comment on how to best restore native vegetation to Blueback Park.

CARRIED

Fairwinds Regional Park Management Plan Update

Ms. Marshall provided an update on the development of this Plan. A draft Plan was submitted to the Fairwinds Parks Committee last month. Amendments to the Plan were requested. The draft Plan will be going to public review in April 2015.

S. Rowswell – asked about whether this Park Plan will be legally binding on future owners of the Fairwinds property. The Phased Development Agreement (PDA) of which parks phasing, land dedication and amenity development is legally binding. The Park Management Plan, which will reference the PDA is a guiding document for the development and use of the regional park lands.

Claudet Community Park – Trail Update

Director Rogers wants to improve the visibility of on-coming traffic at the intersection of Northwest Bay Road and Claudet Road. He stated this can be accomplished by developing a “roadside trail” in Claudet Park. This would allow for management of the trees and vegetation to provide better site-lines for drivers. He is also interested in expanding a trail network in this park, and has requested Parks staff to investigate.

G. Wiebe asked about the RDN-ERWS use of the Claudet Park as an active well field, when the site was purchased (years ago) for a park.

Director Rogers noted that the site is being “tested” as an aquifer storage site for ERWS. Well testing should be completed in the next few months. If the site is deemed as a suitable well site, then the well portion of the park will be sectioned out.

MOVED S. Rowswell, SECONDED D. Young that the reports be received.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

2014 Accomplishments (of RDN Recreation and Parks Services):

P. Law noted in the summary that Roadside Trails are actually being done in other Electoral Areas (secretary’s note: this issue has been an ongoing discussion in Area E POSAC for years.)

Ms. McCulloch commented that roadside trails were being implemented in RDN Electoral Areas where Directors agreed to the use of “Community Works Funds” in planning for the activity. She also said these Areas have had a “Transportation Plan” recently completed, where roadside trails were identified.

2015 Workplan

MOVED D. Young, SECONDED D. Mitchell that due to the length of this inaugural POSAC meeting, that this agenda Item be tabled until the next meeting.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE

Discussion on Meeting Structure

Director Rogers asked whether members of this committee would be open to extra meetings, beyond the three (3) organized by RDN Parks staff.

D. Young indicated that extra meetings, especially field trips to parks, would be helpful to her, and make the organized POSAC meetings more productive.

V. Vorros suggested the committee visit Blueback Park in the coming weeks.

Invitation to Directors Interactive Forum – March 3, 2015 7:00pm Nanoose Place.

Director Rogers invited POSAC members to attend, if available.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED G. Wiebe, SECONDED D. Mitchell that the meeting be adjourned at 9:15 pm.

CARRIED

Chairperson