

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL AREA 'H' PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY  
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING  
FRIDAY, MARCH 06, 2015  
10:00 AM  
(Lighthouse Community Centre, Qualicum Bay)**

**ATTENDANCE:** Bill Veenhof, Chair, Director, RDN Board  
David Wiwchar  
Valerie Weismiller  
Nancy Robertson

**STAFF:** Wendy Marshall, Manager of Park Services  
Elaine McCulloch, Parks Planner

**REGRETS:** Dagmar Sedel  
Barry Ellis

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Veenhof called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

**ELECTION OF SECRETARY**

No secretary was elected. This item needs to appear on the next meeting's agenda when more committee members are present. E. McCulloch will take the minutes for this meeting.

**MINUTES**

MOVED D. Wiwchar, SECONDED V. Weismiller that the minutes of the regular Electoral Area 'H' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting held October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 be approved.

CARRIED

**REPORTS**

**Monthly Update Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects – October 2014**

**Monthly Update Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects – November – December 2014**

Ms. McCulloch gave a summary of the Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects reports.

**Shoreline Drive Ramp / Stair Repair**

W. Marshall provided a verbal report on the state of the storm damaged ramp at the Shoreline Drive water access site. The ramp was washed out from water running off the road upslope from the ramp, not from wave action at the toe. A culvert was blocked forcing the water to run down the road. Parks staff are looking into the possibility of getting funding for the repair through the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP). Replacement will cost approximately \$3,500. Funds to cover the repair have been included in the 2015 budget should they be required. The committee expressed a preference for the damaged ramp to be replaced with box steps. Parks staff were requested to contact MoTI to investigate the possibility of replacing the culvert.

MOVED V. Weismiller, SECONDED N. Robertson that the reports be received.

CARRIED

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **2014 Accomplishments**

E. McCulloch explained that this document was primarily for the Committee's information and offered to answer any questions. B. Veenhof commented that the RDN's Bear and Cougar Awareness communication needs to include information about wolves as well as this is becoming a problem in the Bowser area.

### **2015 Workplan**

E. McCulloch explained that this document was primarily for the Committee's information and offered to answer any questions. No questions were asked.

### **5 Year Planning Review 2015-2019**

E. McCulloch reviewed the 5 Year Planning Review 2015-2019 document with the Committee.

### **Oakdowne Community Park Update**

W. Marshall provided a verbal update on the status of the Park and trails. The Park property is leased from the Crown however the RDN manages the trails outside of the park through a Licence of Use from the Crown. The Committee was asked if they would like staff to investigate the possibility of the RDN requesting a Licence of Occupation for all the Crown parcels surrounding the park where the trail currently goes through. W. Marshall cautioned that ATVs do currently use the Crown Lands in the area which is legal however ATV use in RDN parks is prohibited as per Bylaw No. 1399.

The Committee requested that staff look into the possibility of leasing the crown lands through which the existing trail goes through and managing them as community park. B. Veenhof suggested that the RDN look into allowing ATV's in some portion of the park. Staff was requested to see if the existing trails are shown on the RDN public website.

## **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

B. Veenhof provided the following updates;

### **Bowser Trail-Bashers**

Volunteers have been trained the use the GPS and have provided the info to the RDN. Sheena will connect with the RDN to develop the maps. The Hall will host the maps on their website. B. Veenhof will be investigating the different possibilities for using the maps to boost tourism in the area. He hopes to have a map product for this summer.

### **Bowser Elementary Roadside Trail**

The Bowser Elementary School PAC has approached B. Veenhof with their concern about kids walking down Faye Rd to the school as well as the safety of the parking situation at the school. He is investigating the potential of creating a roadside trail and will likely bring this item forward at a future Committee meeting.

### **Public Information Session**

B.Veenhof would like to host a public information session to ask the community what park and or trail projects they would like to see undertaken in their area. It was felt that a good time to get people's ideas would be at the Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast put on by the Lions at the Lighthouse Community Center. The Committee will be responsible for the event advertising and the summary of feedback that is gathered at the event.

The Committee directed Staff to prepare open house material and attend an open house to be held at the Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast on Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

### **COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE**

**V. Weismiller** passed on that the GPS'ing volunteers were very happy and that a horse had been along the Lighthouse Country Trail and had damaged the bridges.

**D. Wiwchar** noted that he would like to see parking provided at the Deep Bay trail entrance. A map needs to be provided. It would be great if this trail could be extended and linked to the Deep Bay Marine Center.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED D. Wiwchar that the meeting be adjourned at 11:25 am.

CARRIED

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Chair