

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

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

WEDNESDAY, May 11, 2016

6:30 PM

(Nanoose Place)

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

Staff: Lesya Fesiak, Parks Planner
Wendy Marshall, RDN Parks Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Director Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED G. Wiebe SECONDED V. Voros that the amended agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

MOVED G. Wiebe, SECONDED D. Young to receive the late delegation

CARRIED

Ross Peterson – 1482 Madrona Road; Subject – Road End Management in Area E.

Mr. Peterson spoke about his involvement (as the past President of the Nanoose Bay Residents Association) in a 2001 review of road end management issues carried out by the RDN and MOTI. Recommendations for road end management at the time were captured in the Nanoose Bay Park and Open Spaces Plan 2001 under the theme "Public Beach Access". Mr. Peterson indicated that this work done 15 years ago had some common understandings about how road ends would be co-managed (RDN and MOTI):

- Development of road ends for public access will occur only after local resident's consultation.
- Public Beach Access should be a subject of the Area E POSAC.
- Each road end is to be considered as unique, and
- Wildlife and ecosystem impacts will be assessed to ensure impacts are minimized to sensitive marine areas.

MINUTES

MOVED M. Caskey, SECONDED D. Mitchell that the Minutes of the Electoral Area "E" Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Committee meeting held on February 10, 2016 be adopted.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Illegal Tree Cutting in the Fairwinds Community

Director Rogers summarized how this issue was dealt with by RDN Bylaw Enforcement. The investigation concluded that the Golf Course cut trees in an adjacent RDN park unknowingly. The enforcement staff recommended no charges, and re-planting of trees in the fall of 2016.

MOVED D. Mitchell, SECONDED M. Caskey that the Board direct staff to send a letter to Fairwinds Community Association, to request they inform their membership of this recent Bylaw investigation and action regarding illegal tree cutting at Carmichael Road Community Park.

CARRIED

REPORTS

Monthly Update Regional and Community Parks and Trails Projects (Feb. 2016 to Mar. 2016)

Moorecroft Parking

Wendy Marshall provided an update to the committee members about changes to parking at Moorecroft Park in the coming weeks. There is a movie shoot happening in the Park and vehicles/equipment will be parked on the site. There will be no public parking starting on May 1 to May 20.

E&N Rail trail between Springwood Park and Coombs

Ms. Marshall gave the committee an update on this large Regional Parks project.

Blueback Community Park – Update

Ms. Marshall provided members with an update on this project. New drainage has now been installed. A porta potty site is to be constructed. Hazard and dying trees will be removed. Trail surfacing will be happening soon. Monitoring and removal of blackberry to occur this fall. Hydro seeding and tree planting to be implemented in the fall.

D. Mitchell suggested that we should place a notice so that local residents understand what progress has been made, and how much more is yet to be done on this project. Action –Wendy Marshall.

5 Year Plan Parks Plan

Handout to Committee Members: A spreadsheet Electoral Area E Community Parks – 5 Year Parks Planning 2016 to 2020 – Planning Worksheet.

The Committee members discussed the list of High and Medium Priority Parks on the list. Some of the comments included:

High Priority Projects: Comments		
Blueback	Construction to be completed by end of the year.	Some monitoring in next few year
Claudet	Toilet upgrade to happen this year	Funds available
Oakleaf	Planning and design of Park this year.	Funds available
Davingham trail	No funding available in 2016	

Medium Priority Projects:

Group discussion about Brickyard Park and how it has serious parking and toilet issues in the summer months. There is committee support to move Brickyard to a Medium Priority. Action - Lesya Fesiak to modify 5 Year Planning Spreadsheet.

Beach Accesses –Verbal Update

Director Rogers provided a brief summary about the May 9th Public Meeting on this issue held at Nanoose Place. There were an estimated 150 residents in attendance. Director Rogers said the beach accesses that were the focus of the meeting were the Jib Road and Wall Beach.

Discussion topics included: - safety, commercial activities, toilets, parking.

Residents expressed concerns focused on the “local impacts” associated with the commercial activities.

Other Participants included:

- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure – expressed a requirement to follow Prov. Policy.
- RDN Parks – No jurisdiction on these sites
- RCMP – Safety concerns
- Commercial Users of Road Ends (in attendance) – Listened to public concerns

The committee discussed the next steps. Director Rodgers believes that the Area E POSAC needs step up and discuss this subject at a future meeting. Committee members expressed support to meet at a future date to discuss

Decision: Area E POSAC will meet at a future date to discuss how to proceed on the issues voiced at the May 9th meeting.

District 69 Recreation Commission Report – Verbal Update

G. Wiebe indicated that the Commission met recently and considered a number of funding applications. Gord indicated he will be stepping down from this committee and Area E POSAC at the end of this year.

Directors Report – Verbal Update

Director Rogers indicated that the past few weeks have been very busy on the Area E Parks file. These have included the following:

- Road end and beach access May 9th meeting (organize and host at Nanoose Place).
- Nanoose Bay Activity and Recreation Society AGM (May 24th)
- Upgrades to the Nanoose Place Facility and securing funding
- Regional Parks and Trails – E&N Trail – Coombs to Parksville
- RDN Board meeting to review Regional Parks and Trails funding strategies.

MOVED V. Varos, SECONDED D. Young to receive the reports.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Oakleaf Community Park

Ms. Fesiak provided an update on this new park's planning. The proposed park has been subject to an assessment by an Ecosystem Biologist. All members were forwarded a pdf of the report by Ursus Environmental (May 6th, 2016). At the meeting, Ms. Fesiak provided members with a plant community map from Ursus, and maps showing "Existing Conditions" and "Proposed Park Improvements" where she has provided some ideas on park improvements

Director Rogers suggests that the Committee members meet on site to review development strategies with the goal of protecting sensitive plant ecosystems.

Decision: Area E POSAC will meet onsite (Oakleaf Park) at the end of June to review and comment on Park development scenarios.

COMMITTEE ROUNDTABLE

M. Caskey – asked RDN staff to consider giving more lead time to POSAC members if there are any future meetings at local parks.

P. Law – asked Director Rogers about the status of the "Enos Lake Monitoring and Protection Plan" (a component of the Fairwinds Regional Parks Plan). Ms. Fesiak responded that the document has been received and accepted by the RDN staff. It will be adopted by the RDN Board on June 21st, 2016.

D. Mitchell – asked whether the Enos Lake Monitoring Plan will lead to any changes to the Fairwinds Regional Parks Plan. Ms. Marshall stated there will be no changes to the Fairwinds Parks Plan as a result of the recently received Enos Lake Monitoring Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED D. Young, SECONDED G. Wiebe that the meeting adjourn at 8:30pm.

CARRIED

Chairperson