

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS SELECT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017

12:00PM

(RDN Committee Room, 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo)

A G E N D A

PAGES

CALL TO ORDER

DELEGATIONS

Motion to receive late delegation.

MINUTES

3-5 Minutes of the Regular Regional Parks and Trails Advisory Committee meeting held November 1, 2016

Motion to approve Minutes.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

6 T. Jones to J. Stanhope, RDN **RE: Mount Benson Parking**

7-8 M. Young, RDN to T. Jones (and reply) **RE: Mount Benson Parking**

9 M. Shore, Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association to RDN **RE: Amazing Places**

Motion to receive Communications/Correspondence

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REPORTS

Parks Update Report – Fall 2016 (handout)

Motion to receive Reports.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

IN CAMERA

That pursuant to Section 90(1) (e) of the Community Charter the Committee proceed to an In Camera Committee meeting to consider items related to land issues.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

NEXT MEETING

***April 4, 2017 – 2pm
RDN Committee Room***

Distribution: H. Houle (Chair), A. McPherson, M. Young, J. Fell, B. Rogers, M. Lefebvre, I. Thorpe, T. Westbroek , B. Veenhof, J. Stanhope , B. Colclough, B. Yoachim, J. Hong, , W.Pratt, P. Carlyle, T. Osborne, W. Marshall, M.Dobbs

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**MINUTES OF THE
REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS SELECT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 1ST, 2016
12:00 PM
(RDN COMMITTEE ROOM)**

Attendance: Director Haime, Chair, District of Lantzville
Director McPherson, Electoral Area 'A'
Director Houle, Electoral Area 'B'
Alternate Director Pinker, Electoral Area 'C'
Director Rogers, Electoral Area 'E'
Director Fell, Electoral Area 'F'
Director Stanhope, Electoral Area 'G'
Director Veenhof, Electoral Area 'H'
Director Westbroek, Town of Qualicum Beach
Director Lefebvre, City of Parksville
Director Thorpe, City of Nanaimo
Director Hong, City of Nanaimo

Staff: Tom Osborne, General Manager of Recreation and Parks
Phyllis Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer
Wendy Idema, Director of Finance
Wendy Marshall, Manager of Park Services
Ann-Marie Harvey, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Director Pratt, City of Nanaimo
Director Yoachim, City of Nanaimo
Director Young, Electoral Area 'C'

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Haime called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

DELEGATIONS

None

MINUTES

MOVED Director Stanhope, SECONDED Director McPherson that the Minutes of the Regular Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee meeting held September 20, 2016 be adopted.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE

None

REPORTS

Monthly Update of Community and Regional Parks and Trails Projects –September 2016

Ms. Marshall answered questions from the directors regarding items in the report.

MOVED Director Stanhope, SECONDED Director Lefebvre that the Monthly Update of Community and Regional Parks and Trails Projects – September 2016 be received.

CARRIED

Horne Lake Historic Regional Trail Report

MOVED Director Veenhof, SECONDED Director Thorpe that the Regional District resume planning and development of the approximately 12 km Horne Lake Regional Trail with the goal to complete a footpath standard trail by 2020.

CARRIED

MOVED Director Veenhof, SECONDED Director Thorpe that the Regional District work with the Qualicum First Nations, the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District and Port Alberni First Nations to obtain Provincial recognition of a Sea to Sea, First Nation to First Nation BC Heritage Trail across Vancouver Island via Horne Lake by 2020.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE/DELEGATONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Descanso Bay Regional Park Operator

Mr. Osborne updated the Committee on the status of the park operator contract since the passing of Jim Demler, who was the current operator of the park.

12:23 –Director Lefrevbre left the meeting.

Beachcomber Regional Park Plan

Director Rogers asked about the need to spend funds on a park plan for Beachcomber Regional Park given that it is a small park since 1988 and has never needed a plan before.

Ms. Marshall responded that it is good to have a plan to check on trails and wear on the park so that it can be determined if trails need to be redirected or if the amenities of the park are meeting the user's needs. She noted that this is not a large scale plan and will done internally. Once complete all twelve Regional Parks will have a plan in place to guide future use and development.

Moorecroft

Director Rogers mentioned his appreciation to the Moorecrofters group for their \$10,000 donation towards Moorecroft projects that was received last week.

IN CAMERA

MOVED Director Veenhof SECONDED Director Houle that pursuant to Section 90(1) (e) of the Community Charter the Committee proceed to an In Camera Committee meeting to consider items related to land and legal issues.

Time: 12:27pm

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED Director Houle, SECONDED Director Veenhof that the meeting be adjourned at 1:45pm.

CARRIED

Chairperson

From: "Trevore Jones" <b_trevorjones1949@shaw.ca>
Date: November 21, 2016 at 10:30:25 AM PST
To: <jstanhope@shaw.ca>
Subject: re: Mount Benson parking

Dear Joe

I think I have found a solution to the parking problem for the Mount Benson trail .

My idea is a busing system . People could register to walk the trail as they do the West Coast Trail , and meet at a marshalling point such as Beban Park (because it is a central point in Nanaimo) and then be bused up to the trail head. I have read that there has been an average of

54 people a day walking the trail .

Most of the time the parking lot at Beban isnt used very much at all , but there are other places too that would work .

There of course would have to be a fee for the buses .

This could also be a safety feature as people would be registered and if they didnt show up on time for the return trip it could signal that someone is in trouble .

They would have to set times etc as to when they would go up the hill and be dropped off and be picked up at specific times . This would also be an advantage to Transit as they could set a nominal fee .

The logistics would not be too hard to work out , and it could also be a side trip for people who arrive in Nanaimo via cruise ships . This would be a very good tourist attraction .

I think this would be a win - win situation for everyone concerned . I am sure that the people that live by the trail head would be very happy with this .

What do you think of my idea ?

Trevor Jones

----- Original Message ----- From: "Maureen Young" <maureen_young@shaw.ca>
To: <b_trevorjones1949@shaw.ca>
Cc: "Joe Stanhope" <jstanhope@shaw.ca>; "Tom Osborne" <TOsborne@rdn.bc.ca>; "Colin Haime" <colinhaime@shaw.ca>; "Bill Veenhof" <Bill.Veenhof@shaw.ca>; "Phyllis Carlyle" <PCarlyle@rdn.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 3:26 PM
Subject: Mount Benson Parking

Hi Trevor

Thank You, for your email in regard to your suggestions for Mount Benson Parking. Joe Stanhope, has forwarded your email to me as I am the Regional Director, for Electoral Area 'C', where the Mount Benson Park is located and the Parking lot.

I have forwarded your email to the Regional Parks and Trail Committee to be included with the correspondence for the next Committee Meeting.

Again, thank you, very much for your suggestions, it is appreciated.

Maureen Young
Regional Director
Electoral Area 'C'=-

From: "Trevore Jones" <b_trevorjones1949@shaw.ca>
Subject: Re: Mount Benson Parking
Date: 25 November, 2016 10:36:09 PM PST
To: "Maureen Young" <maureen_young@shaw.ca>

Thank you for your reply .

I would like to add some things to this . I got involved after I read online about the problems the property owners were having . I talked to a former customer of mine . I was shocked to hear that he had vacated his home and moved into an apartment in town because the problem was so bad . I then went and talked to another owner and was told that they were being subjected to verbal abuse when they confronted people parking in the wrong area . I spent a number of years working as a park ranger for the provincial parks and I know first hand what kind of abuse this owner has seen . Some people do not think that rules are made for them and they feel that once they are out in the wild there are no rules .

One owner complained about nosie from motorcycles Atv's and a fear of fires and as I am a licenced prospector and an avid outdoorsman I have seen the kind of damage that they do to parks and trails . There is no place allotted for this type of recreation like there is in Squamish for an example .

Also I think that Nanaimo and District are missing out on an opportunity to draw a lot of tourists to town. We have a mountain that with a little development could be a real draw . A mini Grouse mountain right in our back yard . With some work and organization I would say all levels of government including first nations would contribute to making it a tourist draw with mountain bike paths , a gondola and eateries on top . I winter it would make an excellent tobogan area . This would good create jobs . Instead of tourists coming off the ferry and driving through

Nanaimo to go to Mt . Washington in the summer to walk the trails and mountain bike we could capture some of the market right here .

We have spent so much time and money looking at the ocean for the answer to draw people but we have forgotten that by the time the big cruise ships get here all the people on board have already been to many coastal communities and been bombarded with local crafts and a lot of them are from big cities and they dont want to go to malls , they want to see something different .

Stand on top of this mountain for awhile and you will see what I mean . It is a gold mine . The view is awesome . Imagine the view at night . It is a jewel on this beautifull island .

Again , thank you for the oppportunity to voice my opinion and concerns .

Trevor Jones .

-----Original Message-----

From: Monica Shore [<mailto:Monica.Shore@viu.ca>]

Sent: Monday, January 09, 2017 1:00 PM

Subject: Amazing Places - video launch & event invitation

Dear Amazing Places Project partners and friends,

It is with great excitement that we have now launched a 2-minute video featuring all 10 Amazing Places in the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region. This is something for each of us to celebrate. You can view it via Facebook<<https://www.facebook.com/MountArrowsmithBR/>> (version with subtitles) or YouTube<<https://youtu.be/7bF1R1WW7e8>> (version with no subtitles). For context, watch the video via the MABR website: mabr.ca/amazingplaces<<http://mabr.ca/amazingplaces>>. Please share far and wide! This has been a truly collaborative effort and a big success story for our region. We've all played a role in making it happen.

Mark your calendars: A launch event for the Amazing Places Project is scheduled for Thursday, March 30th at 6:30pm at the Parksville Civic Centre (100 Jensen Ave E). We hope that you can join us for a celebration that is open to the public and that will be the official launch of the project. We will be providing all attendees with promotional and educational materials, and providing background about the project and details about next steps. Partners will be thanked and introduced. We hope that you can make it. You will receive an invitation reminder by email several weeks before the event.

On behalf of the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region and Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism, I would like to thank each and every one of you for making the Amazing Places project possible. From public nominations, media support, knowledge sharing and land-use permissions to graphic design and video production, you've all been a pleasure to work with. The best news is that this is just the beginning...

Gratefully Yours,
Monica & Team

Monica Shore, Coordinator

Mount Arrowsmith UNESCO Biosphere Region 2nd Vice-Chair of the Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association monica.shore@viu.ca | mabr.ca<www.mabr.ca>

Cell: 250-802-7193

Facebook<<https://www.facebook.com/MountArrowsmithBR/>> |

Twitter<<https://twitter.com/MountArrowBR>> |

Instagram<<https://www.instagram.com/mtarrowsmithbr/>> |

LinkedIn<<https://ca.linkedin.com/in/monicashore>>