

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL AREA 'H' PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017
10:00 AM**

(Lighthouse Community Centre, Qualicum Bay)

ATTENDANCE: Bill Veenhof, Chair, Director, RDN Board
Nancy Robertson
Valerie Weismiller
Dagmar Seydel
Vanessa Howard

STAFF: Elaine McCulloch, Parks Planner

CALL TO ORDER

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Committee welcomed new member Vanessa Howard.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY

V. Howard volunteered to fill the position of secretary starting in in the spring. E. McCulloch will take minutes for this meeting. As no other nominations were received, Director Veenhof declared V. Howard secretary.

DELEGATIONS

MOVED N. Robertson, SECONDED V. Weismiller to accept J. Nelson and D. Thames as a late delegation.

J. Nelson and D. Thames **Re: Highway 19A Thames Creek road pullout improvement request**

The delegation requested that the POSAC consider undertaking improvements to the existing highway pullout located south of the Highway 19A Thames Creek crossing. They would like the trees and underbrush cut back to improve views out to the ocean.

MINUTES

MOVED N. Robertson, SECONDED D. Seydel that the minutes of the regular Electoral Area 'H' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting held December 1, 2016, be adopted.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

CORRESPONDENCE/ COMMUNICATIONS

MOVED N. Robertson, SECONDED D. Seydel the the following correspondence be received:

E. McCulloch, RDN to G. Jellis **Re: McColl Rd Beach Access development**

CARRIED

REPORTS

Monthly Update Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects: Fall 2016

Ms. McCulloch provided a summary of the Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects reports and answered questions. Additional verbal updates were provided on the following items:

Lions Park Lease Agreement – Staff is currently working with representatives from the Qualicum Bay Lions Club regarding the renewal of their lease agreement for the property. Committee members supported the idea of RDN Parks undertaking a Master Planning Process for Lions Park once the terms of the License Agreement have been determined.

Historic Horne Lake Regional Trail – The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is resuming planning and development of an historic, multiuse trail connecting Horne Lake and Port Alberni. The first step in achieving this heritage trail will be the planning and development of the Horne Lake Regional Trail, starting with a trail plan and completion of a geotechnical feasibility and risk management study.

Water Access Update

Replacement water access signs are in the process of being installed. The new signs display a water access icon; road name and RDN contact number; RDN regulation signage have been removed.

E. McCulloch presented a verbal staff report on the 2016 water access development priorities. The POSAC's current water access objective is to provide signage at all easily accessible public water access sites where the trail access does not present a public safety concern and is confirmed to be on public land.

Based on recent site assessments undertaken by staff, it is recommended that water access identification signage be installed at the following sites: Raft Road, Cochrane Road, Henson Road, Noonday Road, Henry Morgan Drive, and Deep Bay Drive (end of the spit).

Signage at the following water access sites is not recommended:

Crab Road	No existing trail access to the beach; topography makes trail development a challenge.
Guitar Lane	Existing bridge structures are a liability and require replacement.
McColl Road	No existing trail access to the beach; trail development not possible due to existing rip rap embankment (approx. 8 meters high); public stair development will involve geotechnical assessment and structural engineered design; this site is located within the Hazard Land Development Permit area due to slope stability issues.
Ocean Trail-East (Moss Park)	Existing trail access to the beach is geotechnically unstable and presents a public safety concern; this site is located within the Hazard Land Development Permit area due to slope stability issues.

Ocean Trail
Community Park

No existing trail access to the beach; a creek runs down the center of the park; new trail development is not recommended through riparian setbacks; this site is located within the Hazard Land Development Permit area due to slope stability issues and within the Fish Habitat Development Permit Area.

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

CARRIED

Official Community Plan (OCP) Update

Courtney Simpson, RDN Planner, presented the draft Electoral Area 'H' Official Community Plan section *2.1 Sensitive Ecosystems* and *4.1 Parks and Open Space* for Committee Review. A final open house is planned for May 2017 where feedback will be sought on a further version of the draft.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS

Highway 19A Thames Creek highway pullout improvements to be included as an item on the next agenda. Committee members to look at the highway pullout site located south of the Highway 19A Thames Creek crossing in advance of the next meeting.

McColl Rd. Beach Access

MOVED V. Weismiller, SECONDED N. Robertson that staff not proceed with water access signage installation or public access development at the McColl Road water access.

CARRIED

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

B. Veenhof provided an update on some of the issues that are being considered in the OCP review that have implications for parks.

COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE

The crown land trail system has been heavily impacted by this winter's storms. Volunteer trail crews are actively out cleaning up the mess.

The sign indicating that horse are welcome on the southern Lighthouse Regional Trail route needs to be replaced at the Wildwood Community Park entrance.

Request to move the scheduled June 28th POSAC to early June so D. Seydel can attend.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED N. Robertson that the meeting be adjourned at 11:35 pm.

CARRIED