

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL AREA 'A' PARKS, RECREATION AND  
CULTURE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
HELD WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014  
7:00PM  
(CEDAR HERITAGE CENTRE)**

**Attendance:** Alec McPherson, RDN Director, Chair  
Jim Fiddick  
Patti Grand  
Bernard White  
Angela Vincent  
Carolyn Mead  
Andrew Thornton  
Kerri-Lynne Wilson

**Staff:** Hannah King, Superintendent of Recreation Program Services  
Elaine McCulloch, Parks Planner  
Ann-Marie Harvey, Recording Secretary

**Regrets:** Eike Jordan

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair McPherson called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

**DELEGATIONS**

As there were no specific delegations, Chair McPherson opted to have a question and answer time at the end of the meeting so that any questions the patrons in the gallery may still have could be answered.

**MINUTES**

MOVED Commissioner Grand, SECONDED Commissioner White that the minutes of the Regular Electoral Area 'A' Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission meeting held June 18, 2014 be received.

CARRIED

**COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

MOVED Commissioner Vincent, SECONDED Commissioner Fiddick that the following Communications/Correspondence be received:

L. Ebert, Cedar Resident to E. McCulloch, RDN, **RE: Skateboard Lessons**

CARRIED

**REPORTS**

**Monthly Update of Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects–June-August (*handout*)**

Ms. McCulloch reviewed the report for Area 'A' items.  
Commissioner Grand asked if a letter could be sent from the Director to the North Cedar Fire Department thanking them for the watering the grass at the Cedar Skate Park to get it established.

Commissioner Fiddick mentioned that during the Sunday event at the skate park, it was very difficult to get through on Walsh from cars parking on both sides of the road. Ms. McCulloch said she has discussed playground signs with MOTi for that area.

Commissioner Fiddick asked Ms. McCulloch about the Horse Courtesy Sign at Morden Colliery and 49<sup>th</sup> Parallel trailhead going up. Is it there? Ms. McCulloch will follow up.

MOVED Commissioner Grand, SECONDED Commissioner Mead that the Monthly Update of Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects–June-August be received.

CARRIED

#### **Walsh/McMillan Road Parkland Dedication Report** *(For Information)*

Ms. McCulloch gave a brief update of the Walsh/McMillan Rd. parkland dedication. This report went through the Board in August. Chair McPherson noted this land provides a chance for a boardwalk along York Lake.

MOVED Commissioner Wilson, SECONDED Commissioner Vincent that the Walsh/McMillan Road Parkland Dedication Report be received.

CARRIED

#### **Water Access Report** *(Commission)*

Ms. McCulloch handed out a printed version of the Water Access Report draft that was compiled by the Commission. There are still some photos and information missing which the Commission will compile for the next meeting. The Commission decided to add an extra hour to the Recreation Planning Session in November to review changes, additions and priorities to the Water Access Report. Ms. McCulloch offered her assistance if needed (e.g. printing).

MOVED Commissioner Vincent, SECONDED Commissioner Mead that the Water Access Report be received.

CARRIED

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Cedar School – Field, Play Surfacing, Play Equipment and Safe Walk Routes Update**

Ms. McCulloch met with the school district to discuss the field, play surfacing, and play equipment. They walked through the plans and she summarized that the playfield base is sand and is intended mainly for playing soccer. Field booking will likely be through the school coordinators or through SD facilities. The portables will not be moved. A gravel path will connect the school to the skate park.

#### **Cedar School - Safer Walk Routes**

Ms. McCulloch met with MoTI staff, the school principal and the school district facility supervisor. They looked at how they could make a safer walk routes leading to the school. The School District has recently constructed a new path that connects Holden Corso Rd. to the school through the school fields.

Monitoring will be done to make note if the path most taken is through the Cedar Skate Park and if the skate park becomes a drop off point. How can we use our trails to tweak them so that we can get more students on the trails, is what Ms. McCulloch will further discuss with the sub-committee for the safer walk routes.

### **Financial Update - Recreation & Parks Reserve Funds**

- Cash in Lieu account for Park Acquisition = **\$350,321**
- General EA A Community Parks = **\$288,221**
- EA A Community Parks designated for Cedar Plaza = **\$22,656**
- EA A Recreation = **\$273,589**

Chair McPherson explained what the reserve fund usage and cash in lieu accounts can be used for and this summary is for the Commission's information.

### **Recreation Programming and Service Delivery**

Ms. King gave a brief summary of the Electoral Area 'A' timeline of Programming and Services and provided examples of other communities' recreation delivery models.

### **Recreation Planning Session – Date**

The date of November 1<sup>st</sup> from 10-2 was decided on. An additional hour to 3:00pm was suggested so that the Beach access report can be discussed and reviewed for input and changes.

### **Grants Deadline**

Ms. King noted the deadline for Grant submission is September 26<sup>th</sup> and has been advertised in Take 5 and Harbour City Star. There has been one submission to date.

### **QUESTION AND ANSWER**

#### **Debbie Bloom – Pace Rd.**

Headland Rd-Pace Rd to the water, a group of community members made a path. Is there a public access to Hemer Park? Jim and Ms. Bloom will be in contact to discuss.

Ms. McCulloch explained the mechanism of a Trail license that can be entered into with a land owner to alleviate the liability to the land owner. The advantage of having these official trail licences is that the trail routes can then be put on Regional District maps and guides.

#### **James Bennett – Ravenhill Rd.**

What can we do to make a trail?

Chair McPherson noted that if you walk a certain way enough times, it makes a trail but it must be on the MoTI right of way.

Ms. McCulloch explained that you cannot take down trees, and that the RDN must take out a "permission to construct works" permit from MoTI permit for any structure (e.g. culvert, bridge, sign) installed on MoTI property.

#### **Debbie Bloom – Pace Road**

With the interest of the Shasta Rd. connector, would it be possible to discuss the right of way through the back of the property?

Chair McPherson said that when that area comes up for development that is a discussion we can have at the time.

## COMMISSIONER ROUND TABLE

**Commissioner Vincent** noted her intrigue of pulling together of the community history which isn't usually recognized and hopes to see the Boat Harbour book out in the community. Sees lots of opportunities for history.

**Commissioner Mead** had a great time at Village Square Days with her daughters, the event had more things than last year. She told the Commission she will be moving when her house sells as her husband has accepted a job out of town. In the house selling process it reminded her that there is no place here to grab something published to represent Cedar.

**Commissioner Grand** let the Commission know that the URL [www.icedar.ca](http://www.icedar.ca) is available for sale if that is important to somebody in the community. It is \$140/year to maintain and about \$400 to purchase from Bonnie Stevens.

**Commissioner Thornton** shared that it is 5 years to the day when he moved to South Wellington. Mid-Island Taichi.org is the only club run by donation and he just set up the website for it.

**Commissioner McPherson** summarized the funding for the Morden Mine Engineering report - Regional Parks and trails budget committed \$15,000, the City of Nanaimo committed \$7,500, Friends of Morden Mine committed \$23,500 and EA 'A' Parks committed up to \$6500. \$20,800 plus some contingency was the cost that came in and Eric Rich of the Friends of Morden Mine wanted to pass along his thanks to the Commission for the additional funding. Chair McPherson gave an update of the Morden Colliery (Nanaimo River) Bridge study and it will come to this committee for consideration and comment.

## IN CAMERA

MOVED Commissioner Wilson, SECONDED Commissioner Grand that pursuant to Section 90(1) (e) of the Community Charter the Commission proceed to an In Camera Commission meeting to consider items related to land issues.

**TIME: 8:45pm**

CARRIED

## ADJOURNMENT

MOVED Commissioner Thornton SECONDED Commissioner Jordan that the meeting be adjourned at 9:10pm.

CARRIED

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*Chair*