

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

MINUTES OF THE AREA F PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (POSAC)

REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING HELD

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2014

7:00PM

AT THE ARROWSMITH HALL, COOMBS

Attendance: Chair Julian Fell
Alfred Jablonski
Barbara Smith
Colin Anderson
David Edgeley
Reg Nosworthy

Staff: Wendy Marshall
Elaine McCulloch

Regrets: Earl Billingsley

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fell called the meeting to order 7:08 p.m. The agenda was approved.

MINUTES

MOVED A. Jablonski, SECONDED R. Nosworthy that the Minutes of the Electoral Area F Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC) dated March 17, 2014 be approved.

CARRIED

COMMUNICATION/CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from T. Osborne, RDN to R. Koop, School District 69, RE: Facility Use Partnership Opportunities with SD 69.

MOVED R. Nosworthy, SECONDED A. Jablonski to receive the correspondence.

CARRIED

REPORTS

Monthly Update of Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trail Projects

Ms. McCulloch referred to the Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects reports for April, May, and June, provided to the committee.

B. Smith advised there is no report as yet regarding the Errington School trail contact with Ms. Diewold.

Chair Fell advised that there is a Federal Fisheries Employment Program which may be a potential funding source for construction accessible trails. Access to this funding program requires a project in place by a non-profit group. It was speculated by Committee members that these funds might be used in the next phase of the Meadowood Community Park, where a community hall could be established. Pursuant to this, the Chair advised that a surplus portable from school closures might be available to use as a temporary community building at Meadowood Community Park, although there are other groups vying for those excess buildings. He will follow up with this.

B Smith advised that the Section .57 Recreation application started by the Silver Spur Riding Club has been sidetracked.

Ms. McCulloch reviewed the information taken from the trail counter data.

Meadowood Community Park Construction Update

Ms. McCulloch advised that the Meadowood Community Park Phase 1 construction contract has been awarded to Milestone Equipment Contracting Ltd. and that work has begun. Tree planting and seeding cannot happen until the fall. Committee members were concerned about vandalism in the park and suggested that a surveillance camera be installed. Staff noted that legal advice has been sought regarding the legality of monitoring a public park with a camera and that it is not recommended to use cameras as a deterrent nor as a first response to vandalism issues in a park. Milestone Contracting Ltd. is responsible to secure the area until their contract has finished. Ms. McCulloch thanked A. Jablonski for his work to date on the pavilion.

Ms. McCulloch advised that the bridge over Little Qualicum River, through Little Qualicum Regional Park has been damaged and is closed. The present easement holder has been maintaining the bridge and with the closure of their business, bridge repair may become the responsibility of the RDN.

Continuing issue with damage done by ATVs, and it is hoped that the new legislation will address accountability for improper use of ATVs.

Malcolm Community Park Signage Update (verbal)

Ms. McCulloch will continue to investigate the potential of developing a trailhead behind the Whiskey Creek Store.

Ms. Marshall will ascertain the status of the survey of Cranswick Road.

R. Nosworthy spoke about the need to have a bike corridor from Coombs to Errington School, and foresees a transportation problem now that French Creek School is closed.

5-year Project Planning: 2014-2018

The 5-year project planning spreadsheet was reviewed. R. Nosworthy noted that some funds have been budgeted for trail development in 2014/2015. He is concerned that these funds may not be used as other projects, such as the Meadowood Community Park construction, have taken priority for staff time. Chair Fell suggested that the Community Works (CW) Fund (Federal Gas Tax Infrastructure fund administered in BC through UBCM) might be available for trail construction work and will look into this.

Ms. Marshall will distribute the Community Parks and Trails Strategy Final Reports to those members of POSAC who have not received it. This Report is providing information for the creation of a 5-year budget and a development package. A volunteer policy and guidelines will be developed as well.

Chair Fell reviewed the problems with lack of funding for the projects as Meadowood Project has used all of the funds available for parks and trails.

MOVED R. Nosworthy, SECONDED D. Edgeley to receive the Reports.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS AND COMUNICATIONS

Letter of Tom Osborne dated June 25th, 2014 regarding facility use partnership opportunities with School District 69. Partnership opportunities will be welcomed.

NEW BUSINESS

R. Nosworthy questioned what will be done with the French Creek School Building and whether it could be designated as a Heritage Building. However the RDN does not have a Heritage Commission to do so.

AJOURNMENT

MOVED D. Edgeley to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair