

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL AREA 'H' PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016
10:00 AM
(Lighthouse Community Centre, Qualicum Bay)**

ATTENDANCE: Bill Veenhof, Chair, Director, RDN Board
David Wiwchar
Nancy Robertson
Valerie Weismiller

STAFF: Elaine McCulloch, Parks Planner

REGRETS: Barry Ellis
Dagmar Sedel

CALL TO ORDER

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

ELECTION OF SECRETARY

No secretary was elected. This item needs to appear on the next meeting's agenda. E. McCulloch will take the minutes for this meeting.

DELEGATIONS

K. Mohr, Bowser Elementary RE: Outdoor Learning Space Funding Request

Kayla Mohr is a representative of a group of Student Teachers who are working with Bowser Elementary school teachers and the PAC on the construction of an Outdoor Learning Space at the school. The estimated project cost is \$30,000 and includes a covered area, fire ring and an irrigated native plant garden. The School District has agreed to look after the maintenance of the space especially over the summer months. The intention is to use community in-kind donations and labour to off-set some of the construction costs. The organizing committee and the student teachers are working on fund raising and grant writing. The projected construction start date is this spring. The group is asking for partial funding from Electoral Area 'H' Community Parks; no specific funding amount was requested as the group would be happy to receive any amount towards the project.

MINUTES

MOVED D. Wiwchar, SECONDED N. Robertson that the minutes of the regular Electoral Area 'H' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting held September 16th, 2015 be approved.

CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Phase 2 Water Access Development

MOVED V. Weismiller, SECONDED N. Robertson that staff be directed to install water access signage and undertake minor trail improvements at the following MOTI water access sites: #12 Raft Rd, #15 Cochrane Rd, #19 Franksea Rd, #22 Guitar Lane, #25 Hansen Rd or #26 Noonday Rd, #29 McColl Rd, #34 Henry Morgan Dr, #40 Ocean Trail Rd, #41 Oceantrail West, and #48 Deep Bay Dr.

CARRIED

A subcommittee of the POSAC will review the sites and provide further direction at the next POSAC meeting.

CORRESPONDANCE / COMMUNICATIONS

There was no correspondence / Communications

REPORTS

Monthly Update Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects – October 2015 – January 2016

Ms. McCulloch provided a summary of the Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects reports and answered questions. Nine Water Access signs have been installed as per the 2015 work plan. The directional signage at the Big Qualicum Hatchery is currently being installed by a private contractor.

Dunsmuir CP – Summary of Open House Feedback

Ms. McCulloch presented a summary of the Dunsmuir CP open house community feedback.

Dunsmuir CP – Master Plan Design Direction

The POSAC provided the following design direction for the Dunsmuir CP concept plan:

- Development will concentrate on Dunsmuir CP, not an alternative park location.
- Trails – develop a bike-only trail around the perimeter of the park with a separate walking trail route.
- Tennis Court – clean-up and repair / resurface. Look into logistics of a retractable net.
- Sport Court – provide a backstop and low perimeter fence for basketball and street hockey; paint lines.
- Parking – provide an off-road parking lot for 5-10 cars; use the existing driveway off Horne Lake Rd.
- Playground – Not a natural playground. Start small with area to expand if there is demand for a larger playground.
- Washrooms – provide an outhouse with surround.
- Picnic Area – provide tables; no covered area.
- Skatepark – Elaine to speak with Joel (formerly worked with New Line Skateparks) to see what possibilities there might be for the site.
- Potential Budget for improvements: \$200,000, though need to encourage the community to provide at least \$50,000 of in-kind donations for the project.

A bubble concept plan with order of magnitude cost estimates will be presented at the next POSAC meeting followed by a site visit to the park.

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

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATION

The Committee members discussed the request of the Bowser Elementary School to fund the Outdoor Learning Space. More information is needed before the Committee can make a decision regarding funding support for the project. The group will be invited to attend a future POSAC meeting with more information. Concern was raised regarding whether the location of the proposed Learning Space is easily accessible for the general public as it tucked away across the fields from the School, near the Inland Island Highway.

E. McCulloch was asked to look into the whether the proposed project is eligible for Community Works Funding. Director Veenhof will contact Laura Bonner, the teacher who is spearheading the project, to find out more about the project and to provide feedback to the POSAC.

NEW BUSINESS

None

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

B. Veenhof provided an update on the trail mapping project. Volunteers are not currently able to see this project through. An alternative avenue for producing the maps is required; Director Veenhof is looking into the possibility of the RDN taking on the map development project.

COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE

D. Wiwchar – Question: Can the Shoreline stairs be altered to reduce the riser height?

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED N. Robertson that the meeting be adjourned at 11:45 am.

CARRIED

Chair