

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL AREA 'H' PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2016
10:00 AM
(Lighthouse Community Centre, Qualicum Bay)**

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

STAFF: Elaine McCulloch, Parks Planner
Pam Newton, GIS Technician
Kevin Robillard, GIS Technician

OTHER: Ted Seaman, Bowser Trail Bashers
Tom Tryon, Bowser Trail Bashers
Terry King, Bowser Trail Bashers

CALL TO ORDER

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

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.

MINUTES

MOVED D. Wiwchar, SECONDED N. Robertson that the minutes of the regular Electoral Area 'H' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting held May 26th, 2016 be adopted.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Water Access Signage

Staff reported that regulation signage has been removed from the water accesses and the Community Parks and will be replaced with basic water access identification signage. The Crab Rd. water access has been added to the to the development priorities. B. Veenhof to be copied on any correspondence between staff and MoTI regarding the removal of trespass over Water Access.

Bowser Elementary School Outdoor Classroom

Staff reported that after the POSAC's input at the last meeting the Bowser Elementary School Parents Advisory Committee (PAC) requested Community Works funding from the Regional Board and was awarded \$30,000 towards their project.

REPORTS

Monthly Update Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects: June-August and September 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:

Sunny Beach Park Use Permit – A Parks Use Permit was issued to the local Tidal Treasures tourist program to allow event signage at the Sunny Beach Water Access parking lot. Parks Staff are working with the permit holders to reduce the impact the program participants may on the beach and on the local residents.

Deep Bay Creek Trail – Parks Staff have made an agreement with the local Strata Council to allow Park Operations Staff to access the south end of the trail by way of their private driveway. Parks will construct a new small wooden bridge on the Strata property to improve this pedestrian access for both the Strata residents as well as for Parks Operations Staff.

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 Lease Agreement have been determined.

Zoning amendment application 4660 & 4652 Anderson Ave, amenity contribution proposal – Staff reported that the applicant has put forward a proposal to include a \$3,000 amenity contribution towards park improvements in Electoral Area H as part of their zoning amendment application. V. Weismiller noted that there are unofficial trails that cross the property that are part of a larger trail network over Crown Lands. Staff will follow up with Planning on this item.

Official Community Plan (OCP) and Active Transportation Plan (ATP) Update – The OCP is currently being drafted and reviewed by the Community Working Group. The draft plan will include information on existing parks and acquisition priorities and criteria from the Community Parks and Trails Strategy. The timing of the new Regional Parks and Trails Plan to be completed in 2017/2018 is such that new priorities won't be able to be reflected in this revised OCP; however it will refer to the Regional Parks and Trails Strategy and the fact that it is updated and amended from time to time. The Active Transportation Plan is currently in the drafting phase; it is expected to be completed and available to the public in the early New Year.

Dunsmuir CP – Concept Plan

Ms. McCulloch presented a summary of the public input received through the second public open house held in September 2016. The Committee recommended proceeding with park development in a phased approach with the playground and court improvements being included in the first phase and considering bike park and trail development for future phases. The Committee supported the following elements to be included in the development of the Phase 1 construction drawings:

Playground	Concept A which includes a zip line
Sport Court	Resurfacing, perimeter fencing, and new basketball hoops
Tennis Court	Permanently remove the tennis net and repair or resurface the court for pickle ball, ball hockey, etc. Staff to investigate the options for resurfacing or repairing the existing tennis courts and provide a recommendation as to which is the most cost effective once maintenance and replacement costs are factored in.
Park Layout	The general proposed layout of the park including driveway access, parking lot, and picnic area was supported.
Trails	Trail development through the undeveloped portion of the park was generally supported by the public however the Committee recognized that given the poor drainage conditions it could be quite costly.
Bike Skills / Pump Track	The development of a bike skills park were well supported by the public.

MOVED V. Weismiller, SECONDED D. Wiwchar that staff proceed with preparing construction drawings for Concept Plan A for Dunsmuir Community Park.

CARRIED

MOVED D. Wiwchar, SECONDED D. Seydel that staff proceed with clearing a view corridor into Dunsmuir Community Park as part of the 2017 Parks Work Plan.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Trail Mapping

RDN Mapping staff Pam Newton and Kevin Robillard presented the work they have done on mapping the Crown Land trails in Electoral Area 'H'. Members of the *Bowser Trail Bashers* were present at the meeting and asked the following questions:

When is the Olympic Torch Trail going to be completed? Staff assured them that this project is still on the Regional Parks and Trails list of projects and that staff continue to work with Planning to secure a route for the trail.

What is the status of the old Thompson Clarke Railroad? Staff will look into this.

The *Bowser Trail Bashers* requested that extruded metal grating be installed on the boardwalk along the Deep Bay Community Trail. The trail group would like to help parks staff with the install. Staff will follow up with them on this request.

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

V. Weismiller – Noted that Bowser area trails are included in the *book Best Biking Trails on Vancouver Island*.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED D. Wiwchar that the meeting be adjourned at 12:35 pm.

CARRIED

Chair