

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**MINUTES OF ELECTORAL AREA 'E' PARKS AND OPEN SPACES ADVISORY  
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING HELD  
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2017  
6:30 PM  
(Nanoose Place)**

**Attendance:** Director Bob Rogers - Chair  
Gordon Wiebe  
Vicki Swan  
Diana Young  
Marlene Caskey  
Rod Turkington

**Staff:** Wendy Marshall, RDN Parks Manager  
Kelsey Cramer, RDN Parks Planner

**Regrets:** Debbie Mitchell

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Director Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

**INTRODUCE NEW MEMBERS**

Director Rogers introduced the two new members, R. Turkington and V. Swan and Committee and staff introductions were done around the table.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

MOVED R. Turkington, SECONDED D. Young that the agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

**ELECTION OF SECRETARY**

M. Caskey volunteered for the role of secretary.

MOVED D. Young, SECONDED G. Wiebe that M. Caskey be nominated for the role of secretary.

CARRIED

**DELEGATIONS**

**Nanoose First Nation**

Mark Stephens, Nanoose FN Band Manager, Cheryl Jones, Nanoose FN Councillor, and Lawrence Mitchell, Nanoose FN Councillor attended the meeting at the invitation of Director Rogers to participate at the meeting and provide input to naming Oak Leaf Community Park.

L. Mitchell and C. Jones expressed interest and appreciation for the opportunity to attend the meeting and begin working with the RDN at the community level. They indicated they would be honoured to propose a name for the park and will be getting back to the RDN once this has been discussed and considered by their community and elders.

## **MINUTES**

MOVED G. Wiebe, SECONDED D. Young that the Minutes of the Electoral Area 'E' Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Committee meeting held on October 12, 2016 be adopted.

CARRIED

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

K. Cramer distributed an updated Area E parks map that includes the two newest Community Parks – Oak Leaf Drive Community Park and Davenham Road Community Park – as well as Moorecroft Regional Park.

## **COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Jack Bagley Field** – W. Marshall explained that Community Works Funds are from gas tax. The field owned by the RDN and maintained by the School District 69 per agreement. The field is available for community use after school hours.

MOVED G. Wiebe, SECONDED R. Turkington that \$10,000 of Electoral Area 'E' Community Works Funds be allocated to School District 69 (Qualicum) for Jack Bagley field improvements.

CARRIED

## **REPORTS**

### **Parks Update Report - Fall 2016.**

There were no questions or comments from the Committee about the Parks Update Report - Fall 2016.

### ***Oakleaf Community Park***

K. Cramer gave a verbal update that the majority of Phase 1 development for the park is complete. Outstanding items include wooden edging around the parking lot, signage and a bench. Approximately \$20,000 has been spent to date. Phase 2 development is specific to perimeter fencing. A 4' high farm fence similar to that installed at Claudet Community Park is under consideration. Staff will be obtaining cost estimates for the fence along the southern park boundary.

K. Cramer also indicated that the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere has approached the Parks Department to conduct a "Bio Blitz" at Oak Leaf Drive Community Park. This will be administered under a Park Use Permit.

### **Blueback Community Park (verbal)**

K. Cramer summarized that final improvements to the park will occur once the weather improves and include planting and hydroseeding.

Director Rogers requested an update on the BC Marine Trail as it pertains to Blueback Community Park. W. Marshall indicated that the site will be a kayak "drop-in" site of the BC Marine Trails Network Association, specifically for day-use only.

R. Turkington questioned the use of the park by commercial dive companies. Director Rogers outlined that the site was developed with specific consultation with the dive and kayak communities and that their use of the site is expected to occur.

MOVED D. Young, SECONDED G. Wiebe that the Parks Update Report - Fall 2016, the Oak Leaf Drive Community Park verbal report and the Blueback Community Park verbal report be received.

CARRIED

### **Nanoose Playground Report**

MOVED G. Wiebe, SECONDED R. Turkington that staff be directed to remove the play structure at Nanoose Road Community Park and in consultation with the Nanoose Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee determine an alternative park use for the site.

CARRIED

### **Directors Report**

Director Rogers reported that the RDN budget approval will occur in March, with increases in operating cost and an expected requisition amount of \$8/\$100,000, which relates to upcoming capital expenditures.

MOVED R. Turkington, SECONDED D. Young that the report be received.

CARRIED

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Nanoose Bay Parks and Open Space Plan (2001) and Community Parks and Trails Strategy (2015)**

K. Cramer distributed a handout that summarized the following differences between the two documents:

#### **A Parks and Open Space Plan for Nanoose Bay (2001)**

- Plan is 16 years old and outdated.
- Several items have been accomplished (e.g creation of POSAC, parkland acquisitions and park development projects).
- Plan addresses Regional and Community Parks, where the RDN now have separate Regional Parks and Trails Plan.
- Some action items are not under the jurisdiction/ authority of the RDN Parks department. (e.g. ecological monitoring, work on private lands, provincial ministry initiatives, etc.).
- Approach to beach/water accesses is not conducive with community park mandate and should follow approach taken in other EA's.

### Community Parks and Trails Strategic Plan for Electoral Areas E, F, G & H (2014)

- Plan is 3 years old and is a living document to be reviewed and updated in 2019.
- Captures current priorities and based on recent public consultation and includes review of 2001 plan.
- Offers unified document for several Electoral Areas to create consistency across the parks system.
- Summarizes current stats, trends, funding options, community park budgets, acquisition methods and partnership opportunities.
- 2019 update could include more detail on water accesses, as these were not included in 2014 plan, as well as more detail on relationships with First Nations.

The Committee discussed the plans and the suggestion to rescind the 2001 plan.

MOVED G. Wiebe, SECONDED M. Caskey that the Parks and Open Space Plan for Nanoose Bay (2001) be rescinded and the Community Parks and Trails Strategic Plan for Electoral Areas E, F, G & H (2014) be the guiding document for community parks in Electoral Area 'E'.

CARRIED

### Moorecroft Planning Workshop

K. Cramer introduced the idea of a planning workshop for a portion of the development zone in Moorecroft Regional Park. Select workshop participants would be invited to attend and work collaboratively to refine placement and relationships of the amenities and park improvements noted in the management plan. One or two POSAC members were invited to volunteer to participate. D. Young and V. Swan volunteered and will be contacted to participate in the workshop.

### 5-Year Plan update

The 5-Year Plan was included on the agenda to provide members a sense of where priorities are currently sitting. The following meeting in June will be the time to refine and set out the work plan, which will factor into the budget process for the upcoming year.

### June POSAC Meeting – Option to hold it at a park in the afternoon

Director Rogers introduced the idea of holding the June POSAC meeting outdoors in a park and asked for Committee feedback on the idea by mid-April.

### Confirm POSAC time suits members

All confirmed the 6:30pm start time is suitable.

### Water Accesses

M. Caskey raised the topic of water accesses and a desire to see this addressed seriously. W. Marshall provided a brief overview of how other Electoral Area POSACs have self-organized into a sub-committee to inventory, photograph and note development and signing ideas and impacts of development. Rogers

encouraged group to pursue this. M. Caskey volunteered to lead this initiative. V.Swan and G. Wiebe volunteered to participate. D. Mitchell was nominated to participate.

### **Nanoose Road Community Park**

Director Rogers brought forward the idea of an off-leash dog park at this site once the playground is gone, noting he has had some inquiries from the public about the provision of a dog park. As per the motion, the POSAC is to consider the future use of this site for further discussion and the next meeting in June.

### **COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE**

G. Wiebe provided a summary of the District 69 Recreation Commission meeting and noted that the Grants Committee had approved \$62,500 in grants for 2017. There is a survey seeking public input to the Recreation Services 10-year update and he encouraged all to complete it by March 20<sup>th</sup>.

M. Caskey would like to see all parks signed on site. K. Cramer responded that Parks staff is looking at this for community parks across the region.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED R. Turkington, SECONDED D. Young that the meeting be adjourned at 8:50pm.

CARRIED

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Chairperson