**Minutes of a Meeting of the**

**Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission**

**Held Tuesday, January 7, 2014, at the Juan de Fuca Local Area Services Building,**

**3 – 7450 Butler Road, Otter Point, BC**

**PRESENT:** L. Paterson (Chair), C. Bennett, A. Boquist, V. Braunschweig, K. Douch,

S. Jorna, M. Kimmel, W. Vowles (Alternate Director)

**Staff:** R. Hamilton, Parks & Recreation Manager; S. Joslin, Realty Services;

W. Miller, Recorder

**OTHER:** Director M. Hicks

**ABSENT:** P. Sloan

**PUBLIC:** Approximately 15

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

1. **Elections**

R. Hamilton called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for 2014 and Commissioner Paterson’s name was put forward. The Manager called two times for further nominations and, as there was none, Commissioner Paterson was declared Chair.

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for 2014 and Commissioner Douch’s name was put forward. The Chair called two times for further nominations and, as there was none, Commissioner Douch was declared Vice Chair.

Alternate Director Vowles entered the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

The following addition was made to the agenda:

6. a) Juan de Fuca Community Land Trust Society

**MOVED** by Commissioner Boquist, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Kimmel that the agenda be approved as amended. **CARRIED**

1. **Adoption of the Minutes from the Meeting of November 5, 2013**

**MOVED** by Commissioner Douch, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Boquist that the minutes from the meeting of November 5, 2013 be adopted. **CARRIED**

1. **Chair’s Report**

No report.

1. **Director’s Report**

Alternate Director Vowles welcomed everyone to the new Juan de Fuca Local Area Services building.

1. **Presentations/Delegations**
2. **Juan de Fuca Community Land Trust Society**

Sid Jorna, Society Director, spoke to the Society’s mandate and opportunity to donate to the funds established to facilitate purchase of the Admiral’s Forest and to support maintenance of the lands preserved through the Society. It was advised that the Society’s current priority is the purchase of the 65 acres owned by the estate of Rear Admiral Charles. Donation of approximately $700,000 would enable purchase of the land for creation of a community forest that would connect to an extensive network of trails in the Otter Ridge area. It was advised that donations can be made through the Victoria Foundation.

1. **Seagirt Ponds Preservation Society**

Gloria Snively, Society President, introduced Claudia Berry and Sheila Lund, Society Directors, and Brian White, chair of the Society’s Planning Committee. Gloria Snively spoke to the Society’s purpose and draft stewardship strategy.

Brian White outlined the three development phases proposed for 2014 – 2015.

Phase 1 – lower pond iris removal

* pilot removal exercise in November 2013 successful
* future removal site identified
* removal must be organized as to avoid release of toxic sap and to allow for natural flushing of the pond
* removal project will support creation of amphibian breeding grounds
* removal of logs in the upper pond may assist in increasing oxygen levels, supporting return of amphibians

Phase 2 – terrestrial invasive plant species removal

* removal will focus on English holly and English ivy
* trial clearing day successful
* eight more clearing days anticipated to remove holly/ivy between lower pond to upper pond
* other invasive species have been identified (thistles, tansy ragweed, broom, daphne, European orchids)

Phase 3 – reintroduction of native plants

* species for reintroduction and species for protection have been identified

Gloria Snively spoke to the Society’s goal to raise public, environmental and conservation awareness by supporting access infrastructure and educational opportunities. There is interest in interpretive kiosks, an access pier and educational supplies. An interpretive book has been started to potentially support fundraising.

Sheila Lund confirmed that the Society does not have charitable status yet.

R. Hamilton advised that the Commission will review and comment on the draft strategy and proposed projects, budgets and timelines. Upon review and Commission approval, there may be opportunity to annually allocate funds from the Commission’s budget to support the Society’s endeavours.

Director Hicks spoke to grant in aid qualifications and processing, advising that funding generally does not exceed $2,000.

1. **Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society**

Michael Galizio, Society President, introduced delegation members Sharon Bruton,
Terri Alcock, John Walls, Bill Turner, Jean Conway, Bill Parks, and Dominique Bernardet.

Michael Galizio spoke to the Society’s endeavours from approximately 2003 to date to work with the CRD to explore opportunity to acquire the lighthouse land. It was stated that:

* acquisition of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) land was first explored and continues to be explored under the federal Treasury Board Policy on disposal of real property
* the Society is also exploring acquisition of the land under the *Heritage Lighthouse Preservation Act (HLPA)*
* acquisition is focused on the parcel of land occupied by the lighthouse
* remaining two parcels are being considered by the T’Sou-ke Nation under the treaty negotiation process
* DFO does not support subdivision of the parcel occupied by the lighthouse
* there has been ongoing discussion with R. Hamilton and S. Joslin regarding implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) prior to acquisition to set out a framework to accommodate the interests of the Society and the CRD
* the Society is willing to pay for park planning and design in addition to maintenance of the lighthouse
* in view of the funding available, the Society does not support the length or management terms of the proposed MOU
* the CRD has communicated that it will not support an option for co-management or co-ownership
* subsequently, the Society passed a resolution supporting acquisition of the land and structure through the *HLPA* in partnership with the local government but, if this is not a possibility, the Society supports sole acquisition by the Society
* acquisition by the Society with implementation of a MOU with the CRD which provides for greater planning and management by the Society with the support of Society financing is seen as the “win win” situation

Sharon Bruton read aloud a letter from her sister, Elanie Bruton, outlining the family’s experiences as the last keepers of the lighthouse. The letter acknowledges the Society’s endeavours to preserve the lighthouse and supports the Society’s efforts to acquire the site under the *HLPA.*

John Walls, Shirley, read aloud a letter from Marie Wilson written on behalf of Audrey Wilson and family, lighthouse keepers. The letter supports the Society’s efforts to acquire the site under the *HLPA* for park. John Walls spoke to the number of letters received from community and political contacts, including John Horgan, MLA, supporting the Society’s endeavours.

Terri Alcock, Shirley, acknowledged the oral history provided by Audrey Wilson and the history’s contribution to the book released in by the Society. Terri Alcock stated that it is important to acquire the lighthouse lands in full to respect the history of the lighthouse keepers, community and country. Terri Alcock stated that the Society has funds available for planning, design, and maintenance. It was stated that the Society wishes to work with the T’Sou-ke Nation to acknowledge their history and to work with the Commission to receive its guidance, advice and counsel.

Bill Turner, Society member, forwarded positive comment regarding the Society’s established commitment and energy to raise funds and partner with the CRD to establish the lighthouse and lands as a heritage site.

R. Hamilton reported on the:

* the Commission’s long standing interest in securing the lighthouse lands for public park held by the local government
* the CRD Board’s resolution supporting the acquisition of the lighthouse lands for community park
* the Commission’s efforts to support and work towards a partnership with the Society
* the progress made to date to explore subdivision of the lighthouse lands to support fee simple transfer of the lands and development of a MOU

Michael Galizio stated that the Society does not support the term and management clauses outlined in the proposed MOU. It was further stated the DFO can madate that the lands transferred to the Society must remain open to the public.

R. Hamilton stated that, should the lands be transferred in full to the Society, the CRD would no longer be interested in entering into a MOU as the CRD would have no legal interest in the lands. R. Hamilton responded to comment regarding the Commission’s operating budget. It was advised that, should lands be transferred to the CRD for Community Park, development would be minimal with a focus on providing safe park access.

The Chair spoke to the Commission’s role and interest in acquiring the lighthouse lands for Community Park. The Chair forwarded support for working in continued collaboration with the Society for the benefit of all parties.

Dominique Bernardet, Shirley, stated that Shirley Pioneer Park is not held by the CRD but remains accessible to the larger public.

S. Joslin stated that he is unaware of any occurrences for the CRD co-owing lands with another party.

Commission member comments included:

* there is great interest in the lands identified for park being transferred to the local government as societies can dissolve
* should the lands be transferred in full to the Society and the Society is no longer able to hold the lands, the lands would be reverted back to DFO, falling again under the federal disposal policy
* letters of support endorse protection and preservation of the lighthouse site under stewardship of the Society
* Society’s message of stewardship has moved to ownership
* Charters Creek (Juan de Fuca Salmon Restoration Society) was able to secure a lease with the CRD for 60 years

**MOVED** by Commissioner Jorna, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Braunschweig that the Regional Director be asked to determine if the CRD can enter into a 60 year co-management agreement or co-ownership arrangement for community park purposes.

 **CARRIED**

1. **Staff Reports**
2. **Staff News**

Seagirt Ponds Community Park – Yellow Flag Iris Removal

R. Hamilton briefly spoke to the project advising that the pilot provided good information in terms of the cost implications for future work.

Restoration of Life Tenancy Area – William Simmons Park

R. Hamilton reported on the restoration by the executor for the former life tenant. It was further reported that once work is completed, signs and a gate will be installed. Staff will continue discussion with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding access into the park and with the Ministry of Environment regarding funding opportunities to support a dock.

The Commission asked staff to relay a thank you to 4M Bobcat and Trucking, contractor for the executor.

Mount Matheson Community Trail Development

A site meeting with Mount Matheson Conservation Society members and Regional Parks staff is being set up in January to determine the exact route of the community trail.

The funding request submitted by the Society for $20,000 from the Union of BC Municipalities Gas Tax was approved by Electoral Area Services Committee in November. Logistics of funding construction of a community trail within Statutory Rights of Way held by the CRD is being explored.

New Service Bylaw 3767 – Update

Bylaw is at 3rd reading. Bylaw needs to be approved by the Provincial Approving Officer before the CRD can move forward with the alternative approval process. It is anticipated that, if approved, a new budget structure could come into effect for the 2015 budget year.

1. **Correspondence**
2. **Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society – Sheringham Point Trail – 3rd Quarter Report**

The Chair received the correspondence.

1. **Unfinished Business**
2. **Admiral John Charles Property**
3. **Subdivision Referral S-05-12 (Brown’s Mountain, Port Renfrew)**
4. **Long Term Trail Program**

Item to be considered at the February regular meeting.

Comment was forwarded noting that development proposals are pending approval of the Otter Point OCP and that Gas Tax funding can be pursued for projects supporting alternative transportation routes and recreation. Further comment was forwarded noting that there is interest in donation of machine time to improve Butler Trail along Otter Point Road.

1. **New Business**
2. **Public Question Period**
3. **Next Meeting**

February 25, 2014

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Louise Paterson, Chair Wendy Miller, Recorder