



Making a difference...together

**Minutes of a Meeting of the
Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Held Tuesday, September 23, 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, K. Douch, S. Jorna, M. Kimmel
Staff: R. Hamilton, Parks & Recreation Manager; E. Taylor, Planner, Local Area Planning; W. Miller, Recorder
ABSENT: V. Braunschweig, P. Sloan, W. Vowles (Alternate Director)
PUBLIC: 0

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

1. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by Commissioner Jorna, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Boquist that the agenda be approved. **CARRIED**

2. Adoption of the Minutes from the Meeting of June 24, 2014

MOVED by Commissioner Douch, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Jorna that the minutes from the meeting of June 24, 2014 be adopted. **CARRIED**

3. Chair's Report

No report.

4. Director's Report

No report.

5. Delegations/Presentations

a) Local Area Planning – Subdivision Referral S-03-14 (6649 Godman Road – Lum)

E. Taylor spoke to the subdivision application and provision of park land under Section 941 of the *Local Government Act*. E. Taylor advised that the 5% land dedication requirement would equate to approximately 415 m² (0.0415 ha). Cash value would equate to approximately \$15,050 based on the land's 2014 assessed value. It was further advised that the subject property is not adjacent to existing park/trail ways. Should cash-in-lieu of park land be pursued, it was confirmed that cash must be received prior to subdivision approval.

MOVED by Commissioner Jorna, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Kimmel that the Commission recommend to the Land Use Committee that cash-in-lieu of park land be requested pursuant to Section 941 of the *Local Government Act* for the proposed subdivision of Lot 2, District Lot 17, Renfrew District, Plan 32241 and subject to verification of appraisal value acceptable to the Commission.

CARRIED

It was advised that staff will work with CRD Real Estate to determine appraisal value acceptable to the CRD. Funds received will be directed to the Commission's land account.

6. Staff Reports

a) Staff News

William Simmons Site Management Plan Update

A draft of the revised William Simmons Memorial Park management plan was presented to the Commission comment. An open house presenting updates to the final draft will be scheduled for November 27 from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Local Area Services Building. A questionnaire will be made available the week prior to the open house and the week following the open house.

New Funding Bylaw

It is anticipated that Bylaw No. 3767 will be adopted by the CRD Board on October 8, 2014. The new bylaw will amalgamate the parks and recreation program budgets and provide a new maximum requisition levy. In addition to the new amalgamated budget, a lift of 12.5% (\$27,000) in the 2015 budget has been requested. The purpose of this is to adjust for lost revenue and impacts of not being able to keep pace with cost of living increases since 2008 (the year the current bylaw maximum tax levy was reached).

Sheringham Road

The Manager provided an update, advising that transfer of the lighthouse lands at Sheringham Point to the Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society has not been actioned yet as there are issues regarding the Society securing public access on the strata portion of Sheringham Point Road to the lighthouse lands. Although the CRD supports the pending transfer to the Society, the CRD continues to address its strata road liability and funding concerns through dialogue with Public Works and with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

DeMamiel Park Hydro Access Road

The Manager reported that a visit was held on July 7 with a contractor for BC Hydro to review the request from BC Hydro to re-establish an 8 ft. wide access road in order to ensure maintenance and emergency access to Hydro's secondary and main transmission lines. It was advised that a similar request was made by two adjoining property owners. Following the site visit, it was confirmed that construction to reestablish the road will begin in September. The all season road, measuring between 10 to 12 ft, will provide proper drainage. Access will be secured with the installation of a heavy gate along with a double lock-box to accommodate BC Hydro and CRD locks and barricading will be placed to help prevent unauthorized access. BC Hydro has agreed to remove Broom from the road and, within a reasonable machine reach distance, from the roadsides. BC Hydro will also remove the plastic (deer browse) sleeves from trees within the road clearing area.

Commission comment was forwarded supporting a site visit to the park. Although the park is currently land locked, Commissioners acknowledged the conservation value the park provides to the adjacent fish bearing creeks.

Mount Matheson Community Trail Stewardship Agreement

The Manager presented pictures of the new directional and usage signs installed in July.

It was reported that in August 2014 JdFEA Parks and Recreation entered into a Stewardship Agreement with the Mount Matheson Conservation Society for both the

community trail portion as well as the trail segment through Roche Cove and Lake Matheson Regional Parks.

Seagirt Ponds Improvements and Yellow Iris Removal

The Manager reported that the objectives for the park as set out in the 2014 work plan have now been met. It was further reported that there will be a work party of staff and volunteers carrying out Yellow Iris removal from the main pond on September 29 and 30. Given the unusually low water levels in the ponds this year, this project has been moved forward as an opportunity to remove all of the iris. The plan will be to excavate the iris and let the root mats drain in a designated area for a few days before pick-up and disposal by Regional Parks operators to Hartland landfill. The Society has acquired \$2,000 of grant-in-aid funding to help cover the cost of this project.

The Manager provided photos of the low water levels at the ponds at Seagirt and Carpenter Road Park.

Commission comment was forwarded supporting installation of signage advising of the removal project and toxicity of the iris. Further comment was forwarded stating that they may be Yellow Iris in the pond at William Simmons Memorial Park.

Seagirt Ponds Preservation Society Stewardship Strategy Update

The new Society Board of Directors has approved a final draft of the Stewardship Strategy for the park. This strategy has now come to the Commission for review and comment. The Manager will consolidate comments as well as ensure the plan identifies Society projects/costs, the Parks program projects/costs and overall project timelines. Once a final version is complete, a motion will be put forward for Commission approval.

JdFEA Park Maintenance - Summer Work Objectives

The Manager highlighted the projects completed by the work crew over the summer season.

Trail Planning Meeting – Regional Parks Planner

Further to the meeting held on July 22, the Manager advised that he met with Carolyn Stewart, Regional Parks Planner, to stress continued collaboration with Regional Parks to work towards future trail connections in the electoral area, with a particular focus of potential routes for the westward extension of the Galloping Goose trail.

Priest Cabin Park – Legal Access

The Manager provided follow up to a meeting on July 15 with the adjacent property owner and June Klassen, Local Area Planning Manager and Simon Joslin, Real Estate Services, to explore if there were any options to resolve the legal access from the public road on Lot 26 to Priest Cabin Community Park and the connecting community trail through District Lot 177 to the north of the park. At this time, the property owner stated no interest in accepting additional SRWs or easements on the land adjacent to the park until the outstanding requirement to rezone Lot 26 can be accomplished. The property owner did confirm that JdFEA Parks and Recreation staff are still welcome to use the existing private road for access and maintenance needs for the park and trail.

Potential Trail Projects

The Manager reported that he will be meeting with Valhalla Trails Inc. on October 14 to review and obtain cost estimates for construction or improvements to the JdFEA trail systems at William Simmons Memorial Park, Wieland Trail, Becher Bay and The Shores.

In reference to Wieland Trail, it was confirmed that the new Otter Point Official Community Plan is scheduled to be adopted on October 8.

William Simmons Orchard Trees and Sequoia

The Manager reported that, with permission, volunteers picked the apple and plum trees for the local food bank.

The Manager further reported that he met with Glen's Gardening Company to develop a plan to prune and maintain the orchard trees and sequoia in the park. The company will put together a strategy and budget for work that can be done over the next year.

Commission comment was forwarded:

- acknowledging the heritage value of the fruit trees
- supporting maintenance of the trees and rehabilitation of the flower beds
- promoting a pruning program as a recreation program opportunity

7. Correspondence

a) Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society - Sheringham Point Lighthouse View Trail 2nd Quarterly Report

The Chair received the correspondence.

8. New Business

a) Seagirt Ponds Stewardship Strategy

As noted in Staff News.

b) 2014 Parks and Recreation Program Budget – Review and Recommendation

The Manager spoke to the three year service plan noting that the plan is entering its third year. The Manager directed attention to Key Trends and Issues, Service Levels and Divisional Initiatives planned for 2015. The line items for the Parks program and the Recreation program were reviewed.

Commission comment was forwarded supporting adding work to the orchard at William Simmons Memorial Park to the initiatives for 2015.

The Manager advised that it is anticipated that gas tax funds will be made available for work on Wieland Trail and William Simmons.

MOVED by Commissioner Douch, **SECONDED** by Commissioner Jorna that the Commission recommend approval of the 2013-2015 Service Plan for Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation and 2015 Program Budgets.

CARRIED

c) BC Liquor Control and Licensing Branch – Liquor Sales at Farmers' Markets

Due to change in legislation, Regional Parks is reviewing policy statements to address liquor sales at farmers' markets.

Rather than having a policy to address liquor sales in parks, the Commission stated support for addressing liquor by way of park use permits.

9. Unfinished Business

a) Admiral John Charles Property

It was advised that the property was sold to a family member. It was reported that the Juan de Fuca Community Land Trust Society has achieved charitable status.

b) Subdivision Referral S-05-12 (Brown's Mountain, Port Renfrew)

c) Long Term Trail Program

10. Public Question Period

11. Next Meeting

No meeting in October. Next scheduled meeting is November 25, 2014.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Louise Paterson, Chair

Wendy Miller, Recorder