



MIPRC Minutes - September 12, 2012

The September meeting of the MIPRC was held at the Library on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 and was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Present: Peter Askin (Chair) Jerry Wise (Secretary) Jerry Betker
Christie Meers Doug Johnston Bill Duggan Veronica Euper
Absent: Liz Howard

Guests: Richard DeArmond - member MI Economic Development Commission
Scott Magee - former participant in developing the Trans Canada Trail
Helen O'Brian - member MI Conservancy

1. **Approval of agenda: moved** by Doug, seconded by Bill, that the agenda be adopted. Motion carried. Additionally, a hearty welcome was extended by all to our new Commissioner - Veronica Euper.
2. **Guest presentation:** our 3 guests were representing the Trail Committee of the newly formed Mayne Island component of the "Experience the Gulf Islands" (ETGI) group. The group is working toward creating a network of hiking trails and marine connections throughout the Gulf Islands allowing for the easy inter-island movement of visitors and residents. They hope to mirror the success of the "Experience the Fraser Valley" group who created trails from Hope to Vancouver and enjoyed a subsequent bump in tourism and related economic stimulus. The immediate goal of the MI ETGI is to establish a trail from Miner's Bay to Horton Bay with the first step being to map a workable route. The MIPRC agreed to work co-operatively using established trails where possible and to provide input and assistance. At least one Parks Commissioner will attend the next meeting of the MI ETGI on September 26.
3. **Approval of August minutes:** as there were no errors or omissions it was **moved** by Jerry W, seconded by Christie, that the August minutes be approved. Motion carried.
4. **Correspondence (in-coming):**
 - a) Email from Eden Buday, Treasurer of the Mayne School PAC, responding to our request for more information relative to their Recreation Grant application.
 - b) Email requesting a baby change table in the Library public washrooms.
 - c) Email from the MayneLiner requesting sponsorship for the "Tide Tables" page.
 - d) Email from Bill Warning with a quote for remedial work on the Miner's Bay water system.
 - e) Email from Ian Watt volunteering to build a beach access trail on Village Point.
5. **Correspondence (out-going):** none
6. **Old business:**
 - a) The information provided by the Mayne School PAC was reviewed. **Moved** by Jerry W, seconded by Christie, that the PAC's application for a Recreation Grant be approved in the amount of \$3,500. Motion carried.

b) The annual Terry Fox Run will be held on Sunday, September 16 with the start/finish line located in Miner's Bay Park. The MIPRC had previously agreed to cover the cost of 3rd party liability insurance for the event as well as provide up to \$150 for ice cream, smarties and syrup. Everything is ready to go and the ice cream, etc. has been ordered from one of our local stores.

c) There have been previous communications from the Parks Commission on Saturna Island to the effect that they will be hosting a commonality meeting on October 17. Nothing has been heard recently and so Peter will check and see if it's still on.

7. **New business:**

a) Bill spoke to a number of complaints from residents and visitors about the unacceptable state of the Miner's Bay public washrooms. The main problem is three-fold. First is the vandalism that caused blockages in various washroom fixtures, second is the slow response time and third is the unfinished nature of the floors and walls. Unfortunately, nothing can be done about the vandalism other than to let it run its course which seems to have happened both at Miner's Bay and Dinner Bay. The blockages were exacerbated by our salaried maintenance person calling the plumber but then not following up and so nothing happened for 3 weeks. Bill himself had to vacuum out the drain pipes and he feels that the state of the floors and walls can be easily improved. Bill volunteered to organize and set a date for a work party to firstly wash and clean the floors and walls, and then paint them with a high grade paint that seals as well as beautifying. Also, **moved** by Bill, seconded by Doug, to strike a committee to review the contract with our maintenance person with a view to improving its workability and better define the expectations of both parties. Motion carried.

b) The request for a baby change table in the Miner's Bay Library washroom was discussed. **Moved** by Jerry W, seconded by Bill, that we install such a table in the women's washroom. Motion carried. Jerry B advised that we may have a spare table in the Dinner Bay storage room.

c) The request from Alea Design & Print that we consider sponsoring the Tides Page in the monthly MayneLiner magazine was discussed. It was decided that the page provides very useful recreational information. **Moved** by Jerry W, seconded by Bill, that we sponsor the page at a cost of \$75 per month for an initial 12-month period with a note of our sponsorship being shown at the top of the page. Motion carried.

d) Quotes for remedial work on the Miner's Bay water system were discussed. VIHA has requested that the well-head be raised and sealed, and there is also a need for a new UV light system to purify the water. **Moved** by Jerry W, seconded by Bill, that the \$1,000 quote from Randall Smithson for the remedial work be accepted and that Bill Warning be given the go-ahead to replace the UV system for a cost of approximately \$900. Total costs, including labour, for both projects are not to exceed \$2,000. Motion carried.

e) Ian Watt, who lives on Mariners Way, has located an easement for a beach access across the street from his residence. He has volunteered to clear the brush thereby creating a trail and small park at the water's edge. He has also volunteered to donate a concrete bench similar to the one at the Village Bay boat launch ramp. The offer was discussed as were some of the potential obstacles such as who owns the easement and the close proximity of the proposed beach access to Village Bay Park just four properties away. At any rate, seeing as how Ian is the next-door neighbour of Commissioner Doug Johnston, Doug volunteered to have an in-depth discussion with Ian.

- f) Commissioner Christie Meers raised the topic of recreation activities for Island kids - specifically the idea of a skateboard park. She has done some research and for the purposes of raising grant funding, etc. it appears it would be better to have the effort sponsored by the MIPRC. The idea is at a very early stage and a lot more research is yet to be done before it moves out into the community. **Moved** by Christie, seconded by Jerry W, to strike a committee to pursue the whole topic of a skateboard park on Mayne Island. Motion carried. Christie volunteered to be Chair of the committee and Jerry W along with Veronica volunteered to be members.
8. **Treasurer's report:** Jerry W presented his financial report up to September 12, 2012. He advised that it has been a quiet month other than the Recreation expense figure being high because of the payout of the bulk of the approved recreation grants. He also advised that donations for the Japanese Gardens continue in very generous amounts. **Moved** by Jerry W, seconded by Bill, that the report be accepted as presented. Motion carried. A discussion followed about the Dave Bentham Award which is granted annually to a deserving student - high academic achievements plus good citizenship activities - as judged by a committee of school personnel. The award consists of a certificate plus a trophy plus a \$100 Canada Savings Bond donated by the MIPRC. The award has been in place for over 20 years but unfortunately with the change-over in the roster of Commissioners it has dropped off the Commission's agenda for the past 2 years. **Moved** by Jerry W, seconded by Bill, that the award be increased to \$200 starting with the 2011 recipient and that investigations be made to see if it can be paid in a form other than a CSB. Motion carried with Jerry volunteering to make sure the past due payments are completed in the increased amount.
9. **Park reports:**
- a) Dinner Bay Park report from Jerry B - the grass has finally gone dormant and so mowing activities have dropped dramatically. The concrete pad poured for one of the new benches is working extremely well and so similar pads may be retrofitted for other benches. New wood chips have been ordered from the Recycling Centre for the playground area. Mark Aitkin will be doing additional work on low branches along the shoreline. Jerry also advised that as there is no longer a John Deere dealer in Sydney the one in Duncan will now ship parts. 2 new weed-eaters will be purchased.
 - b) Japanese Garden - no report.
 - c) Miners Bay Park - the new trellis for the entrance to the Library is under construction and looking very good. There will be 2 benches included
 - d) Henderson Park / Trail Network combined report from Peter - all the trails are in good shape. We are already into the second box of trail brochures as they are in high demand.
 - e) Village Bay Park - no report.
10. In his closing remarks Peter advised that he will not be standing for the position of Chair next year but would certainly be available to continue as a Commissioner.
11. **Adjourn: Moved** by Bill, seconded by Jerry B, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm. Motion carried.

Next meeting to be held at the Library on Wednesday, October 10 at **3:30 pm**.