

PENDER ISLANDS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (PIPRC)
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Thursday, April 19, 2012 (9:15 am)
Community Hall Lounge, North Pender Island

Present: Arn Berry, John Chapman, Colin McLarty, Margaret Alpen, Jim Pugh, Peter Clarke, David Howe, Michael Symons, Zorah Staar (PIPRC Recorder), with Ethan Smith (PIPRC Contractor) present for part of the meeting.

Regrets: Pete Williams

Public: none

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Arn Berry called the meeting to order at approximately 9:20 am.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was amended to add an item about a Yew Tree to New Business.

MOTION: Moved by Margaret Alpen, seconded by Peter Clarke, that the proposed agenda be approved, as amended. **CARRIED**

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Moved by Margaret Alpen, seconded by Colin McLarty, that the March 15, 2012 PIPRC minutes be approved. **CARRIED**

4. FIRST IN CAMERA SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Peter Clarke, seconded by Michael Symons, that the meeting be closed to the public for the purpose of approving In Camera Minutes and discussing property matters. **CARRIED**

Note: See separate In Camera Minutes of the same date.

MOTION: Moved by Michael Symons, seconded by Margaret Alpen, to temporarily adjourn the In Camera portion of the meeting, and re-open the meeting to the public. **CARRIED**

Note: PIPRC Contractor Ethan Smith then entered the meeting, and David Howe left after the first In Camera discussions.

5. MAINTENANCE REPORT & DISCUSSIONS

Ethan Smith had emailed a Maintenance Report, and he made additional comments and/or there was discussion about the following:

- in past few weeks there was continuing clean-up from March 12 windstorm;
- new trail created for Enchanted Forest/Poet's Cove Viewpoint (PIPRC Commissioner suggested that Poet's Cove bench site be moved further back, and perhaps a park boundary or private property sign be installed? – Smith is to consider this and follow-up);
- new “no garbage dumping” signs installed in 5 PIPRC outhouses;
- contractor will grade at Mortimer Spit ASAP (hopefully next week);
- new 4-part PIPRC signs (e.g. “no fires...”) will be installed at key sites shortly;
- PIPRC Commissioner suggested installing a second dog waste station at Disk Park, in lower parking lot (agreed to see how initial stations work out first);
- grass and brush trimming to begin in a few weeks;
- re: Shingle Bay kayak ramp, Smith said that it seemed fine right now, and could be addressed if further erosion made it unstable).

Ethan Smith was congratulated for doing a fine job (with Greg Lucas) on the new Enchanted Forest/Poet's Cove Trail. Smith then left the meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Request to Use Mortimer Spit

A private contractor had asked to use Mortimer Spit as a staging area to transfer rock. Chair Berry and other Commissioners believed that this was an inappropriate, potentially damaging commercial use, and Lloyd Rushton of the CRD had agreed. Berry said that he would follow up. Rushton had also suggested that a new Parks & Recreation Bylaw for Pender could provide further clarity on such issues. Michael Symons said that perhaps the existing bylaw could simply be amended, for the same purpose.

7. PRIORITY ITEMS

None

8. REPORTS

8.1 Chair's Report (Arn Berry)

Berry reported that CRD representatives would be at the Gardom Dam on April 29, and he was willing to attend with them. The Pender Newcomers had requested a PIPRC presentation (agreed that this could involve Ethan Smith, John Chapman, and/or other Commissioners - to be followed up). The new PIPRC office was at Hope Bay (agreed that Margaret Alpen could ask the realtors if they could hold the key for Commissioners to access). The April 12 Parks & Recreation Commonality Meeting had gone well, with various interesting topics considered (see Commonality Minutes).

8.2 CRD Director's Report (David Howe)

None (David Howe had needed to leave the meeting earlier).

8.3 Treasurer/Financial Report

Treasurer Margaret Alpen had emailed out the latest financial statements from the CRD. The Commonality Meeting cost approximately \$1,200 (for Poet's Cove space rental and two meals for Commissioners from various islands).

8.4 Recreation Report

Margaret Alpen said that she had updated the recreation funding application on the website. The application deadline wasn't until September. It was agreed that at the July or August meeting, the PIPRC would consider which funding guidelines might need further clarification.

8.5 Communications Report

Arn Berry said that he was writing the Pender Post article for May, about the Commonality Meeting and the new Poet's Cove trail. Margaret Alpen said that she would write the article for June.

8.6 Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Michael Symons had heard from the CRD that he they didn't need to use the bottom part of the volunteer registration form, and that such forms could simply be retained by the PIPRC (for future insurance purposes if necessary). There was a suggestion to try to enlist more volunteer trail monitors at the upcoming presentation to the Newcomers group.

9. NEW / OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Ainslie Point/Beaumont Right-of-Way

John Chapman had emailed a map of the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure right-of-way from Ainslie Point Road to Beaumont Marine Park. This was a shorter route than the Mount Norman Trail, with a good viewpoint at the end (not far from the main trail within Beaumont). There was support for a PIPRC site visit to occur (Colin McLarty to email re: potential dates). Further follow-up would be subject to considering various PIPRC priorities and also the Master Plan.

9.2 PIPRC Master Plan

Arn Berry said that it would be useful if the PIPRC Master Plan included an inventory of potential sites, such as undeveloped right-of-ways and proposed park dedications upon subdivision. This list could be prioritized and considered whenever PIPRC was discussing developing new trails. The PIPRC Master Plan was due for 5-year revision. It was agreed that

John Chapman and perhaps Arn Berry and Michael Symons would review the Plan, and then come back to the Commission with a list of potential items for revision.

9.3 Earth Day Beach Clean-up

It was agreed that for the April 21 Earth Day Beach Clean-up, available PIPRC volunteers would meet at the Niagara Road Ocean Access.

9.4 Yew Tree Request

Colin McLarty said that a teacher from the Pender School had asked if some wood could be taken from a dead Yew tree in Disk Park, to make archery bows for some of the students as a project. The PIPRC Master Plan provided that downed trees should generally be left in the forest (as habitat and biomass), so the teacher's request was regrettably refused.

11. SECOND IN CAMERA SESSION

MOTION: Moved by Peter Clarke, seconded by Michael Symons, that the meeting be closed to the public for the purpose of continuing the In Camera discussion of property matters. **CARRIED**

Note: See separate In Camera Minutes of the same date.

MOTION: Moved by Michael Symons, seconded by Colin McLarty, to adjourn the In Camera portion of the meeting, and re-open the meeting to the public. **CARRIED**

12. NEXT MEETING

The next PIPRC Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 17, 2012 (9:15 am, Community Hall Lounge).

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at approximately 12:52 pm.