

PENDER ISLANDS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (PIPRC)
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Thursday, April 18, 2013 (9:15 am)
Community Hall, North Pender Island

Present: Arn Berry, John Chapman, Margaret Alpen, Rob Fenton, Colin McLarty, Jim Pugh, David Howe (SGI Director), Zorah Staar (PIPRC Recorder), Ben Symons (PIPRC Contractor, present initially)

Regrets: Michael Symons

Public: Ian Elliott, Charlie Boyte, Jeremy Harwood (who all left after item 4. below)

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was amended to add Irene bay to 10. (New / Other Business).

MOTION: Moved by Rob Fenton, seconded by Colin McLarty, to approve the proposed agenda, as amended. **CARRIED**

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Moved by Rob Fenton, seconded by John Chapman, to approve the March 21, 2013 PIPRC minutes. **CARRIED**

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1 Ian Elliott & Charlie Boyte (Lively Peak/Scarff Road Connector)

Ian Elliott (Manager Electoral Area Emergency Programs) and Charlie Boyte (Pender Fire Chief) had forwarded materials and were present to discuss the proposal for a Magic Lake emergency route from Lively Peak Park to Scarff Road. They said that the proposed route would involve a soft surface on top of a road base sufficient to support emergency vehicles, and would be wide enough for 2 vehicles to pass (e.g. 20 feet). Now it was also proposed that there be a fire break of forest thinning along the route (in a corridor about 100 metres long and 15 metres wide), to demonstrate Fire Safe forest practices. This was to help achieve the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Pender. PIPRC Commissioners asked questions and expressed concern that impacts on the park and forest be minimized, while also achieving the extremely important purpose of an alternate route in and out of Magic Lake. Ian Elliott said that the first step was a grant application for consultants to develop an initial "prescription" for the project, which would involve ecological and PIPRC consultation. See also In Camera minutes.

MOTION: Moved by Rob Fenton, seconded by John Chapman, regarding the proposed Lively Peak/Scarff Road emergency access route and fire break proposal, that the PIPRC supports the UBCM Phase I grant application for the consultant's prescription. **CARRIED**

4.2 Jeremy Harwood (Pender Electric Flyers)

The Pender Electric Flyers were requesting PIPRC permission to fly their electric model float planes (5-foot wing span, 3 to 4 pounds) over Magic Lake, which would involve launching and remote control from the Magic Lake PIPRC park area. Jeremy Harwood was present to answer questions. He noted that the planes were fairly quiet, would only run on batteries for an hour or so, and were flown subject to the safety rules of a national model airplane association. PIPRC Chair Arn Berry noted that the PIPRC bylaw did not allow model airplane flight in parks, "except in areas designated or permitted by the Commission." PIPRC Commissioners said that the proposed use might be permitted on a trial basis, to confirm that it was not creating safety or nuisance issues for neighbours or lake users. First, Harwood was asked to email the PIPRC Chair about what was proposed, and to provide a copy of the model airplane association rules to be followed.

5. MAINTENANCE REPORT & DISCUSSIONS

PIPRC Maintenance Contractor Ben Symons had emailed a Maintenance Report. He made comments and/or there was discussion as follows:

- Symons had spent the month doing varied tasks, windstorm clearing, string trimming, other trail maintenance, and special projects as summarized below;
- recent sign work included Starvation Bay, Shingle Bay, Capstan/Rope, etc.;
- Bidgood Road Ocean Access lower staircase handrail worked on, and Mackinnon Road Ocean Access stainless steel handrail uprights installed;
- gravel for Swim Hole & Thieves Bay parking lots: CRD Finance had confirmed that there was \$5,600 of PIPRC funds available for the least expensive quote for required gravel at the above sites, so it was agreed that Symons should proceed to arrange this (Disk Park muddy parking would be monitored; also, Margaret Alpen would call former Bookkeeper re: fill bill recently received);
- George Hill alternate trail: Colin McLarty had visited this proposed shortcut trail to George Hill, suggested by Symons (good idea, except trail section nearest Upper Terrace Road needs to be re-routed to avoid steep edge?); Arn Berry would email re: date for site visit; Ben Symons would deliver a notification to neighbours re: this new trail on park property, and then proceed;

MOTION: Moved by Colin McLarty, seconded by Rob Fenton, that the PIPRC have a connector trail into George Hill Park from Upper Terrace Road, subject to a satisfactory site visit. **CARRIED**

- Shingle Bay Outhouse Relocation: additional work to be discussed (see In Camera minutes); Symons looked at Alders noticed by neighbour, and they didn't appear dangerous; PIPRC Commissioners would view site in future;
- Craddock/Gowlland Loop Trail once again torn up by neighbouring Gorse removal (John Chapman would speak with South Pender landowner);
- Oaks Bluff Trail: agreed for Symons to move bench on left side view and add steps (also suggested to put a dog leash warning sign before right side cliff?);
- Lilias Spalding Park: John Chapman will follow-up re: mower storage in shed;
- PIPRC logo signs: noted that local signmaker logo quote (\$650 per 100) is for "alu-panel" (i.e. thinner, less durable?), whereas CRD quote (\$900 per 100) may be for better product (Margaret Alpen to obtain more info and report back).

Note: Contractor Ben Symons then left the meeting at 10:45 am.

6. PRIORITY ITEMS

None

7. IN CAMERA ITEMS

MOTION: Moved by Rob Fenton, seconded by Colin McLarty, that the meeting be closed to the public for the purpose of approving In Camera Minutes and discussing personnel and property matters, and further that PIPRC Recorder Zorah Staar remain present. **CARRIED**

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

MOTION: Moved by John Chapman, seconded by Rob Fenton, that the In Camera Meeting be adjourned, and the PIPRC meeting re-opened to the public. **CARRIED**

It was reported that one personnel matter and four property matters were discussed during the In Camera portion of the meeting.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

None

9. REPORTS

9.1 Chair's Report (Arn Berry)

Chair Berry reported as follows: that he had been invited to attend the Pender breakfast with the Lieutenant Governor (very nicely arranged by Ina Timmer); that Mayne Island had now accepted their responsibility to host the next Commonality Meeting (in June); that Sara Steil and another person had complained about dog droppings on PIPRC trails (agreed to mention this in next Pender Post article); and that Berry had run into RCMP Officer Rod Pick, and planned to invite him to a future PIPRC meeting (to discuss vandalism and other enforcement issues).

9.2 Treasurer/Financial Report (Margaret Alpen)

Margaret Alpen had emailed the most recent PIPRC financial statements. Val Leigh-Dorin of the CRD was coming to the May meeting, and PIPRC Commissioners were asked to email suggested questions to Arn Berry.

9.3 CRD Director's Report (David Howe/Derek Masselink)

David Howe described the recent staff changes at the CRD, with things settling down now and new Parks Manager Larisa Hutcheson in place.

9.4 Recreation Report – None

9.5 Communications Report

Margaret Alpen would write the May Pender Post article, and Arn Berry had agreed to write the article for June. In addition, the new PIPRC maps were shared at the meeting, and would now be distributed by Margaret Alpen and John Chapman (more copies on the Hope Bay office).

9.6 Volunteer Coordinator Report – None

10. NEW / OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Commemorative Benches

Michael Symons had suggested a new pre-fabricated bench design (involving recycled plastic boards), but he did not object to the first donated commemorative bench being built with the heavy wood design as discussed. Colin McLarty was asked to order a bench from the workshop that gave the quote, or if they were not yet back in operation, from another local source. McLarty also noted that a local mill could provide the required heavy cedar.

10.2 Canal Shoreline Erosion

John Chapman reported on measurement of the accelerating erosion of the canal banks, including the PIPRC's Bridge Park. More trees were ready to fall, and could be cut down to prevent increased damage (as Parks Canada did on the other side of the canal). It was agreed that John Chapman would send a request for technical advice to David Howe, to forward to the CRD.

10.3 Niagara Road Parking

Rob Fenton suggested adding some parking at the beginning of the Niagara Road Ocean Access right-of-way, rather than back on Otter Bay Road.

MOTION: Moved by Rob Fenton, seconded by John Chapman, that the PIPRC explore the possibility of putting two parking spaces at the end of Niagara Road. **CARRIED (6 in favour, Arn Berry opposed)**

Arn Berry did not see the need for additional parking, but PIPRC Commissioners could view the site at the April 20 Beach Clean-up.

10.4 Irene Bay Ocean Access

John Chapman had drafted and circulated a letter to the landowner adjacent to the Irene Bay Ocean Access, who had obscured the access with landscaping, irrigation, etc. The letter was reviewed and supported.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 16, 2013 (9:15 am, Community Hall).

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Rob Fenton, seconded by John Chapman, that the meeting be adjourned at 12:30 pm. **CARRIED**