

PENDER ISLANDS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (PIPRC)
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Thursday, April 17, 2014 (9:15 am)
Community Hall Lounge, North Pender Island

Present: Arn Berry, John Chapman, Michael Symons, Jim Pugh, Colin McLarty, Zorah Staar (PIPRC Recorder), and Ben Symons (PIPRC Contractor, present initially)

Regrets: Jim Stafford, Rob Fenton, David Howe

Public: Jackie Gill, Diane Swindell

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Two items were later added to the agenda: "Wood Removal from Disk Park" and "Request from Moving Around Pender" (see 10. New / Other Business).

MOTION: Moved by Colin McLarty, seconded by John Chapman, to approve the proposed agenda. **CARRIED**

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Moved by Colin McLarty, seconded by Michael Symons, to approve the March 20, 2014 minutes. **CARRIED**

4. MAINTENANCE REPORT & DISCUSSIONS

PIPRC Maintenance Contractor Ben Symons had emailed his Maintenance Report, and he made further comments and/or there was discussion as follows:

- New Benches/Tables: Symons had finished making and installing new benches and a new picnic table, at William Walker Trail, Stuart/Moresby View, George Hill, Schooner/Privateers, and Bridge Park Trail; more table installations to come (agreed that cedar tables could be put out unfinished);
- Schooner/Privateers Trail: re-routing completed, and other trail work done;
- Irene Bay Ocean Access: gravel parking spot put in, with cedar frame (Arn Berry had received a call from caretaker of property, and then confirmed with Ryan Evanoff of Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure that PIPRC work was fine; MOTI permit only required to install something like a culvert);
- George Hill: Symons had drafted proposal to MOTI for culvert under parking;
- Fawn Creek: minor trail re-routing completed (to avoid water flow)

- Stuart/Moresby View Trail: new trail now done, including bench and signage; parking area fairly muddy, needed crushed rock, which would cost about \$700 (agreed to check with PIPRC Treasurer if sufficient funds were available);
- Niagara Road Ocean Access: Symons met with contractor re: work to be done for new parking (agreed to consider further what to do with previous parking, during PIPRC attendance there for April 23 beach clean-up);
- Peter Cove Ocean Access: wooden “public parking” sign taken for second time (agreed that sites like this needed metal sign, drilled-in screws, and post in cement; Symons would send sign image to Colin McLarty, to get a quote);
- Enchanted Forest: Symons suggested a good view location for installing a new bench made by him, with backrest (agreed to proceed);
- Lively Peak Park: large Arbutus tree from park property had fallen partly onto rockfall retaining fence of private dwelling on Captain’s Crescent; owner said that he was responsible for maintaining fence, and that he would remove tree sections on his land (agreed that Symons would ask Contractor Bear to drop fallen tree section on park property, and also to look at remaining tree uphill);
- PIPRC logo signs: Colin McLarty had obtained local and off-island sign quotes, but for digital vinyl vs. “screen print” image (latter almost twice as expensive); digital/vinyl supposed to be as durable (agreed that McLarty would get more info, and that circular signs would be preferable if reasonable);
- Gardom Pond Trail: Sara Steil had asked if PIPRC had a spare “no cycling” sign to put up on this trail, and also emailed in opposition to multi-use trails (note: PIPRC Bylaw currently prohibited bicycles on trails, but we did not have a spare sign of this type available, so no action was taken).

Note: PIPRC Contractor Ben Symons then left the meeting at 9:50 am.

5. DELEGATIONS

Community members Jackie Gill and Diane Swindell were in attendance to present a written proposal on behalf of the Pender Island Field Naturalists. This was to seek PIPRC support for a PIFN “Community Event to Remove Scotch Broom from George Hill Park to Allow Restoration of Native Habitat.” This involved inviting Pender individuals, families, groups and businesses to volunteer on the morning of Saturday, May 10, 2014 (9:00 am to noon), followed by a free lunch and music at the Upper Terrace Road trail head.

The Field Naturalists had initial approval of a CRD grant to cover expenses, and all they were asking of the PIPRC was endorsement to have this event in George Hill Park, plus some PIPRC Maintenance Contractor help with set-up.

PIPRC Commissioners were highly supportive of this initiative, and appreciated the previous broom removal which was already allowing regeneration of native flowers and plants on George Hill. It was noted that the May 10 broom removal

volunteers would need to register in a format acceptable to the CRD, for insurance coverage (Michael Symons to check this). The PIPRC Broom Removal Guidelines would need to apply (e.g. cut not pull, unless very small - latest guidelines to be forwarded to Jackie Gill and Diane Swindell). The PIPRC also requested that broom be placed in small stacks, and not under trees where it could particularly fuel a forest fire. Finally, neighbours on Upper Terrace Road should be consulted about event tables and lunch being located there. It was agreed for the PIPRC Contractor to help for up to 4 hours, if he was available.

MOTION: Moved by John Chapman, seconded by Michael Symons, that the PIPRC endorses as a supporting partner the May 10, 2014 event to be presented by Jackie Gill and Diane Swindell on behalf of the Pender Island Field Naturalists: "Community Event to Remove Scotch Broom from George Hill Park". **CARRIED**

6. PRIORITY ITEMS – None

7. IN CAMERA ITEMS – None

8. CORRESPONDENCE – None

9. REPORTS

9.1 Chair's Report (Arn Berry)

Arn Berry noted the Castle Road Trail issue that was recently handled by speaking with adjacent landowner David Spalding. A large tree near the property line had fallen onto park property, Spalding first told a neighbour that he could take it, then he agreed not to allow this, e.g. because of PIPRC Bylaw prohibiting such removal. Arn Berry said that he would ask Jim Stafford to explain in the next Pender Post article about the importance of leaving fallen trees in parks, as habitat and to feed forest ecosystems.

Secondly, Arn Berry noted the recent meeting and email from Fire Chief Charlie Boyte, re: the proposal for a second emergency exit from Magic Lake Estates (from Ketch Road, through Lively Peak Park, connecting with Scarff Road). Pursuant to Pender's Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Pender Island Fire Rescue had a "prescription" grant, i.e. for a professional assessment now to occur, of how this exit could involve a demonstration of wildfire safety (e.g. clearing/forest fuel reduction for 50 metres on each side).

Various Commissioners acknowledged the great importance of the above emergency exit, but also noted that Lively Peak Park was one of the two largest contiguous PIPRC parks on North Pender. Therefore, it made sense to be sure that this was the best emergency road location, before planning and proceeding to put it through the park. Commissioners were also concerned to know more about exactly how wide an area of clearing and what kind of clearing was proposed. This information would presumably be part of the prescription consultant's report.

9.2 Treasurer/Financial Report

Treasurer Rob Fenton was not able to be present, but had forwarded the monthly PIPRC Bookkeeper's report to Chair Arn Berry. The Bookkeeper had now revised the report's format to include the total balance remaining. After the first quarter, there was currently still 86% of the Parks budget remaining. It was requested that the March report and future monthly reports be emailed to all Commissioners, prior to each meeting.

9.3 CRD Director Report – None

9.4 Recreation Report – None

9.5 Communications Report

Re: Pender Post articles, Arn Berry said that Jim Stafford planned to write one for May. Re: rebuilding the lost PIPRC web content on the CRD website (at www.crd.bc.ca/penderparks), there was no Commissioner able to follow up right now, so it was agreed to authorize Recorder Zorah Staar to do further preliminary steps. This included asking the CRD web person to include the PIPRC email address; update the Commissioner list; indicate that PIPRC had a role with local Parks and Recreation; include a .pdf file of the PIPRC Trail Map; and include a .pdf of the current PIPRC Master Plan.

Re: the more detailed PIPRC Parks & Trails Guidebook, Rob Fenton had said that volunteer Rowie Symons was working on updating the 2006 edition, including correcting errors and making improvements.

9.6 Volunteer Coordinator Report – None

10. NEW / OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Wood Removal from Disk Park

Michael Symons reported that he was in communication with RCMP Corporal Rod Pick and was still attempting to arrange a meeting, to discuss recent allegations by a community member that another community member was repeatedly removing downed wood from Disk Park. The size of the wood was unclear, but it was noted that removal of even small pieces was contrary to the PIPRC Bylaw, and that it affected forest ecosystems.

10.2 Request from Moving Around Pender

Moving Around Pender Alternative Transportation Society (MAP) had sent an email requesting that PIPRC make a License of Occupation application. This was for a trail on a Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI) right-of-way near Hamilton Road, between two private properties, leading down to the ocean, and potentially connecting with the proposed Earl's Trail. There was a rezoning application affecting one of the properties (for waste

transfer and composting). PIPRC Commissioners expressed concern about becoming involved at this time, but agreed to consider a future site visit.

10.3 Commonality Meeting on Pender

Re: the May 22, 2014 Commonality Meeting of Southern Gulf Islands Parks & Recreation Commissions (being hosted by PIPRC), Arn Berry commented as follows: that he and John Chapman had met with Poet's Cove to confirm arrangements; that the CRD guests now included both Sonia Santarossa (Legislative Services) and Mike Walton (new Senior Manager of CRD Regional Parks); that the Archaeological and First Nations presentations would include PIPRC Commissioner Jim Stafford and Gwen Underwood and others from the Tsawout Nation; and that Berry would draft an agenda.

10.4 Beach Clean-Up April 19, 2014

Available PIPRC Commissioners would be meeting at Niagara Road Ocean Access, to participate in Pender's annual Earth Day Beach Clean-Up.

10.5 Commemorative Benches

The proposed donor for the Thieves Bay commemorative bench would like it to be finished for a June or July gathering. Michael Symons agreed to contact proposed bench maker Jude Farmer.

10.6 Grover Sargeant Trail Extension

Some PIPRC Commissioners had recently viewed the proposed right-of-way being offered by a private property owner (extending from Grover Sargeant Trail). The proposed trail was quite swampy. Arn Berry had sent an email confirming that the PIPRC supported the right-of-way provided it did not involve any expense other than to build and maintain a trail.

10.7 PIPRC Trail Map

John Chapman said that some errors in the PIPRC Trail Map had come to light, while a volunteer was updating the more detailed PIPRC Parks & Trails Guidebook (see 9.5 above). Chapman asked for authorization to pay the map designer to correct these errors. Michael Symons had to leave the meeting, and quorum was lost before consensus was reached.

11. NEXT MEETING(S)

The next PIPRC meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2014 (9:15 am, Community Hall Lounge). The full-day Commonality Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 2014 (Poet's Cove).

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 am.