

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

Present: Arn Berry, Michael Symons, Jim Pugh, Colin McLarty, Rob Fenton, and Zorah Staar (PIPRC Recorder)

Regrets: John Chapman, Jim Stafford, David Howe, Ben Symons (PIPRC Contractor)

Public: Niall Parker

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Moved by Michael Symons, seconded by Rob Fenton, to approve the April 17, 2014 Minutes. **CARRIED**

4. DELEGATIONS

Niall Parker was present on behalf of Moving Around Pender Alternative Transportation Society (MAP), to speak about the proposed Einar's Hill Bypass multi-use trail (for pedestrians and cyclists). A potential route had previously been walked by available PIPRC Commissioners. Parker made comments including the following: that MAP was asking PIPRC to start the process of applying for licenses of occupation for the two Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI) right-of-ways at either end of the proposed route; that a CRD initiative had paid for a trail route analysis and cost estimate of \$116,000 to build the trail; that such funding was not yet available, but there were potential sources; that MAP was not asking PIPRC to provide any funding or take a lead role on the project, but rather just to apply for and hold the required licenses of occupation; that this included obtaining a third license from Parks Canada for a centre portion of the trail (currently affected by bureaucratic challenges); that there was opposition to the trail from some adjacent landowners, and conservationists opposed to bicycles on trails; and that MAP intended to hold a public consultation meeting to address these concerns.

PIPRC Commissioners expressed support for the Einar's Hill Bypass concept, but also concerns including the following: the need for clarity that this was a MAP project and not a PIPRC project; the need for more information, including the consultant's trail route analysis; the question of who would pay for ongoing

maintenance of the trail (i.e. a bicycle route harder to maintain than PIPRC's rough walking trails); the PIPRC not having the financial or volunteer resources for anything other than holding licenses of occupation; nearby landowners expressing concerns to us about privacy and other impacts; and it potentially being premature to apply for such licenses, until MAP had organized an appropriate public meeting, and other key steps and resources were in place.

Niall Parker left at 9:51 am. PIPRC Commissioners felt the need for input from key Commissioners not able to attend today (including the CRD's Southern Gulf Islands Director), so further discussion was deferred to their next meeting.

5. MAINTENANCE REPORT & DISCUSSIONS

PIPRC Maintenance Contractor Ben Symons was not able to be present but he had emailed his Maintenance Report, and there was discussion as follows:

- trimming and mowing of trails: required a great deal of time during this season;
- Magic Lake Swim Area: dock seemed stable now, old anchor re-installed;
- Lilias Spalding Heritage Park: foot bridge replaced, new bench installed, and more mowing to occur;
- Enchanted Forest: new bench made and installed, old trail closed, and boardwalks moved and/or replaced;
- George Hill Broom Bash (see 9.1 below): Ben Symons and partner Rowie were thanked for their significant effort in support of this May 10 event;
- Magic Lake Picnic Area: Ben Symons suggested notice and then removal of abandoned boats (PIPRC agreed that Michael Symons would ask Jim Stafford to mention this in PIPRC's next Pender Post article, there would potentially be an additional advertisement, and there would also be a notice sign installed onsite (e.g. "please provide contact info for your boat or it will be removed), after which removal of abandoned boats to the PIPRC Shed could occur;
- Shingle Bay: hole from old outhouse sinking deeper, big chunk of wood put in to make it apparent, and further action should be considered (agreed that Chair Arn Berry would schedule a site visit, to view the sinkage as well as the rerouting of a portion of the Shingle Bay/Yardarm Trail);
- Niagara Road Ocean Access: new parking area completed; and
- Stuart/Moresby View Trail: Treasurer had confirmed sufficient funds (\$700) for rock/gravel to improve parking, and it had been agreed to proceed.

6. PRIORITY ITEMS – None

7. IN CAMERA ITEMS

MOTION: Moved by Rob Fenton, seconded by Michael Symons, that pursuant to Section 90(1) (a), (d) and (j) of the Community Charter, the Pender Islands Parks & Recreation Commission resolves to close the meeting to the public for the purpose of adopting March 20, 2014 In Camera Meeting Minutes, and to consider personnel and/or property matters, and further that the Recording Secretary may remain present. **CARRIED**

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

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

RISE AND REPORT: During the In Camera meeting, In Camera minutes were approved and one property matter was discussed

8. CORRESPONDENCE – None

9. REPORTS

9.1 Chair's Report (Arn Berry)

Arn Berry reported that he and Michael Symons attended the recent Pender community meeting with CRD senior management staff, which was informative. Also, the May 10 George Hill Broom Bash organized by the Pender Island Field Naturalists (with PIPRC support) had been quite successful, involving 28 volunteers.

9.2 Treasurer/Financial Report

Treasurer Rob Fenton said that the Bookkeeper had sent him the monthly financial summary [subsequently circulated to Commissioners by email], and we appeared to be on budget. There also appeared to be enough funds (\$700) for the Stuart/Moresby View Trail parking improvements, which the Maintenance Contractor would be asked to do upon his return. In addition, Chair Arn Berry noted that the CRD's required annual inventory of PIPRC asset values (staircases, tables, etc.) needed to have this year's new assets added to it.

9.3 CRD Director Report – None

9.4 Recreation Report

It was noted that there was still a PIPRC Commissioner vacancy, and that what we especially needed was a Commissioner interested in helping coordinate the annual Recreation funding application process. There had been advertisements, and we would keep trying to find a new volunteer by word of mouth.

9.5 Communications Report

Regarding the work in progress to update the PIPRC's detailed Parks & Trails Guidebook, Rob Fenton had an indication that printing could be expensive. He planned to speak further with the volunteers working on the update, and then to obtain more specific costing. We could potentially start by printing a moderate number of copies, and then sell those before printing more.

9.6 Volunteer Coordinator Report

Michael Symons had verified with the CRD that a volunteer sign-up sheet was sufficient for the May 10 Broom Bash volunteers (instead of a form for each person).

9.7 PIPRC Shed Report

Michael Symons had been spending time trying to arrange for BC Hydro finally to hook up power to the new PIPRC Shed beside Prior Park. This involved confirming the legal address. The electrician said that he needed power before doing the interior wiring. Then the next step was obtaining a second quote for the required demolition of the side structure. The PIPRC Maintenance Contractor was already storing materials at the Shed.

10. NEW / OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Wood Theft Issues

Michael Symons reported that he had managed to speak with Rod Pick of the RCMP, about valuable wood being taken from Disc Park and other PIPRC sites, and also signs being taken (by unknown persons). Pick said that he would mention this issue in an upcoming Pender Post article, and he also suggested that the PIPRC obtain a trail camera to try at key locations.

10.2 Commonality Meeting

Arn Berry was continuing with preparations for PIPRC to host the May 22, 2014 Commonality Meeting of Southern Gulf Islands Parks & Recreation Commissions. Certain Poet's Cove arrangements still needed to be confirmed, and also on-island travel for some visiting Commissioners.

10.3 PIPRC Webpage

Zorah Staar reported as follows: that the returning CRD web person confirmed the former PIPRC web pages were not in fact lost during the new CRD website migration; that after over 3 months of absence, these pages had now been restored at the temporary address of www.crd.bc.ca/piprc; that Zorah suggested PIPRC Commissioners have a look at these pages to consider useful updates, and then one or more Commissioners could follow through. [Note: subsequently arranged for PIPRC's advertised address, www.crd.bc.ca/penderparks, to link or point to the restored pages.]

10.4 PIPRC Signage

Colin McLarty reported as follows: that he had obtained two quotes for the proposed PIPRC metal logo signage (with a 6" round image designed by Ben Symons); that the off-island "screen print" quote with Fastsigns was almost twice as expensive as the digital image, vinyl-to-metal quote from local sign maker Sharron Cuthbertson; that Cuthbertson said the second method (not available from Fastsigns) was almost as durable; that it cost \$1.75 more per sign for a metal circle rather than square, but this was preferable.

MOTION: Moved by Michael Symons, seconded by Jim Pugh, that the PIPRC purchase 100 circular metal logo signs from Sharron Cuthbertson, for \$990 plus tax. **CARRIED**

Ben Symons had also done a version of the same PIPRC logo, with "Public Parking" written above it. This was for the proposed metal parking signs to be securely fastened at the few sites where the existing wooden signs had been taken. The PIPRC agreed for Colin McLarty to obtain a quote from Sharron Cuthbertson for 12 such signs (8 ½" by 12"), or slightly more with a price break.

10.5 Commemorative Benches

Arn Berry would call the proposed donor for the Thieves Bay commemorative bench, to obtain the wording to be carved into the bench, and then communicate this wording to the local woodworker. The bench was requested for a June or July gathering, so timing and total costs needed to be verified, ideally by the beginning of June.

10.6 Thieves Bay Plaque

The Pender Post had asked permission to install their own commemorative plaque (e.g. on stone) beside the two trees planted at Thieves Bay in honour of Doreen Ball and Helen Harper. The PIPRC had no objection.

11. NEXT MEETING(S)

After the May 22, 2014 Commonality Meeting (see 10.2 above and separate minutes), the next PIPRC meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2014 (9:15 am, Community Hall Lounge).

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.