

**PENDER ISLANDS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (PIPRC)**  
**Minutes of Monthly Meeting**  
**Thursday, July 24, 2014 (9:15 am)**  
**Community Hall Lounge, North Pender Island**

**Present:** Arn Berry, John Chapman, Rob Fenton, Jim Pugh, Colin McLarty, Michael Symons, David Howe, Ben Symons (PIPRC Contractor), and Zorah Staar (PIPRC Recorder)

**Regrets:** Jim Stafford

**Public:** Andrea Mills, Peter Pare, Niall Parker

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Arn Berry called the meeting to order at approximately 9:24 am.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was agreed by consensus to amend the agenda, to add the date and indicate at item 11. that the location of the August 21 meeting would need to be changed [Hall and Hope Bay not available, will meet in Health Centre meeting room].

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

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The June 19 minutes were amended as follows: page 1, item 4, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, second last sentence, revised to read: "In any event, the PIPRC applying for the LOO's would be helpful."; and page 2, item 5., second last point, revised to read: "...send Symons a better electronic copy of the Trail Map..."

**MOTION:** Moved by Michael Symons, seconded by Colin McLarty, to approve the June 19, 2014 Minutes. **CARRIED**

**4. DELEGATIONS**

**4.1 Andrea Mills, Community Hall**

Andrea Mills was present as a staff person for the Community Hall (Pender Islands Recreational & Agricultural Hall Association, i.e. PIRAHA). Mills was seeking clarification on the Recreation funding guidelines applied by PIPRC.

There was discussion, during which Arn Berry noted that all Recreation funding applications should indicate the specific recreation programs for which funding was being sought. Then there should be a follow-up report, to confirm the programs on which funding was actually spent.

Arn Berry also read from his 2013 letter to PIRAHA, and Jim Pugh provided a copy of the Recreation funding guidelines from the CRD, which the PIPRC was asked to apply. The guidelines required recreational programs and moveable recreation equipment (not capital), open to the entire community, with priority given to health improving, physical activity programs (interpreted as active participation, rather than passive attendance, e.g. at an arts event). Programs should help remove barriers to recreation, reduce isolation, and improve mental, emotional and physical health. Recreation program providers could be non-profit or for-profit, with some limitations.

Andrea Mills of the Hall suggested that a very high percentage of Community Hall activities would meet the above definition of Recreation, which she felt should also be interpreted differently for different age groups.

Southern Gulf Islands Director David Howe suggested that the Recreation guidelines could also potentially be interpreted more widely on our islands (compared with the city), because we didn't have all the same options. Howe said that if it were helpful, he could pass on to the Electoral Area Services Committee a PIPRC request to adjust the Recreational funding guidelines.

PIPRC Commissioners did not currently perceive a need for changes in the guidelines. Zorah Staar said that she would try to identify and circulate the most recent version. Andrea Mills left the meeting at 10:07 am.

#### 4.2 Peter Pare & Niall Parker, Moving Around Pender

Peter Pare and Niall Parker were present for Moving Around Pender (MAP), to speak again about the proposed Einar's Hill Bypass multi-use trail for pedestrians and cyclists (see May 15 and June 19, 2014 PIPRC Minutes). MAP was asking PIPRC to apply for licenses of occupation (LOO's) for the two Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI) right-of-ways needed at each end of the proposed route. Peter Pare reported that on July 19 during the Hall market, there was a display about "Experience the Gulf Islands" and the Einar's Hill Bypass proposal, during which 34 questionnaires were completed. On a question whether the Einar's Hill Bypass was a priority to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety, 26 said yes, 4 no, and 4 maybe. On a question noting that funding may come in stages, and asking whether the trail should be built to pedestrian standards first, most respondents said yes. Finally, Niall Parker noted that persons in opposition to the proposal were told about the opportunity to comment on July 19, and they showed up.

There was initial discussion. Arn Berry said that the PIPRC would vote later on the proposal (see under item 9.2 below). Pare and Parker left the meeting at 9:45 am. Michael Symons was later temporarily away from the meeting.

## 5. MAINTENANCE REPORT & DISCUSSIONS

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

- trimming / clearing of trails: plenty of this kind of work still occurring;

- Thieves Bay: special commemorative bench made by Jude Farmer was now installed (PIPRC were highly complimentary of bench, and carving on it); new picnic table installed as well, and could be a good wheelchair access spot if we were able to make an asphalt path to it (gravel not good for this purpose);
- Shingle Bay: 2 existing and 1 new picnic table installed on gravel beds, and new drainage pipes around outhouse, plus gravel path to it;
- Enchanted Forest: non-slip mesh installed on new boardwalk sections (which were complimented by a PIPRC Commissioner);
- Benches: 2 new backless benches made, one installed on Mount Menzies and other could go at Poet's viewpoint (agreed that John Chapman could speak with new Poet's Cove Manager about this); bench with back also suggested for Welcome Bay, at top of bluff (supported by PIPRC);
- Castle Road Trail: Symons suggested a bench on this trail as well; discussion of how trail is adjacent to strata/private property (agreed that John Chapman and Symons would confirm a potential bench location and report back);
- Stairs: Found Road and Wallace Road stairs alright for now, but could be worked on in off-season when trails can be closed;
- Sign posts: some new posts made to replace aging ones, and round PIPRC logo signs starting to be added to posts (or better locations on certain trails);
- Magic Lake grassy area: boats starting to spread out again;
- Stuart/Moresby Ocean Viewpoint Trail: David Howe said adjacent owner had suggested a railing for the bluff (in discussion, noted that there were a variety of steep or steeper bluffs at PIPRC locations, and that trying to secure railings on them potentially created greater risk/liability; agreed that Maintenance Contractor Symons would install a second warning sign at Stuart/Moresby);
- PIPRC Shed: Symons waiting for electricity to be turned on so further work could proceed and get Shed operational (a priority); next step was required demolition of side structure, re-siding, painting, and more (see item 9.7);

Ben Symons then left the meeting at 10:05 am.

## 6. PRIORITY ITEMS – None

## 7. IN CAMERA ITEMS

Note: There were no In Camera items for this meeting.

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE – None

## 9. REPORTS

### 9.1 Chair's Report (Arn Berry)

Arn Berry commented as follows: that he had circulated a letter from Travis Whiting of the CRD, who was helpful at the recent Gardom Dam meeting; that a key suggestion was to keep the Gardom Dam challenges separate from the Gardom Pond fire protection issues, except where they connected; that the group was still exploring funding possibilities to retain the Dam and Pond, e.g. fire hydrants fed by it, with significant costs to be shared (by the closest 70 households? by all 2,500 Pender households?), but potential household insurance savings; and that more dialogue was to occur.

### 9.2 Treasurer/Financial Report

Treasurer Rob Fenton had circulated the monthly financial summary from the Bookkeeper (to the end of June), and he commented as follows: that Rentals were slightly over-budget because the Hall was paid annually; that halfway through the year, we were doing a good job working within the existing budget; that the PIPRC had asked for an increase in the Parks budget up to the maximum mill rate, to create funds for key capital projects; that this included the new PIPRC Shed (needing partial demolition and renovations), a fund for future purchase of parkland, and some new amenities, like a picnic shelter (as existed on other islands); that the PIPRC had also requested an increase in the Recreation budget to the maximum allowed, because of the notable shortfall between Pender Recreation program applications and current funding; that Southern Gulf Islands Director David Howe had said he supported these requests, which would now be considered by the CRD Board (Rob Fenton to email Peggy Dayton).

In addition, Arn Berry brought up the license agreement between the CRD and the Pender Youth Sports Association (YSA), for use of the Danny Martin Ball Park. This agreement provided that the YSA was responsible for their own insurance costs, but some previous PIPRC Commissions appeared to have authorized paying this. Berry had told the YSA that they should make a Recreation funding application for this to occur.

Note: Item 10.2 (Proposed Einar's Hill Bypass) was advanced at this point, to ensure a quorum for decision. Commissioner John Chapman declared a conflict of interest because he is also a member of Moving Around Pender (MAP), and he left the meeting at 11:53 am. The June 19, 2014 motion not yet been voted on was moved again (see below) and discussed.

All Commissioners supported the Einar's Hill Bypass trail proposal generally, but one felt that it was premature for PIPRC to apply for Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI) licenses of occupation (LOO's), given the lack of funding or a Parks Canada LOO, and opposition from some community members. Other Commissioners noted the July 19 survey showing strong community support, the public safety issues addressed by the proposal, the likely length of the LOO process, and the

advisability of the PIPRC initiating LOO applications now, to demonstrate support. This support could potentially assist with attracting funding.

It was also noted that Moving Around Pender was the group responsible for the Einar's Hill Bypass proposal, the PIPRC had not committed any funding, and if CRD Regional Parks later made the proposal part of the Experience the Gulf Islands initiative, then the LOO's could be transferred to them.

**MOTION:** Moved by Rob Fenton, seconded by Colin McLarty, that the Pender Islands Parks & Recreation Commission submit applications to the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI) for two trail licenses of occupation on the two MOTI right of ways at either end of the proposed Einar's Hill Bypass trail, as requested by Moving Around Pender. **CARRIED (5 in favour, 1 opposed)**

John Chapman returned to the meeting, and volunteered to prepare the PIPRC license of occupation applications (consensus in support). David Howe then had to leave the meeting at 12:10 pm (to catch a ferry).

### 9.3 CRD Director Report

None

### 9.4 Recreation Report

None

### 9.5 Communications Report

Arn Berry suggested that a picture of the new commemorative bench at Thieves Bay be included in an upcoming Pender Post article.

Regarding the revised PIPRC's Parks & Trails Guidebook, Rob Fenton reported new pricing that was significantly less expensive. The Guidebooks had previously sold well for \$12 each, and could now be printed for approximately \$4.40 each (2,000 copies), or \$7.40 (1,000 copies). Rob Fenton would circulate some further Guidebook edits. The Trail Map to be inserted was also still being revised. Also, John Chapman would check with Hemlock printers, who were apparently more carbon neutral.

**MOTION:** Moved by Arn Berry, seconded by Michael Symons, that the PIPRC order printing of 2,000 copies of the revised Parks & Trails Guidebook, from either Friesen Printers of Manitoba, or Hemlock Printers of Vancouver, for a price up to \$9,000 including freight, tax, and all charges. **CARRIED**

### 9.6 Volunteer Coordinator Report

Michael Symons said that he would welcome another Commissioner taking on the role of Volunteer Coordinator, for the PIPRC Trail Monitors.

## 9.7 PIPRC Shed Report

Michael Symons reported on the challenges of trying to get BC Hydro to connect power to the new PIPRC Shed, and said that he would forward an email seeking assistance. It was estimated that another \$15,000 would be required to make the Shed operational, including the required demolition of the side structure, drywall removal, some new siding, structural shelving to remove, some door and cement pad work, painting, lighting, etc. This was part of why the PIPRC had requested an increase in the Parks budget.

## 10. NEW / OTHER BUSINESS

### 10.1 Proposed Einar's Hill Bypass

See discussion under item 9.2 above.

### 10.2 PIPRC Web Page

The PIPRC webpage at [www.crd.bc.ca/penderparks](http://www.crd.bc.ca/penderparks) needed a number of revisions, to remove outdated content inadvertently re-uploaded by the CRD, and to reinstate and prioritize the most important PIPRC content. This required someone familiar with PIPRC materials and activities. John Chapman and Zorah Staar expressed willingness to help with this in future.

## 11. NEXT MEETING(S)

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, August 21, 2014 (9:15 am, with the location changed to HEALTH CENTRE MEETING ROOM (past the waiting area, to the right)).

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 12:49 pm.