

PENDER ISLANDS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (PIPRC)
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Friday, May 15, 2015 (9:30 am)
Community Hall, North Pender Island

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

Regrets: Jim Stafford, Peter Pare, David Howe (CRD Director)

Public: Monica Petrie (Pender Ocean Defenders)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Michael Symons called the meeting to order at 9:35 am and made introductions,

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was amended to add Mortimer Spit and Thieves Bay (under Correspondence), plus Enchanted Forest and Signage (under New Business).

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

3. DELEGATIONS

Monica Petrie of Pender Ocean Defenders (POD) commented as follows:

- POD formed last year, to protect the Salish Sea and all who live in it or on it;
- they were advocating federally to increase required distance between whales and boats beyond 200 yards, and to make it mandatory (not just a guideline);
- another project was to encourage land-based rather than marine-based whale watching, throughout Southern Gulf Islands (like San Juans "Whale Trail");
- POD had created a "Land-Based Guide to Whale Watching on Pender Island" pamphlet, with potential sites being mostly PIPRC trails or parks;
- POD was asking for PIPRC permission to put up small whale watching signs at trailhead or entrances for above sites, and also one larger whale watching educational sign, once POD was further along with the project.

PIPRC Commissioners expressed enthusiasm and consensus support in principle for the above signage proposal. They suggested that POD come back with more information once they had funding for their signs, and liaise with the PIPRC Maintenance Contractor re: how to share posts and minimize sign pollution. Also, the Thieves Bay breakwater was controlled by the Magic Lake Property Owners Society, and was not part of the PIPRC's Thieves Bay Park.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The April 17 PIPRC minutes were reviewed as follows: re: page 1, item 3 (Delegations), 2nd paragraph – noted that Arn Berry planned to clarify with a

PIRAHA Board rep that a meeting with some of their Directors plus CRD representatives was still required by the PIPRC (to discuss funding issues); re: page 2, item 3 (Maintenance), Thieves Bay – revised as “plastic sheet technique”; and George Hill Parking – revised as “total of approximately \$950”.

MOTION: Moved by Rob Fenton, seconded by John Chapman, to approve the April 17, 2015 PIPRC minutes, as amended. **CARRIED**

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:

- Symons busy this past month with string trimming, spring cleanup, and more;
- Handrails: re-installed at MacKinnon Road and Bridges Road ocean accesses;
- Oaks Bluff: new rock steps at two locations (e.g. to access picnic table);
- Found Road: fair bit of time spent improving boardwalk sections (replacing, bridging gaps, leveling, and adding sections), with more to do; new Manager at Clam Bay Farm allowed Symons to drive in materials;
- Enchanted Forest: new sign post installed;
- Bike racks: to pick up in Vancouver shortly, and then install;
- Craddock Loop Trail: Symons and Commissioner Chapman suggested not to install a bench at this time; Symons in discussions with private contractor about repairing damage to trail first;
- William Walker Trail: Symons received right-of-way map from PIPRC files, and will now revisit the site to assess if his suggested reroute is possible;
- George Hill parking: Symons believed two 16 foot culverts plus fill would create necessary parking; Rob Fenton asked to contact Ryan Evanoff of Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure re: permission to do this;
- PIPRC Shed: 250 gallon water tank ordered (for rainwater catchment, to have some water); next step was re-siding of entire Shed, because various exterior holes could lead to further damage (about \$6,300 remaining in Shed budget; agreed for Symons to obtain pricing for siding Shed with 1/2 inch plywood);
- New interpretative signage: interpretative nature signage had decayed over time (at Found Road, Enchanted Forest) and/or become inapplicable due to natural changes (at Welcome Bay); PIPRC supported making all these sites have small sign posts with numbers (like Welcome Bay), and creating three new plasticized, simple interpretive pamphlets or handouts referencing those numbers (agreed for Michael Symons to ask Mayne contact about materials; Rob Fenton to ask Pender Field Naturalists about helping with content; also suggested to include some First Nations / other historical info in materials?).

Ben Symons left the meeting at 10:34 am.

6. PRIORITY ITEMS – None

7. IN CAMERA ITEMS

MOTION: Moved by Rob Fenton, seconded by Arn Berry, that the meeting be closed to the public for the purpose of approving past In Camera minutes, and discussing personnel and/or property matters, and further that Recorder Zorah Staar remain present. **CARRIED**

Note: See separate In Camera Minutes of the same date for the discussions that followed.

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

Two property matters were discussed during the In Camera meeting.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Lot 66 & Bylaw Inquiry

Former PIPRC Chuck Harris had written about the PIPRC Master Plan not including Lot 66 across from Buck Lake (PIPRC property?), and referring to repealed Bylaw 2525. Zorah Staar was hopeful that relevant file materials would be found when the PIPRC file re-organization was completed.

8.2 Mortimer Spit

An email was received from community member Lance Mueller, with concerns about the many pot holes at Mortimer Spit, and questions about jurisdiction. Arn Berry noted that this was a Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure roadway, on which PIPRC had a license of occupation. The PIPRC usually called Mainroad Contracting at this time of year, to ask for the roadway to be graded. Arn Berry would follow up with Mainroad, and also ask if gravel could be added.

8.3 Thieves Bay Park

Former PIPRC Chair Chuck Harris had written to express concerns about the two granite monuments (about 2 feet tall) installed by the Pender Post under the two commemorative trees at Thieves Bay Park. The PIPRC had been aware of a proposed plaque but not monuments, which seemed quite obtrusive. Zorah Staar was asked to check past PIPRC minutes. [Excerpt from May 15, 2014 minutes: "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."]

Zorah Staar had emailed photos of the PIPRC commemorative bench at Thieves Bay Park, surrounded for weeks by major construction debris from the volunteers expanding the marina docks, which debris was then removed by PIPRC volunteers. It was agreed that Staar could draft a letter for the Magic Lake Property Owners Society, expressing the expectation that leaving such debris in the park should not happen again. [Note: Staar then ran into the MLPOS Secretary and communicated this message.]

9. REPORTS

9.1 Chair's Report

Michael Symons reported on the May 6 Parks & Recreation Commonality Meeting on Mayne, including: another report on the "Experience the Gulf Islands" project; Mayne issues with large fallow deer; ongoing ecological restoration of Henderson Park; and a major new ocean access trail.

9.2 Treasurer/Financial Report

Treasurer Rob Fenton had emailed the Parks expenditure report for the year up to March 31, and had also just received the statements to April 30. With a third of the year passed, expenditures were approximately a third.

The PIPRC Bookkeeper had also sent a memo, explaining how when the CRD didn't include the Guidebook's \$9,500 printing costs in 2014, this led to a surplus for 2014, and then a large Contingency budget line amount for 2015. Therefore, it was suggested to re-allocate expenses in the budget.

MOTION: Moved by Arn Berry, seconded by Colin McLarty, that the PIPRC approves the following accounting re-allocation of PIPRC Parks expenditures for the current 2015 budget year:

- To move \$9,500 from the Contingency Account #599200 to #515150 Printing;
- To move \$100 from the Contingency Account #599200 to #505010 Legal Services;
- To move \$650 from the Contingency Account #59920 to #535090 Electricity [for the PIPRC Shed]. **CARRIED**

Re: the other two accounting re-allocations suggested by the Bookkeeper (for the 6 bike racks just purchased), the PIPRC felt that this expense should if possible be classified as a Capital purchase rather than Supplies.

9.3 CRD Director Report – None

9.4 Recreation Report

Arn Berry planned to clarify with a PIRAHHA Board rep that a meeting with some of their Directors plus CRD representatives was still required by the PIPRC (to discuss funding issues).

9.5 Communications Report

The new PIPRC Guidebook was selling well, with summer season to come.

9.6 Volunteer Coordinator Report – None

10. NEW / OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Castle Road Site Visit

Two PIPRC Commissioners had a friendly site visit with some members of the Castle Road strata, to the Castle Road Trail and Heritage Park areas. Now future cooperation (e.g. trail right of ways) would depend on support from the majority of strata owners. The PIPRC agreed that neither the boulders which had fallen from nearby private property onto the road, nor the annual clearing on the strata fire road were PIPRC responsibilities.

10.2 PIPRC Meeting Date / Time / Location

It was confirmed that Friday was now the best day for PIPRC meetings, but the Community Hall was too busy. Therefore, Zorah Staar was instructed to ask if the PIPRC could meet in the CRD's Hope Bay office, at 9:30 am on the last Friday of each month.

10.3 Enchanted Forest – discuss next meeting (no time remaining)

10.4 Signage – next meeting

10.5 New Commissioner candidate – next meeting

10.6 School Roller Rink Request – next meeting (Zorah Staar to email School Joint Use Agreement to Arn Berry)

11. NEXT PIPRC MEETING

Scheduled for Friday, June 26 (9:30 am), in Hope Bay CRD Office unless otherwise advised.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 1:00 pm.