

PENDER ISLANDS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (PIPRC)
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Friday, June 26, 2015 (9:30 am)
CRD office at Hope Bay Centre, North Pender Island

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

Regrets: David Howe (CRD Director)

Public: Ina Timmer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Michael Symons called the meeting to order at 9:32 am and made introductions, including Peter Pare who had now officially been appointed as a PIPRC Commissioner, and Ina Timmer who was interested in becoming one.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was amended to add Poet's Cove Trail (under Priority Items).

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

3. DELEGATIONS

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The May 15 PIPRC minutes were amended as follows: page 1, item 3, 2nd paragraph – to read “PIPRC Commissioners expressed enthusiasm and consensus support in principle for the above signage proposal”; and page 2, item 5, “PIPRC Shed: 250 gallon water tank ordered”.

MOTION: Moved by Rob Fenton, seconded by John Chapman, to approve the May 15, 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 month with a fair bit of trail mowing and clean-up (lots of growth), but delayed by string trimmer breaking and having to repair it;
- Bike racks: Symons picked up 6 racks in Vancouver, 5 of them now installed (Swim Hole, Welcome Bay, Found Road, William Walker and Stuart Moresby);

- old bike rack at Gowlland Point ripped out by car, now re-anchored (PIPRC supported Symons installing a reflective post, to protect bike rack in future);
- William Walker Trail: Symons had obtained map of trail right-of-way, but was still locating markers, in order to adjust lower portion of trail; right-of-way agreement said there could be educational signage about the managed forest surrounding trail (John Chapman and/or Ron Fenton to ask Walkers about this);
 - Magic Lake Swim Hole: Symons had to clean up from recent illegal camping in large flat area on far side of dam; he proposed limbing trees to open this park area up (illegal camping less likely) and putting in a picnic table or two (PIPRC supported doing this, to improve this heavily used park area);
 - Thieves Bay: butter burr eradication completed; also, stone pillars in front of Pender Post commemorative trees looked out of place, and one plaque still missing (PIPRC agreed that Chair Symons would call Chuck Harris re: digging in pillars, to make them into low stone plaques that PIPRC originally okayed);
 - Benches: Symons re-oiled memorial benches at Thieves Bay (in good shape) and at Boat Nook (getting a bit loose, due to poor local wood sold to PIPRC);
 - Outhouses: outhouse screens punched out at Magic Lake Swim Hole, and torn at Thieves Bay, so Symons had to replace them;
 - Craddock/Gowlland Loop Trail: contractor on adjacent land is willing to smooth out trail damage when using tractor; no bench installation for now;
 - PIPRC Shed: prices obtained for re-siding entire Shed as required, e.g. 50 sheets of Hardiepanel (\$45 each), pre-painted Hardiepanel (\$56), or primed SmartSide siding (\$46), all of which would be cheaper than wood (agreed that Symons would obtain quotes from contractors who regularly put up siding).

In addition, John Chapman mentioned the invasive Yellow Flag Iris at both ends of Magic Lake, which Ben Symons said he would try to find and cut off. Symons then left the meeting at 10:14 am.

6. PRIORITY ITEMS

6.1 PIPRC Vacancy

Ina Timmer confirmed that she was keen to fill the current PIPRC Commissioner vacancy, because of her interest in the outdoors, nature, preservation, and community recreation. It was noted that Timmer is the partner of CRD Director David Howe, but she said that this would not affect her decisions. Chair Symons said that the PIPRC would discuss their recommendation on this personnel issue during the In Camera meeting.

6.2 Poet's Cove Trail

John Chapman had spoken with Manager Nuno Gama who worked for the new owners of Poets Cove Resort, re: the PIPRC right of way trail from the

Enchanted Forest to an ocean viewpoint on Poets property. It was believed that the right of way agreement continued unless terminated (Arn Berry to check). Gamma was keen to add a loop trail, and was requesting trail improvements, more warning and directional signage, a trail map, plus a picnic table. PIPRC Commissioners agreed that PIPRC trails were supposed to be primitive and have limited signage. If Poets agreed to supply a picnic table and their own trail map for their guests, then PIPRC could improve the trail somewhat and potentially help with a new loop trail, and coordinate on appropriate signage. The next step was a site visit to be arranged by John Chapman, including himself and any other interested Commissioners, PIPRC Contractor Ben Symons, and Nuno Gama.

7. IN CAMERA ITEMS

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

Four property matters and one personnel matter were discussed In Camera, including supporting the appointment of Ina Timmer as a PIPRC Commissioner.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Mortimer Spit

Pursuant to PIPRC emails, Glen Grimmer had now graded Mortimer Spit, using existing road material to smooth countless potholes. Mainroad Contracting had apologized for forgetting to do this, and said that it would be scheduled next year, but the PIPRC should check with them in spring.

However, Jim Stafford had now raised the important issue of Mortimer Spit being a protected archaeological site, where no materials should be added or removed, and certain disturbances were disallowed and could be very significant. PIPRC Commissioners noted that this was the first they had been told about the site being protected, after decades (since 1991) of the annual grading required for the Spit to be accessible by vehicles. Jim Stafford planned to check Mortimer Spit today, and report further in future.

8.2 Government Docks

There had been a request from a Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission representative, about the PIPRC considering the installation of

outhouses near government docks. PIPRC Chair Symons responded that this was not a matter within PIPRC jurisdiction.

9. REPORTS

9.1 Chair's Report

Michael Symons reported that the consultant for the Pender Age Friendly Community project had interviewed him about local parks and recreation realities. In addition, Tim Frick had suggested that the PIPRC consider creating new wheelchair friendly trails (Rob Fenton would ask him which locations he had in mind). Gowlland Point and Boat Nook seemed to be two possibilities, and PIPRC Commissioners supported this development.

9.2 Treasurer/Financial Report

Treasurer Rob Fenton had emailed the Parks financial report up to May 31, and said that expenditures were pretty well on track. Guidebook sales were \$2,300 to date, and Fenton and his partner Mamie were going to try selling some at the Saturday Market. Finally, Fenton suggested that in future the PIPRC consider engaging the Bookkeeper or other persons to handle other important tasks that Commissioners were not available to do (e.g. additional administrative or non-administrative tasks, such as GPS trail mapping).

9.3 CRD Director Report – None

9.4 Recreation Report

Arn Berry had spoken with Mike Walton of the CRD, who wanted to check with Sonia Santarosa and then would be willing to meet with PIPRC and PIRAHA representatives - to discuss a better alternative to the current Recreation funding arrangement for the Community Hall. Dianne Allison of PIRAHA was also interested to attend.

9.5 Communications Report

Jim Stafford intended to work on the next Pender Post article if possible.

9.6 Volunteer Coordinator Report – None

10. NEW / OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Invasive Plants in Parks

The PIPRC Maintenance Contractor had spent some time eradicating the Thieves Bay butter burr, and doing a bit of other invasive plant control, but it was suggested that this shouldn't be a regular use of resources, and rather on a case-by-case basis.

11. NEXT PIPRC MEETING

Scheduled for Friday, July 31, 2015 (9:30 am), in Hope Bay CRD Office

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 12:44 pm.