

PENDER ISLANDS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (PIPRC)
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Friday, July 31, 2015 (9:30 am)
CRD office at Hope Bay Centre, North Pender Island

Present: Michael Symons, John Chapman, Rob Fenton, Arn Berry, David Howe (CRD Director), Ben Symons (PIPRC Contractor), and Zorah Staar (PIPRC Recorder)

Regrets: Jim Stafford, Peter Pare, and Colin McLarty

Public: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Michael Symons called the meeting to order at 9:39 am.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was amended to start the In Camera discussions earlier, and to add a Delegation item for Monica Petrie (Pender Ocean Defenders), and a New / Other Business item for Isabel English (PIPRC Shed).

MOTION: Moved by Arn Berry, seconded by David Howe, to approve the agenda, as amended. **CARRIED**

3. DELEGATIONS

3.1 Monica Petrie (POD)

Monica Petrie was present on behalf of Pender Ocean Defenders (POD), to show a sample of the new small signs to support land-based whale watching on the Penders. The signs said "The Whale Trail" and included a web address (www.thewhaletrail.org) and a phone number for people to learn more and also report whale sightings (a QR code to come).

By consensus, the PIPRC agreed in principle that the signs to be supplied by POD could be posted at the following PIPRC sites: small signs at Grimmer Bay, Bridges Road, and Higgs Road ocean accesses, plus Oaks Bluff viewpoint; either small signs or possibly larger Whale trail signs at Thieves Bay (in MLPOS and/or PIPRC areas), and at Gowlland Point.

It was further agreed that the PIPRC would now ask their Maintenance Contractor Ben Symons to check out the best sign mounting options for each of the above sites, and that the PIPRC would donate some contractor time and additional posts (if necessary).

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The June 26 minutes were amended on page 4, item 9.4, to correct the spelling of Sonia Santarosa (CRD staff).

MOTION: Moved by John Chapman, seconded by Arn Berry, to approve the June 26, 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 had continued this month with trail maintenance and bigger projects;
- Oaks Bluff: two new replacement benches made by Symons had now been installed at main viewpoint (benches had backs and armrests, green and brown, and Commissioners said they were very attractive);
- Magic Lake Swim Hole: new area on far side of dam had been cleared, and 2 new picnic table made by Symons had been installed, along with new sign saying "NO FIRES, CAMPING, SMOKING" (good community feedback on this);
- Wallace Road: new earth and wood steps installed;
- Buck Lake Trail: stair and boardwalk replaced, plus earth and wood steps; more trail work still planned;
- Irene Bay: temporary sign put up, warning of slippery trail (steps to be installed when possible);
- Dog Waste Stations: PIPRC dog stations overflowing with garbage, and bags running out; Symons planned to add a "NO TRASH" label (after discussion, PIPRC also supported trying a different approach to garbage, at a test site);

MOTION: Moved by John Chapman, seconded by Rob Fenton, that the PIPRC authorizes the purchase of a combination trash and recycling unit at a cost of up to \$500 plus tax and servicing, for trial use at Magic Lake Swim Hole. **CARRIED**

Ben Symons remained in attendance for the Capital Budget discussions (see below).

6. PRIORITY ITEMS

6.1 PIPRC Capital Budget

PIPRC Treasurer Rob Fenton reported that it was difficult to obtain exact figures from the CRD, but it appeared that there was currently approximately \$50,000 in PIPRC capital reserves, and there could be additional surplus funds this year due to the Parks budget mill rate increase.

PIPRC Commissioners had for some time been discussing the most important priorities for available capital funds (when confirmed). PIPRC Maintenance Contractor Ben Symons had also made suggestions based on his experience of PIPRC sites, and community member Tim Frick had recently made suggestions based on improved access for persons with disabilities. It was noted that prioritization and long-range planning were key, and the following capital budget ideas were discussed:

- Thieves Bay, Shingle Bay, Grover Sargeant Trail: accessible loop walking paths for persons using wheelchairs or with walking challenges (engineered to handle wet conditions – John Chapman had some info);
- Thieves Bay & Shingle Bay: playground equipment in addition to swings, for parents asking for more ways for their children to play at these sites;
- Thieves Bay OR Shingle Bay: a Pavilion / Gazebo / Picnic Shelter (other Gulf Islands really benefitted from an outdoor sheltered community gathering space like this, suggested to start with potential designs and cost estimates from a few local professionals?);
- Better parking: Shingle Bay & George Hill (and other sites as funds permit);

Note: The ideas above were generally supported by the Commissioners at this meeting, whereas the suggestions below had qualifications, objections, or needed more discussion to approach a consensus.

- Additional outhouses (we could move Thieves & Shingle Bay outhouses elsewhere, and build two new wheelchair accessible outhouses instead);
- More Multi-User Trails (as being proposed by Moving Around Pender – issue was whether PIPRC should resource this);
- Mountain Bike Trail, Masthead to Shingle Bay (objections that this would lead to problems with biking on other trails);
- 2nd Magic Lake Dock (at other end, too shallow? floats under \$5,000);
- Horseshoe Pits (not a capital project);
- Drinking fountains (not particularly supported);
- Fenced dog play area (not particularly supported);
- Fixed mount binoculars (better to put binoculars on a chain);
- Funds to encourage garden projects in parks (not particularly supported).

PIPRC Maintenance Contractor Ben Symons left the meeting at 12:16 pm.

In addition, Treasurer Fenton reported that the CRD now required a motion regarding the estimated Parks operating surplus for 2015, and its potential use for Capital project expenditures.

MOTION: Moved by Arn Berry, seconded by John Chapman, that the PIPRC agrees to move the estimated Parks operating surplus for 2015 into the Capital Reserve Fund. **CARRIED**

7. IN CAMERA ITEMS

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

Three property matters and one personnel matter were discussed In Camera.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

None

9. REPORTS

9.1 Chair's Report – None

9.2 Treasurer/Financial Report

Treasurer Rob Fenton had reviewed (and would forward) the financial report for Parks expenditures as of June 30. With half the year passed, there was 55% of annual Parks budgeted revenue remaining. There was also 61% of Maintenance Contractor time left, but summer involved more intense work in this regard. PIPRC Guidebook sales were \$2,800 to date and had slowed after the initial rush, so Fenton would ask the PIPRC Bookkeeper to check on favourable placement in the stores, and we'd add the winery as a vendor.

9.3 CRD Director Report – None

9.4 Recreation Report – None

9.5 Communications Report

Michael Symons would try to write the next Pender Post article.

9.6 Volunteer Coordinator Report – None

10. NEW / OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Isabel English (PIPRC Shed)

Mrs. English had called Arn Berry because she would like the Yin Yang symbol on the PIPRC Shed (placed there by her husband) to be removed and replaced with other panels, at her expense. The PIPRC supported discussing this when making the final decision about painting the Shed.

11. NEXT PIPRC MEETING

Scheduled for Friday, August 28, 2015 (9:30 am), in Hope Bay CRD Office

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 1:07 pm.