

**PENDER ISLANDS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (PIPRC)**  
**Minutes of a Regular Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 23, 2019 (9:00 am)**  
**Plum Tree Court, North Pender Island**

**Present:** Tom Bell, John Chapman, Susan Parr, Ray Pink, Derek Wolff, Jan Kirkby, Arnie Alksne, Hans Tammemagi, Ben Symons (Maintenance Contractor), Shannon Brayford (recorder)

**Regrets:** David Howe (Director, CRD, SGI)

**Guests:** Kathy Curtis

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Tom Bell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He noted that the Commission is meeting in the Traditional Territory of the Coast Salish People.

Chair Bell noted that item 6f) Dog Park Complaint would be a major focus on the meeting. He provided an overview of the proposed process for hearing the concerns of the group, noting that former commissioner, Kathy Curtis would arrive at 10:00 am to provide an overview of the matter for the new Commissioners. He further noted that members of the public who have concerns have been asked to arrive at 11:00 am.

A discussion of the process was held for providing both those who are opposed to the park and those who would like it to remain in its current location with equal opportunity to share their information with the Commission.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

John Chapman recommended the addition of the 9e) GINPR Representative to National Park Liaison Meeting.

By general consensus, the agenda was approved as amended.

Chair Bell noted that some agenda items may be postponed in the interest of time as the agenda progresses.

**3. ADOPTION OF PAST MINUTES**

**Minutes of March 15, 2019, Regular Business Meeting**

It was recommended that under 5f) "Commission" be replaced with "consensus".

By general consensus the minutes were adopted as amended.

**4. DELEGATIONS AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

None.

Note: Chair Bell noted that due to time constraints the Maintenance Report, items 6a, b, f, g, h, Reports, and items 9a, b would be postponed, unless time allows for them to be returned to at the end of

the meeting. He also noted that Items 6c, d, e and 9b, c, d and In Camera will be deferred to a future meeting. There was general consensus in support of this recommendation.

## **5. MAINTENANCE REPORTS**

Chair Bell noted that a written report was provided as part of the agenda package.

### **a) No Smoking Signage**

Ben Symons reported that they are being moved as was directed at the previous meeting.

### **b) Gowlland Point Staircase**

Ben Symons reported that there is still not an update from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI). He also reiterated his recommendation to cut in stairs. Ben Symons reported that Ron Henshaw re-set the rocks and that the reflectors have been installed. \

### **c) Thieves Bay**

Ben Symons recommended that the lawn remain closed due to how wet it is and to allow greater growth. He also reported that the quote from Big Digem for the trail was \$17,000.00 and that they are still awaiting additional quotes.

Ben Symons reported that emails have been received to request improvements to the Boat Ramp. It was noted that the ramp does not belong to the Commission, but that collaboration with the Magic Lake Property Owner's Society could be possible. There was general consensus that they consider it at a future meeting.

### **d) Lively Peaks Egress Status**

John Chapman reported that the fire department has taken responsibility for locks on the gates.

### **e) Rope-Capstan Trail Drainage**

No update

### **f) Bridges Road**

It was reported that a neighbour has recommended improving the parking with gravel. Ben Symons offered to develop a proposal and there was general consensus that the matter be considered at a future meeting.

### **g) Mortimer Spit**

Ben Symons noted that Mortimer Spit is requiring maintenance. A discussion of the limited options due to restrictions was held.

There was general consensus that Ben Symons shall contact Glen Grimmer to do the maintenance.

### **h) George Hill**

Ben Symons noted that people have created a trail from the parking to the trail, avoiding the official entrance and missing the signs. There was general consensus that Ben Symons shall put a simple sign encouraging users to enter at the official entrance.

**i) Sign Vandalism**

Ben Symons provided an overview of the history of sign vandalism and the most recent issues. A discussion of the matter was held. There was general consensus that the next Pender Post address the matter and that additional deterrence be considered as needed.

It was recommended that the Board consider establishing a PIPRC Facebook page and there was general consensus that the matter be discussed at a future meeting.

Ben noted that he has built the sandwich boards for the upcoming Open House.

Note: It was noted that John Chapman needed to depart the meeting for a short window. By general consensus the agenda items requiring his input (6b, g, h, and 9a) were moved ahead in the agenda.

**6. PRIORITY ITEMS**

**a) Open House**

Note: This item was addressed after Item 10

**b) School Use Agreement**

Chair Chapman reported that the first draft has been circulated electronically and that the School District and user-group representatives have already submitted comments. He encouraged Commissioners to forward their comments so that he can compile them.

**c) Disc Park Shelter**

Deferred to a future meeting.

**d) Community Use of Parks for Personal Functions**

Deferred to a future meeting.

**e) Asset Management CRD Project Status**

Deferred to a future meeting.

**f) Dog Park Complaint**

Note: this item was addressed after Item 10.

**g) Youth Sports Licence Renewal**

Chair Chapman reported that the new agreement has increased requirements for insurance and other matters. He further noted that the licence now combines the Disc Park and Danny Martin Park. There was general consensus that Chair Chapman will follow up on the issues facing Youth Sports and report back at the next meeting.

**h) Magic Lake Dock**

Arnie Alksne reported that Three in the Tree has stated that they are pleased with the recommended size. There was general consensus that Ben Symons will develop a plan and estimated costs and that Arnie Alksne will report back at the next meeting

*Action Item: AA*

There was general consensus that a Capital Costs plan be developed and that this shall be considered at a future meeting.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

Tom Bell noted that several items have been received in relation to the dog park and that most of those items will be available in hard copy.

**8. REPORTS**

Note: John Chapman departed the meeting at 9:50 am.

**a) Director's Report**

None.

**b) Chairperson's Report**

None.

**c) Treasurer's Report**

Susan Parr reported that there were no extraordinary or unexpected expenses to report.

**d) Recreation Report**

Susan Parr reported that her Pender Post article for the next month will include an announcement of the upcoming applications.

There was general consensus that Susan Parr and Tom Bell shall draft a letter to past recipients outlining the reporting requirements.

*Action Item: SP and TB*

**e) Communications**

The Pender Post article schedule is as follows:

June edition: Susan Parr

July edition: Jan Kirkby

August edition: Hans Tammemagi

Hans Tammemagi volunteered and there was general consensus that he will assume responsibility for the Pender Post articles starting with the August edition.

The deadline for submission of articles is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the edition at 9:00 am. It was recommended that submissions be made no later than the 19<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## 9. NEW/ OTHER BUSINESS

### a) Commonality Meeting

Chair Chapman noted that recommended agenda items have been sent by other Commissions and recommended that Commissioners send their recommendations. It was noted that Archeology has already been recommended and well received. Further recommendations included Dog Parks and Bike Parks.

### b) Park Map Status

Deferred to a future meeting.

### c) Agenda/Meeting Organization

Deferred to a future meeting.

### d) Rezoning Practice of Islands Trust

Deferred to a future meeting

### e) GINPR Liaison Meeting

Note: this item was addressed immediately prior to Item 11.

## 10. IN CAMERA SESSION FOR PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY MATTERS

None.

Note: A break was held from 10:00 am to 10:15. John Chapman returned during the break.

Note: Item 6d) Open House was returned to at this time.

Jan Kirkby noted that a draft for the roll down banners had been generated. There was general consensus that the draft be forwarded to the CRD to ensure that they approve of the use of their logo. Jan Kirkby reported that in addition to the two written banners, a third banner of photos could be considered.

John Chapman noted that a survey had been written. There was general consensus that Tom Bell will circulate an electronic copy for response.

*Action Item: TB*

John Chapman further reported that a pie graph for the recreation budget and the parks budget have been created. There was general consensus that these be printed for display as well.

It was noted that the event will be held from 9:30 am -1:00 pm and that Commissioners should arrive at 9:00 and bring their business cards. Hans Tammemagi, Tom Bell, John Chapman, and Jan Kirkby will attend for the first half. Susan Bell, Arnie Alksne, and Hans Tammemagi will attend for the second half.

John Chapman and Tom Bell will arrange for the sandwich boards.

*Action Item: TB, JC*

Note: Item f) Dog complaint was returned to at this time.

Chair Bell provided an overview of the material received from members of the community who wish for the dog park to be relocated. He noted that the group questions the process by which the decision was reached, the impact on the neighbourhood, and the risks created by the proximity to the baseball diamond.

Chair Bell provided an overview of the process for the meeting. He noted that the Commission's priority at this time is to receive information from those who wish for the park to be moved. He further noted that several of the Commissioners were not yet on the Commission when the decision was made.

Chair Bell invited former Commissioner Kathy Curtis to speak. She provided an overview of the history of the matter including the following points:

- The Monday Morning Dog Group approached the PIPRC requesting that they find a location for a dog park after Southridge announced they were closing their dog field.
- Danny Martin Park was one of several sites considered, but other sites were dismissed for a variety of reasons.
- She and the Monday Morning Dog Group drafted a letter and visited seven houses in proximity to the park. She noted that only one resident was home and other homes were left the letter in their door or other similar location. She noted that she has a list of the houses visited, but no longer has a copy of the letter.
- Following noise complaints from neighbours, she spent a few weeks visiting the park and speaking with users about specific noise makers.
- Gale Jamison represented Youth Sports and agreed that the dog park would be welcome. She further noted that Youth Sports were involved with decisions about fencing and other considerations and were cooperative in the process.
- The dog park users are providing the chips and are using the dog bags.

The Commission held a discussion to gather information on the process of installing and the operation of the park:

- The process took between 6-8 months.
- The dog group also uses a property near Hooson Road.
- People with dangerous dogs tend to come early in order to avoid other dog users.
- The park does not have hours of operations.
- Confirmation on information from Don Peden regarding noise bylaws should be sought.

Tom Bell acknowledged the arrival of eleven members of the public. He provided an overview of the process that the Commission has decided on for the meeting and noted that the first goal will be to collect information. He noted that the future meetings will have to be held to gather information from the group that uses the park and also for the Commission itself to review the process that was undertaken.

Tom Bell acknowledged Richard Peterson, a member of the public, and invited him to speak.

Richard Peterson provided information on the Park on the following topics:

- The petition that has been signed by neighbours, ball diamond users, and other members of the community requesting that the dog park be moved.
- The history of the neighbourhood's decision to organize.
- Letters from Jane Harrison, Angela Grey, and Richard Peterson.

Tom Bell provided an overview of the document circulated by Richard Peterson and invited him to elaborate on each.

Members of the public were recognized by the Chair and made the following points which are organized by topic below:

All community members in attendance noted that their properties are in line of sight of the dog park and reported that they did not receive any communication during the consultation process.

- Lack of consultation:
  - There was a lack of consultation and due process prior to the decision being made.
  - Report that Gale Jamison was consulted on behalf of youth sports and she requested that Danny Martin be consulted, but he reports not being consulted with.
  - The coaches were not consulted about the park. The coaches are volunteers and should not be required to take responsibility for educating the dog owner, a dog, or a child on appropriate interactions.
- Relocated to a more appropriate area
  - Support of a dog park on Pender Island, but at a different location
- Smell, noise, and other disturbances to the neighbourhood
  - Rich Peterson played a recording from a Sunday morning at 9:30 am from his deck two doors away.
  - Other members noted that they have been woken up at 5:30 am and that the dog park is loudest Saturday-Tuesday, but is heavily used every day of the week.
  - Neighbour noted that his wife works irregular hours due to the nature of her business and is unable to sleep in the mornings. He also noted that the sounds from the park are preventing them from enjoying the property.
- Safety risk to the neighbours and the ball park users
  - Dogs being released from the park or vehicles without control and entering properties and yards where children play. One member of the community expressed concern for his children and another concern for herself due to dogs that are not being kept under control outside of the park.
  - It cannot be guaranteed that a dog will not bite a child, that a dog owner will objectively evaluate a situation and remove their dog, or that every child will know how to safely interact with the dogs.
  - Concern for danger to children when they are using the field and for children when they need to retrieve balls from the dog park. It was noted that the field is short and balls are hit over the fence.
  - Reported incidents of dogs rushing at the fence for the neighbour that shares the property line, people walking past, and the children on the ball field.
  - Concern that the wood chips are a fire hazard should they become dry and are ignited or if a large pile starts to decompose and self ignites.
- Additional Concerns
  - Concern that the Youth Sports insurance will be negatively impacted by the proximity of the park.
  - John Chapman noted that CRD Parks are covered by CRD liability insurance. There was general consensus that additional information should be sourced.
  - Impact on the resale value of the real estate.
  - The closest house is 12 meters and the closest fence line, aside from the shared one, is 10 meters.
- Rules are not Being Followed
  - Rich Peterson noted that in spite of the rules, people ignore the signs.

- The rules leave the neighbours to police and have negative interactions with the park users.
- Impact on the baseball diamond and its users
  - Rich Peterson noted that the green space was used in the past for children to play while their parents or siblings used the field. He noted that had the ballpark users been consulted the Commission would have known that parents use this space.
  - The score board was enclosed within the dog park and children man that scoreboard. Having people use the park during the games forces the community to police the park users and creates hostility in the community.

Tom Bell invited Ben McConchie, Islands Trust North Pender Island Trustee, to speak.

Ben McConchie spoke to the following points:

- He had been consulted by the groups with concerns regarding the process.
- He noted that a lack of formalized process was a challenge. He encouraged the Commission to have a process for establishing new park uses and deal with complaints.

Tom Bell noted that Richard Peterson requested in writing that the paperwork that legitimizes the claim that public consultation took place be provided. He noted that the Commission will be collecting the information and that the process will be ongoing.

Tom Bell provided a summary of the documents that the Commission has at present time. He requested that any additional information be sent.

Tom Bell provided an overview of the proposed process moving forward. He noted that the next step would be for the group of dog users to have a chance to speak publicly to the Commission, and that following that, the Commission would have a public meeting to discuss the matter further.

Trustee McConchie recommended that the Commission consider how similar matters are dealt with on other islands and whether the decision on this matter could set a precedent.

Members of the public made the following additional remarks:

- The community members who are concerned are not against the dog group or the dog group owners.
- It was noted that the Commission has now been made aware of the concern and this could open them to liability should an incident occur. It was also noted that some neighbours may consider hiring a lawyer to take legal action.

Note: At 11:46 Chair Bell thanked everyone for attending and the members of the public departed the meeting.

There was general consensus that a public meeting shall be arranged prior to the next regular meeting and that a larger venue be chosen.

A discussion of the consultation process was held and the documents that can be found to support that process.

There was general consensus that Tom Bell be selected to represent the matter to the community.

The Commission thanked Kathy Curtis for taking the time to come to the meeting.

Note: Jeremy Harwood, Magic Lake Property Owners Society, arrived at 12:00 pm.

Susan Parr noted that Jeremy Harwood was in attendance as MLPOS is interested in assisting the Commission to make improvements to the boat ramp at Thieves Bay.

John Chapman provided an overview of the challenges to making changes to the area including its designation as a protected biological area. There was general consensus that the Commission would welcome a proposal from MLPOS and would then work with the Society to investigate other requirements and solutions.

Note: Item 9e was returned to at this time.

John Chapman noted that former commissioner, Tim Hall had attended on behalf of PIPRC and requested a volunteer to attend the twice annual meeting. Derek Wolff volunteered to attend and John Chapman noted that the next date will be either May 8, 2019 or May 29, 2019.

#### **11. NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting will be held on Friday, May 17, 2019 at 9:00 am at Plum Tree Court.  
The next special meeting will be held on Tuesday May 7, 2019 at 10:00 am at the Community Hall.

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

By general consensus, the meeting was closed at 12:17 pm.