

PENDER ISLANDS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (PIPRC)
Minutes of a Regular Meeting
Friday, May 17, 2019 (9:00 am)
Plum Tree Court, North Pender Island

Present: Tom Bell, 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), John Chapman,

Guests: Three members of the public (5 additional arrived for partial), Ben McConchie (partial), Don Peden (CRD Bylaw and Animal Control) (Partial)

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.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Bell recommended that the Dog Park Committee report be added to the agenda as item 3 and that the agenda be renumbered accordingly.

By general consensus, the agenda was approved as amended.

3. DOG PARK AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Bell noted that the Committee has met and the recommendation from the Committee is for the Commission to develop a process for resolving the issues that have been raised from the complaint.

- That the stakeholders be advised that the Commission would like them to work with them on the matter.
- That the stakeholders be advised that the Commission invites them to propose solutions.
- That the Committee recommend that the Commission consider short term and long-term solutions.
- He outlined recommendations of the Committee for the Commission to consider: improve signage to deal with hours of operation and other limitations, opaque covering on the inside of the fence, construction of a permanent weather structure, netting to prevent balls from entering the park, stronger effort to prevent dogs from entering park during baseball games, improvements to drainage, and stronger rules with enforcement and increased bylaw control presence.
- That the stakeholders provide input into the solutions and other possible solutions.
- That the Commission continue to remain open to finding a larger, more adequate space.

Chair Bell also reported that the Committee reviewed the process that was undertaken for consultation. He reported that they considered the ways that the proposal was publicized and concluded that the process was extensive and done with the best intentions, but recognizes that

greater the communities request for further consultation. He noted the Committee's recommendation that the Commission move forward with further consultation.

A discussion of the proposal was held and there was general consensus, without dissent, that the proposal be adopted.

Note: Chair Bell invited a member of the public, Herb Katz, to address the Commission on Item 5a) No Smoking Signage.

Herb Katz reported that it is his experience that people continue to smoke at the Magic Lake Swimming Hole in spite of the "No Smoking" sign. He requested that the Commission work to improve the situation and there was a recommendation that the signage be improved to state the fine.

A discussion was held and there as general consensus that the signage be improved concurrently with the bylaw revisions and that Ben Symons shall post more of the current signs.

Note: Chair Bell recommenced that Items 4 and 5 be interchanged.

4. DELEGATIONS AND PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Ben McConchie provided an overview of the roller hockey rink's history and its extensive use by various community groups. He thanked the Commission for their support of the rink.

Ben McConchie reported that the rink is requiring ongoing maintenance and repairs. He also noted that a complete rebuild of the rink would be the best, but most expensive, option.

Susan Parr provided information on the recreation funding that is available and the application process.

It was also recommended that the group consult with SGI Director David Howe for additional funding options.

Note: Ben McConchie departed the meeting.

5. ADOPTION OF PAST MINUTES

a) Minutes of April 23, 2019, Regular Business Meeting

It was noted that the minutes were not circulated as part of the agenda package. There was general consensus that the minutes be evaluated for approval at the next meeting.

6. MAINTENANCE REPORTS

Ben Symons provided a report including the following points:

Ben Symons recommended that the dog bag stations be moved for Gowlland Point Road. There was general consensus in support of this with the note that the service provider may not be able to provide service at that location.

Ben Symons recommended that the Trail 41 Bridge Park Trail be looped back to join with the main trail at Ainsley Point Road. There was general consent in support of the recommendation.

a) No Smoking Signage

Note: This item was discussed at item 3.

b) Gowlland Point Staircase

No report.

Action Item: TB

c) Boat Nook Status

No new information.

d) Thieves Bay

Ben Symons reported that the site is ready for a mowing and once that is completed, he recommends that the park be opened.

e) Rope-Capstan Trail Drainage

No update.

f) Ball Park Washroom

No report.

g) Other Maintenance Items

No further comments.

7. PRIORITY ITEMS

a) Open House Wrap Up

Chair Bell provided an overview of the event and noted that the information was presented in a very successful manner. He further noted that John Chapman has the surveys and will share information at a later time.

A discussion of the banner stands was held and it was agreed that they were well received, easy to use, and provide excellent information.

b) Commonality

Chair Bell noted that the event's organization is well under way. Ray Pink provided an overview of the menu selection and an outline of the budget.

MOTION: It was moved by Tom Bell, and seconded by Ray Pink, that the Pender Islands Park and Recreation Commission approve up to \$1500 for catering at the upcoming Commonality Meeting.

CARRIED

It was noted that drivers will be needed to transport Commissioners from the Ferry to the Legion and also transportation needs to be arranged for the afternoon field trip.

It was agreed that Tom Bell will work with John Chapman to finalize the details.

c) School Use Agreement

Tom Bell reported that John Chapman is collecting comments from stakeholders and will then submit the comments to the CRD in order to create a second draft.

d) PIPRC Bylaw Revision

Tom Bell recommended that the Draft Bylaw and the associated staff report that is forthcoming be considered at the next meeting.

It was noted that Chair Bell will circulate the following documents in advance of the next meeting:

- Existing bylaw 1578
- Sample Bylaw from Juan De Fuca Island
- Draft Bylaw from CRD
- Staff Report

e) Community Use of Parks for Personal Functions

Derek Wolff noted that the School Use Agreement and Draft Bylaw have some overlap with this project. He also noted that the CRD has an insurance program that they are training school administration to administer. He recommended that the Commission also consider having a representative trained in this program. There was general consensus that this be considered as further information becomes available.

A discussion of the type of authorization that would be required to meet bylaw requirements for authorization was held. It was noted that the Commission's approval of a Park Use application should be sufficient to meet this criteria.

Note: A break was held from 10:22 -10:30 am. Five additional members of the public and Don Peden (CRD Bylaw and Animal Control) arrived during this time.

f) Asset Management CRD Project Status

Chair Bell noted that the John Chapman will bring more information to the next meeting.

g) Dog Park Complaint

Chair Bell provided a statement to the members of the public in attendance. He noted that the Commission has agreed that they have been provided with ample information from the stakeholders and would now like to turn to a resolution process, in collaboration with the stakeholders.

Chair Bell outlined the solutions that the Commission has agreed to support, with the caveat that not all may prove possible or timely. Solutions and steps outlined included:

- Stakeholders input on hours and days of operation.
- Modes to deal with "bad actors"
- Whether the popularity of the park would make it best for everyone to have the park relocated.
- Improved signage with times and days of use, plus prohibited actions.
- Opaque covering of the fences to prevent dogs from pacing the fence or interacting with those outside of the fence. Installation of netting to prevent balls from entering the dog park.
- Improving the shelter options within the park.

- Improving the strength of the rules and enforcement of the bylaws. Consideration of the steps to provide pro-active bylaw enforcement.

Chair Bell invited Herb Katz to speak and the following points were made:

- Recommendation that the dog park parking be directed to the ball park parking area which is about one minute away.
- Adopt the tennis court model for Magic Lake. The users pay a nominal fee and there is a lock with a key. By moving to this model, users will be members of a group and prevent rogue users who are more likely to break the rules.
- The netting would address the balls entering the park, but not the children entering the park for the score board. The score board is not inside the ball park's leased area, but it could be moved to the Buccaneers' road allowance.
- Hours of use and enforcement would be welcomed.

Gerry McKeating recommended that the people who request a move and the people who want the stay be directed to each provide a list of recommendations to the Commission within two weeks.

Richard Peterson noted that those who want the park moved would be willing to discuss short term ideas for how to mitigate the issues until the park is moved, but that the group's overall request is that the park be moved.

A discussion was held regarding the Commission's willingness to entertain moving the dog park. It was noted that while this is still in consideration.

Ian Dutton, whose property neighbours that park, requested information on whether it is possible to lock the dog park when it is public lands. He recommended that the scoreboard be fenced in with a gate accessible from the ball diamond.

Herb Katz noted that the users would be open to a new and better suited place, but that they would request that the current park remain open until a new one is ready to be used.

Debbie Katz stated that the park is generally only moderately used and that it is not too small. She encouraged that the Commissioners to visit the park and observe how well behaved the users are.

Jan Kirkby recommended that consideration be given to the fact that the regular dog park users are a responsible group, but that they may not have a perception of how the irresponsible users behave in their absence. She encouraged openness to the experiences of those who live in the area and are experiencing the park all day long.

Miles Kirk-Gushowaty noted that the short term solutions, particularly those that require a great deal of effort, could further entrench the dog park in that location and reduce the likelihood that a relocation will be considered.

Rich Peterson request an update on the information to legitimize the minutes' statements that the neighbours were consulted and positive feedback was obtained.

Jan Kirkby noted that there is information available now and that it will be provided to the stakeholders.

Gerry McKeating noted that he was a part of the group that met with the neighbours, but that he viewed the process as being one that was being directed by the Commission.

Chair Bell noted that the Commission is not in a position to evaluate its own process, but that the Commission would like to move forward.

Hans Tammemagi requested input on the dates and times that the park should be available.

Don Peden, CRD and Bylaw Control, noted that the CRD operates in a complaint driven model and that dogs are not allowed to disturb the neighbours with barking. He provided an overview of the challenges of reporting and enforcement, noting that formal complaints have not been received about the park. He recommended that the neighbours keep a log of the noises and use a phone app that measures decibels of sound.

Herb Katz reported that the PIRPC Terms of Reference outlines the requirements for consultation and noted that these requirements were met prior to the establishment of the park.

A discussion of the process and criticisms of it was held.

John Meredith recommended that the recriminations end and thanked the Chair for his and the Commission's efforts. He expressed his hope for movement forward in terms of implementing solutions and evaluating new locations.

Herb Katz recommended that two paths (rule enforcement and seeking a new site) be established in order to implement solutions to the current issues with the dog park and that both be addressed concurrently.

Chair Bell requested that the groups provide their recommendations to the Commission by May 31, 2019. He also noted that the Commission will support seeking alternative locations.

h) Youth Sports Licence Renewal

Chair Bell reported that John Chapman is working with Youth Sports and the CRD to complete the agreement.

i) Magic Lake Dock

Arnie Alksne reported that Ben Symons is currently sourcing a quote and will report back once that is received.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

9. REPORTS

a) Director's Report

None.

b) Chairperson's Report

None.

c) Treasurer's Report

Susan Parr noted that a report was circulated electronically. She provided an overview of the report and recommended that the Commission manage expectations carefully when community members and groups request funding.

It was recommended that an annual work plan be considered in order to carefully manage the budget.

Hans Tammemagi recommended that the shed be modified and the filing cabinets be stored there instead of in the CRC office. There was general consensus that Hans Tammemagi shall discuss the matter further with Ben Symons and report back with feasibility and cost estimates.

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 work to draft a letter to past recipients outlining the reporting requirements.

e) Communications

The Pender Post article schedule is as follows:

June edition: Susan Parr

July edition: Jan Kirkby

August edition and forward: Hans Tammemagi

10. OTHER BUSINESS

a) Park Map Reprinting

Arnie Alksne provided an update and noted that the maps will be reprinted shortly.

b) Agenda /meeting Organization

Chair Bell noted that a outline was circulated electronically and recommended that comments be received at the next meeting.

c) Rezoning Practice of Islands Trust.

It was noted that John Chapman has requested feedback and is still awaiting responses from most of the Commissioners.

d) Garbage Collection at Disc Park

Chair Bell reported that John Chapman has advised that the issue has been resolved in collaboration with the park users.

e) Commission Transition

Chair Bell noted that John Chapman will be stepping down as the Chair of the Commission. He noted that he has asked CRD legal for input on what happens when a Chair steps down mid

term. Chair Bell also noted that John Chapman has not yet decided whether he will remain as a Commissioner or as a consultant to wrap up ongoing projects.

There was general consensus that the Commission develop a plan for the transition at the next meeting. It was also recommended that John Chapman be requested to prepare a list of his ongoing projects in order to facilitate the process.

11. IN CAMERA SESSION FOR PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY MATTERS

None.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, June 21, 2019 at 9:00 am at Plum Tree Court.

13. ADJOURNMENT

By general consensus, the meeting was closed at 12:00 pm.