

PENDER ISLANDS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (PIPRC)
Minutes of a Regular Meeting
Friday, September 18, 2020 (9:30 am)
PIPRC Maintenance Shed, North Pender Island

Present: Michael Symons, Hans Tammemagi, Ron Underhill, Susan Parr, Ben McConchie, Ben Symons (Maintenance Contractor), Shannon Brayford (recorder)

Regrets: David Howe (Director, CRD, SGI), Derek Wolff

Guests: Four

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Symons called the meeting to order at 9:33 am. He acknowledged the guests for the delegations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was recommended that the delegations be moved ahead in the agenda to account for the discomfort of waiting in the outdoor meeting space.

By general consensus, the agenda was approved as amended.

3. DELEGATIONS

a. Lis Graham – Three in the Tree

Lis Graham provided an overview of her request for permission to install a collaborative fairy art project in the Enchanted Forest with the Pender Island School children.

The Commission requested and received information, including the following points:

- The timeline is anticipated to be during the fall months and prior to the weather becoming too cold.
- Intention to include an educational component regarding local flora and fauna.

It was noted that the park is an Islands Trust Conservancy that is managed by the PIPRC and that that organization should also be consulted.

A discussion was held regarding the best ways to encourage a connection to the natural space, options for alternative park sites that could be considered, and similar matters.

It was recommended that the project be brought to the Islands Trust Conservancy and that the proponent report back to the Commission.

b. Dog Park

Ian Dutton provided a presentation noting the following points:

- Research has proven them unable to find a dog park in North America that is less than 230 feet from a residential area and this park is 10 feet away.

- The regulation of closing the park on Sunday cannot be enforced, because the CRD call number is not staffed on Sundays and the local bylaw enforcement is then not notified until the following week.
- That the Commission might have interpreted a lack of continuing complaints from the neighbours as a lack of an issue, but that they were observing the time the Commission had requested to consider moving the park.

Rich Peterson addressed the impact of the park, including the following points:

- Noted that the park has impacted his ability to enjoy his home and that he cannot spend time on his deck due to excessive noise from the park.
- Requested that the practices of other dog parks in the country, specifically buffer zones between children play areas and residential areas, be observed in consideration of future sites.
- Provided an overview of the enforcement policy that is available to complainants and examples of how ineffectual it is in practice . He further noted that neighbours were directed to use bylaw enforcement, but bylaw enforcements directs them to go back to the Commission.

Danny Martin addressed the value of the dog park and the asset it provides to the community. He outlined the issues that the dog park being right next to the children's baseball field is creating:

- Loss of the play space that used to make the park a community and family gathering space during practices and games
- Danger of a dog attacking a child while they play baseball as the rule of not using the park during practices is not observed and without adequate bylaw enforcement leaves the volunteer coaches in the uncomfortable position of policing their fellow community members.
- Loss of access to the score board and unsanitary conditions should balls and equipment go over the fence
- Increased stress on coaches to make sure the dogs and children do not interact.

Danny Martin requested that minutes note that the baseball community is not against a dog park and does not want to be seen as in opposition to others in the community. He offered the support of Pender Island Baseball Family to help the dog park community should it be relocated, noting that the organization would be happy to help fundraise.

The Commission held a discussion of the matter, which included the following points:

- Significance of safety issues of placing the park next to the ball diamond.
- Practical issues of bylaw enforcement.
- Value of the dog park to the community.
- The impact of the safety and mitigation measures that were put in place, and the reasons for the ongoing concerns.

MOTION: It was moved by Ben McConchie, and seconded by Michael Symons that the dog park be permanently closed at the end of October 2020 and that such notice be given.

It was recommended that the motion be amended to set the date for the end of January. A discussion of liability and risk was held. The friendly amendment was not accepted by the mover.

A discussion of the motion was held, including the modes for communicating with the public through the October Pender Post and a sign at the dog park.

CARRIED

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Minutes of August 21, 2020 , Regular Business Meeting

It was recommended that the following amendments be made:

- Inclusion of Susan Parr under present.

By general consent, the minutes were adopted as amended.

5. MAINTENANCE REPORT

Ben Symons provided an overview of the report circulated electronically.

a. Trees at Thieves Bay

Ben Symons reported that a neighbouring property will be repairing their septic field which has been infiltrated by a tree's roots and that the tree is primarily on park land. He noted that the repair will involve removing tree roots which may compromise the tree's health and stability. Ben Symons indicated that the neighbour's preference is that the tree be removed, however his recommendation is to preserve the tree, but to top it to reduce the risk should its health become compromised and continue to monitor the situation.

A discussion of the recommendation was held.

There was general consensus in support of Ben Symons' recommendation.

Ben Symons noted that there are a few additional trees that require removal due to danger concerns. There was general consensus that he shall seek a price from the local arborist and report back at the next meeting.

b. COVID 19 Signs in Parks

Ben Symons requested direction on replacing the weathered and outdated COVID 19 signs.

There was general consensus that Ben Symons shall contact Justine Starke (CRD) for replacement signs.

6. IN CAMERA

MOTION: It was moved and seconded that the Pender Islands Parks and Recreation Commission shall close the public meeting to enter an In Camera Session under Community Charter s. 90(1)(a) for discussion of contract matters. **CARRIED**

At 11:30 am Chair Symons reopened the public meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Magic Lake Swimming Hole

Chair Symons reported on a community member's recommendation for dock maintenance and a lifeguard on staff during the summer months. There was general consensus that the maintenance issues will be raised as part of the planned program for maintenance and that a life guard would not be within the Commission's budget.

b) Signs from the CRD

Chair Symons reported that the CRD has sent a box of signs and has billed the Commission for the shipping. It was noted that the Commission did not request the signs, would have preferred not to receive them, and did not agree to pay for the signs. There was general consensus that this shall be communicated back to CRD staff.

c) Trees at Disc Park

Chair Symons reported that Ben Symons, in his capacity as a hazardous tree evaluator, has determined that the trees in question are not a hazard. There was general consensus that no further action be taken.

8. REPORTS

a. Director's Report

A discussion of the role of the Director was held.

b. Chairperson's Report

No further items

c. Treasurer's Report

Susan Parr provided an overview of the CRD report. She noted that the reports do not include costs posted during the month of July.

d. Recreation Report

It was noted that the forms have been completed and forwarded to past contributors. There was general consensus that Michael Symons and Ben McConchie will review the applications and provide recommendations to the Commission at the November meeting.

e. Communications

Hans Tammemagi reported that the article will be submitted including a picture of Bricky Bay and the information on Recreation Funding and closure of the dog park.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

a) Damaged Board Walk

Chair Symons reported that a motor vehicle drove off the road and damaged some park boardwalks. He noted that the vehicle was identified and that he has received the information from the CRD regarding the process for filing an insurance claim.

b) Joint Use Agreement, User Group Insurance

Chair Symons reported that he contacted the CRD about the decision made at the previous meeting to provide the group insurance on a trial basis for 1 year.

c) Shingle Bay and Thieves Bay Restoration

Chair Symons reported that he has contacted the conservation biologist at the Mayne Conservancy regarding the improvement and revegetation of the ditches at Shingle Bay and Thieves Bay parks.

There was general consensus that Michael Symons shall proceed with obtaining a quote on the consultation and report back to the next meeting.

d) Ainslie Point Trial

Hans Tammemagi reported that he visited the site and views the project favourably. He noted that the checklist still contains items which will need to be completed, but that the maintenance contractor believes the project will be manageable. There was general consensus that Hans Tammemagi shall draft a letter to those organizations and residents who require notification and continue completing the checklist.

e) Master Planning Session

There was general consensus that a meeting shall be held at the Anglican Church, using the CRC flip charts, etc. and that a date in October shall be selected by email.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a) Interpreter Signs at the Enchanted Forest

Hans Tammemagi noted interest in installation of interpreter signs at Enchanted Forest. There was general consensus that he continues discussion with the Pender Islands Conservancy Association (PICA).

b) Creation of bike rural bike paths and transportation infrastructure

Ben McConchie noted his interest in such projects and there was general consensus that the matter shall be brought up at the Master Planning session.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, October 16, 2020 at 9:30 am at a location to be determined once a suitable indoor site for physical distancing is arranged.

12. ADJOURNMENT

By general consensus, the meeting was closed at 12:15 pm.