

PENDER ISLANDS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (PIPRC)
Minutes of a Regular Meeting
Friday, February 12, 2021 (9:30 am)
Electronic By Zoom

Present: Ben McConchie, Hans Tammemagi, Susan Parr, Derek Wolff, Barry Mathias, Tim Frick, Rob Fawcett, Arnie Alksne, David Howe (SGI CRD Director), Paul Brent (Alternate Director CRD SGI), Ben Symons (Maintenance Contractor), Shannon Brayford (recorder)

Regrets: None.

Guests: Taven Lopeteki (Pender Ocean Defenders), Jim Peacock (Community Justice Program)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair McConchie called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and invited each member of the Commission to introduce themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was recommended that the following items be added to the agenda:

- Item 8a Dog Park Subcommittee to follow delegations
- Add Under New Business 8f “Natural Asset Management”

By general consensus the agenda was approved as amended.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Minutes January 8, 2021, Regular Business Meeting

By general consensus the Minutes of January 8, 2021 were adopted as presented.

4. DELEGATIONS

a) Taeven Lopeteki, Pender Ocean Defenders Whale Trail Installation

Taeven Lopeteki provided an overview of the project noting that the group is creating tiles to celebrate the orca whales born over the past several years. She highlighted the organizations hope that the tiles created could be installed at each of the five designated “Whale Trails” (sites designated for viewing whales from land).

The Commission requested and received information on the purpose of the project and the materials being used in the installation.

There was general support for the project in principle and consensus that Tim Frick shall work with Ben Symons and Taeven Lopeteki to review the project and report back at the next meeting for consideration of final approval.

Note: Taeven Lopeteki departed the meeting at 9:30 am

Note: Item 8a “Dog Park Sub Committee” was moved ahead in the agenda and discussed at this point

8a) Chair McConchie introduced Jim Peacock from the Community Justice Program. Chair McConchie provided an overview of the role that the Community Justice Program is playing in facilitating communication around the dog park matters. He further noted the group’s recommendation to create a sub-committee to potentially find a new dog park location.

MOTION: It was moved by Ben McConchie, seconded by Hans Tammemagi, that the PIPRC create a sub-committee to investigate the use of land on Pender Island for a dog park.

CARRIED

A discussion of the formation of the sub-committee was held. Jim Peacock noted the importance of an open invitation for all interested stakeholders.

Note: Jim Peacock departed the meeting at 9:45 am

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

6. REPORTS

a) Maintenance Plan

Ben Symons noted that his report was circulated electronically.

a. Found Road

Ben Symons provided an overview of the collaboration request from Pender Islands Conservancy Association (PICA) to replace and improve the interpretive signs at Found Road.

A discussion of establishing an overall policy and design plan for all trails was held. Ben Symons provided an overview of the types of signs at the various parks and the benefits and drawbacks of each.

There was general consensus that Ben Symons shall work with PICA for a plan at Found Road using his discretion and that he will return for funding approval if needed.

b. Skeeles Road

Ben McConchie reported that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) has committed to the repair and that he will follow up to confirm.

c. Shingle Bay Outhouse

It was noted that the tank for the outhouse has failed and that the outhouse is currently closed. The options for moving forward that were listed in the maintenance report were reviewed.

A discussion of the repair options was held. There was general consensus that the matter is related to the overall groundwater issues at the park and that it shall be discussed further under item 8b) Thieves Bay and Shingle Bay Planning.

b) Chair's Report

Chair McConchie reported on his participation in the Dog Park circle communication through the Community Justice Program.

Chair McConchie noted that Big Digem requested and received access through the boat nook trail for a small excavator. He noted that the project was successful and that no damage was noted. He further noted that the company has showed their appreciation by donating 5 yards of gravel to a future project.

c) Treasurer's Report

Susan Parr provided an overview of the year end budget and noted that a small surplus was transferred into the capital reserve.

Susan Parr provided an overview of the process by which the capital reserve can be accessed and noted that the Commission needs to create a Capital Plan Budget for the year. She provided an overview of the capital expenses known to date and a discussion of future potential expenses was held.

It was noted that identification of key projects is a priority and that this will be discussed later in the agenda.

d) Recreation Report

No comments.

e) Communications

Hans Tammemagi provided an overview of Pender Post Articles.

Note: SGI CRD Director Dave Howe joined the meeting at 10:31 am

7. OLD BUSINESSS

a. Master Plan:

MOTION: It was moved by Ben McConchie, seconded by David Howe, that the Pender Islands Parks and Recreation Commission allocates time for Commission administrator to draft a master plan starting April 2021.

CARRIED

A discussion of the process was held and Shannon Brayford provided a recommendation on structuring the work moving forward.

There was general consensus that Shannon Brayford shall return to the next meeting with an outline of the master plan and list of topics still needing review.

- b. **Shed Roof:** Derek Wolff provided an overview of the project to date and noted that the work is moving forward as anticipated. A discussion of rafter rot was held and it was noted that none has been identified to date, but that closer examination will be completed at the time.
- c. **Ainslie Point Trail:** Chair McConchie noted that an email has been received from Parks Canada requesting that the Commission not install a sign at the trail head until Parks Canada has a chance to complete their review of the parks.

A discussion of the request and the general relationship between the Commission and Parks Canada was held. SGI Director David Howe and Alternative Director Paul Brent provided recommendations for communications strategies, including accessing the resources of the CRD Liaisons.

- d. **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Grant:** A discussion of the project was held and it was noted that letters of support were provided by Federal, Provincial, and Regional Levels of government.

The significant amount of work that was provided by Moving Around Pender (MAP) Peter Pare and Niall Parker, as well as the CRD's Justine Starke, was noted and the Commission expressed their thanks.

Rob Fawcett noted that in the research for the project it was identified that Parks Canada has identified two additional sections of the park that could be used as transportation trails. Chair McConchie noted that he will explore this at the Parks Canada Liaison Meeting.

8. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

- a. **Dog Park Sub Committee:** It was noted that this item was discussed following item 5.
- b. **Thieves Bay and Shingle Bay Planning**

Chair McConchie noted that a community member and significant donor had recommended the Commission think about encouraging family use of parks. There was general consensus that this be discussed under the master plan

MOTION: It was moved by Ben McConchie, seconded by Barry Mathias, That the PIPRC consider the "public use" of these parks a top priority for community usage as part of the master plan.

CARRIED

- c. **Volunteer Sub Committee**

Chair McConchie provided an overview of the recommendation that the Commission establish a volunteer sub-committee. It was noted that Ilse Phillips has offered to support the project, that the Green Angels would like to support work in the parks, and that trail stewards have been used in the past.

MOTION: It was moved by Ben McConchie, seconded by Arnie Alksne, that a volunteer sub committee be established to create a group of people involved in assisting in maintaining and assisting with the jurisdiction of the Pender Islands Parks and Recreation Commission.

d. Demonstration Forest

Arnie Alksne noted that the Commission had considered establishing a demonstration forest in the past at the Lively Peak Trail and Emergency Road. He provided an overview of the purpose of a demonstration forest.

There was general consensus that this shall be included for consideration in the Master Plan.

e. Accessibility Plan

Tim Frick noted that a document including requirements for an accessible trail and an assessment of each of the Commission's trails was circulated electronically.

It was noted that additional funding could be available from other sources for such improvements.

There was general consensus that this matter shall be included for consideration in the Master Plan.

f. Natural Asset Management

Derek Wolff provided an overview of the Natural Asset Management Database and the benefits of using such a process to support the planning processes and decision making of the Commission. He noted that there is a Natural Association of Natural Asset Management that would be able to support such a project.

A discussion was held and there was general consensus that the Commission members shall review the project and return to the next meeting prepared to make a decision.

9. IN CAMERA

None.

10. NEXT MEETING

Regular Business Meeting Friday, March 12, 2021 at 9:30 am via zoom

11. ADJOURNMENT

By general consensus, the meeting was closed at 11:49 am.