

PENDER ISLANDS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (PIPRC)
Minutes of a Regular Meeting
Friday, April 16, 2021 (9:30 am)
Electronic By Zoom

Present: Ben McConchie, Hans Tammemagi, Susan Parr, 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: Derek Wolff,

Guests: Ilse Phillips (Volunteer Coordinator), Debbie Katz (Delegation), Matt DeRoches (Delegation), Kathy Gilbert (delegation), three members of the public.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair McConchie called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and introduced the Commission. He acknowledged

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

- Addition of Matt DeRoches under delegations.
- Addition of Debbie Katz under delegations
- Addition of Kathy Gilbert under delegations
- Addition of Political Position on Clear Cutting on Pender Island Under New Business

By general consensus the agenda was approved as amended.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Minutes March 12, 2021, Regular Business Meeting

By general consensus the minutes of March 12, 2021 were adopted as presented.

4. DELEGATIONS

a) Matt DeRoches, Thieves Bay

Matt DeRoches provided an overview of a vision for a night market at Thieves Bay on Thursday nights that includes musical performances. He noted support of arts-focused non profits on the island.

Matt DeRouches outlined his request to use the park and also to set up a semi-permanent stage.

Chair McConchie noted that consideration of the matter will be added as a business item at the next meeting and invited the Commissioners to request additional information.

b) Debbie Katz, Dog Park

Debbie Katz requested information from the Commission on the following points:

1. Will the current dog park remain open until a new dog park opens?
2. Is the Commission listening to those community members who would like to have a dog park on the island?
3. Has an environmental impact study been done for the current dog park or the potential new park?
4. Is the expense of relocating a new dog park worth while?

Debbie Katz requested that the Parks Commission reconsider closing the dog park.

c) Kathy Gilbert, Dog Park

Kathy Gilbert noted that she sent a written submission to the Commission. She noted that there was a lack of consultation prior to making the decision to close the park on May 1, 2021 and lack of consultation on identifying a new location for dog park. She encouraged the Commission to work with the Dog Park User Committee on these matters.

The Commission provided an overview of the process currently underway to identify a new dog park location.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

6. REPORTS

a) Maintenance Plan

Ben Symons noted that his report was circulated electronically. He noted that he is awaiting direction on the Ainslie Point Trail and Mortimer Spit.

Chair McConchie noted those items would be discussed later in the agenda and the decisions would be communicated back to Ben Symons.

b) Chair's Report

Chair McConchie reported that he has replied for the support of the Invasive Species Management group. He noted that he consulted with Ben Symons and identified five locations that require attention. He noted that a decision has not been made yet.

c) Treasurer's Report

Susan Parr noted that there is not a report from the CRD this month due to fiscal year end.

d) Recreation Report

Shannon Brayford reported that the 2021-2022 recreation funding cycle has been opened and applications are available on the website. She provided an overview of the process this year, noting that the schedule has been shifted to ensure that groups receive their funds by September.

Shannon Brayford further reported that groups have indicated that they may not be able to spend all of their 2020-2021 funds and have requested to carry the funds over to next year. She

noted that the CRD direction for the previous funding cycle was that funds needed to be returned.

There was general consensus that the past policy continues to be abided by and that unused funds be returned. It was further agreed that Shannon Brayford and Susan Parr shall request confirmation that funds returned will be included in the 2021-2022 Recreation Funding budget.

e) Volunteer Committee

Ilse Phillips provided a report, noting that several trails have been adopted by volunteers and that she has started coordinating with teachers to have school classes participate in the program.

f) Communications

Arnie Alksne noted that he investigated the printing costs for maps and business cards and provided an overview of the quotes.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded, that the Pender Islands Parks and Recreation Commission print 2000 trail maps and 100 business cards for a total cost of no more than \$1100.00.

CARRIED

It was noted that there is a second Facebook page for PIPRC. There was general consensus that Shannon Brayford will connect with the community volunteer who used to run the page.

7. OLD BUSINESSS

- a. **Shed Roof:** It was noted that this project has been completed.
- b. **Ainslie Point Trail:** Hans Tammemagi provided an overview of recent activities on this matter, including the following points:
 - National Parks has indicated that they won't likely connect their trail to the PIPRC trail.
 - Two letters of concern have been received from local community members.

Chair McConchie provided an overview of the history of the trail and community concerns that have come to light since the last meeting.

The Commission held a discussion of the trail and noted that they would like to better understand:

- The history of the covenant on the land.
- The process for consultation with First Nations.

It was noted that a session on the CRD's Statement of Reconciliation, the BC Heritage Act, and the CRD's Archaeological Policy.

- c. **Mortimer Spit:** Chair McConchie provided an overview of the history of the work on the site and the rationale for not moving forward with the grading at this time.

A discussion of the process and importance of First Nations consultation was held.

A discussion of the future of Mortimer Spit was held and a discussion of closing off the site to vehicles was held. Commissioners provided comments, including consideration of

protecting the site and the benefits of having vehicle access for those who have limited mobility.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded, that the Pender Islands Parks and Recreation Commission rescind the decision of March 12, 2022 to grade Mortimer Spit.

CARRIED

MOTION: It was moved and seconded, that the Pender Islands Parks and Recreation Commission direct Ben Symons to install a sign at the road entry of Mortimer Spit to warn drivers of the conditions of the road.

CARRIED

8. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Natural Asset Management:** It was noted that Derek Wolff had sent his regrets and this matter would be revisited at a future meeting.
- b. Dog Park Sub Committee:** Tim Frick provided an overview of the new dog park location being considered, including installation of outhouses and providing suitable parking.

A discussion of the proposed plan was held, including the following points:

- Challenges of funding the project and potential phasing of the projects
- Concerns about environmental impact of the project.
- Importance of appropriate community consultation.

There was general consensus that the committee shall report back at the next meeting with a revised budget that includes an environmental assessment.

There was further consensus that, should the proposal look feasible, the Commission shall consider the project and hear from the community at the June meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the current dog park and extending the closing date from May 1, 2021 until such time as a new park opens. It was noted that the Commission cannot rescind a previous decision without having it appropriately noticed to the community and giving an opportunity for feedback. There was general consensus that the matter will be revisited at the May meeting and that a "closed" sign be posted on the gate of the park.

- c. Thieves Bay and Shingle Bay Planning**

It was noted that the cost of the projects needs to be investigated and prioritized relative to other budget priorities

- d. Master Plan**

Chair McConchie noted the importance of the Master Plan and reminded the Commissioners to respond with comments to the draft master plan by Friday, April 23, 2021

- e. Clear Cutting on Pender Island**

By general consensus this matter was postponed to the next meeting.

9. IN CAMERA

None

10. NEXT MEETING

Regular Business Meeting Friday, May 14, 2021 at 9:30 am via zoom

11. ADJOURNMENT

By general consensus, the meeting was closed at 12:06 pm.