

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

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

Regrets: Rob Fawcett, Barry Mathias, David Howe (SGI CRD Director),

Guests: Mike Dine (Delegation), Ilse Phillips (Volunteer Coordinator), one member of the community

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair McConchie called the meeting to order at 9:30 am, introduced the Commission, and made a territorial acknowledgment.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was recommended that the following amendments be made to the agenda:

- New Business, Dog Mermaid
- New Business, Correspondence from Castle Road Residents
- New Business, Policy Statement Islands Trust

By general consensus the agenda was approved as amended.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Minutes June 11, 2021, Regular Business Meeting

It was recommended that the territorial acknowledgement be noted at the start of the minutes.

By general consensus the minutes of June 11, 2021 were adopted as amended.

4. DELEGATIONS

a) Chief Mike Dine, Pender Island Fire Rescue

Chair McConchie invited Chief Dine to address the Commission regarding concerns that have been heard from residents about potential forest fires and requests to close specific parks to mitigate that danger.

Chief Dine provided an overview of the data, protocols, and practices used to set the fire ratings for the Penders and his rationale for recommending that the Commission follow the National Parks fire ratings. He provided an overview of the current conditions on the Penders and discouraged unilateral closing of parks. Chief Dine acknowledged that the media is creating a sense of fear that would lead to public concern, but encouraged the Commission and residents to understand that the media is reporting on regions of the province that do not correlate with our local conditions.

The Commission requested and received information on methods for encouraging safe smoking habits including designated.

Chair McConchie acknowledged Liz Montague, representative of the Castle Road Strata Council.

Liz Montague recommended that no smoking signs be installed in the Castle Road trail and noted that this specific trail has a large amount of gorse and broom.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- a) **Shingle Bay Swing Set Thanks:** Shannon Brayford reported that neighbours of the park sent their thanks for replacing the swing set and substrate.

6. REPORTS

- a) **Maintenance Plan:** It was noted that the report was circulated electronically.

Ben Symons noted that there are several items have been left behind at the former dog park by park users. There was general consensus that efforts shall be made to contact park users to collect items and otherwise Ben Symons shall dispose of them.

Ben Symons reported that the Found Road trail has received all necessary approvals. He further reported that Thieves Bay and Fawn Creek are approved subject to Cultural Monitoring. He noted that there will be scheduling challenges, but that the work will be completed subject to appropriate weather and scheduling.

Ben Symons reported that the estimate for improving Shingle Bay drainage is approximately \$40,000.

A discussion was held regarding the proposed Mount Menzies Trail and there was general consensus that the project shall move ahead as planned.

It was noted that the Orca Sign Project is moving forward and that it will be submitted for necessary approvals.

By general consensus, item 8f was moved ahead in the agenda.

Chair McConchie provided an overview of the concern that was raised by community members that a pop-up business has started at the Magic Lake Swimming Hole to rent inflatables to swimmers.

Chair McConchie noted that operating commercial ventures within the parks is against the bylaws and requires prior permission from the Commission. He reported that the local bylaw officer has spoken to the business owner and informed her that the permission is required.

A discussion was held regarding the benefits and drawbacks of the business. There was general consensus that the Commission supports the idea, but is concerned with increased traffic to the site, lack of parking, impact on neighbours, and unintended impacts of commercialization of the parks.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded, that the Pender Islands Parks and Recreation Commission directs Hans Tammemagi to review and approve a forthcoming Dog Mermaid application with the conditions that

- The permission is for 4 weeks only, with potential for extension after review.
- The business is limited to the rental of paddle boards and inflatable floaters.
- The business owner will clean up at the end of each day.

CARRIED

By general consensus, item 8a was moved ahead in the agenda.

A discussion was held regarding the maintenance requests from the users at Danny Martin Park.

There was general consensus that Ben Symons will review the request and consider the maintenance items. There was further consensus that Arnie Alksne shall seek quotes on having the roofing repairs completed.

b) Chair's Report

Chair McConchie reported that the Commission has received 40 hours of invasive species work. He noted that the Pender Islands Conservancy is participating in the project. He further noted that disposal of the daphne is an issue and that a local contractor has offered to do the collection and disposal for a fee.

Motion: It was moved and seconded, that the Pender Islands Parks and Recreation Commission approve up to \$2000 for the hiring of a contractor to collect and dispose of the daphne and related material

CARRIED

c) Treasurer's Report

Susan Parr noted that a new Treasurer needs to be put in place as August will be her last meeting.

She further noted that the new budget will need to be approved at the October meeting.

d) Recreation Report

Shannon Brayford provided an overview of the recreation applications and the recommended funding distribution amounts. She noted that all amounts were based on an equitable distribution of the limited funds, except where a prior fixed agreement existed between a group and the Capital Regional District (CRD)

Motion: It was moved and seconded, that the Commission approve the Recreation Funding as recommended by staff.

CARRIED

Discussion was held regarding the funding that is provided to the Community Hall. It was noted that the amount off funds requested often exceeds 50% of the total budget. The Commission expressed concern for the amount of the money and requested that a meeting be set with the Pender Islands Recreational and Agricultural Hall Association to discuss the matter.

e) Volunteer Committee

Ilse Phillips reported that she will host the stand at the market in August to promote the project and that everything is going well.

f) Communications

Chair McConchie thanked Hans Tammemagi for the Pender Post article and Paul Brent for the statement on the reconciliation efforts

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Ainsley Point Trail:

It was noted that the submission has been made to the WASANEC Leadership Council and that work will move forward accordingly.

b. Dog Park, New Site:

Tim Frick reported that he spoke to a private property owner near the community hall and that the site is an option for future consideration that will continue to be explored.

Tim Frick also reported that the Ketch Road site continues to be explored.

He further reported that pop-up dog park sites are being created with temporary fencing on Vancouver Island and this could be considered.

c. Thieves Bay and Shingle Bay Planning

A discussion was held regarding improving the drainage at Shingle Bay. It was noted that an environmental assessment would be required and will carry a cost.

A discussion was held regarding the requirement to hold a Master Planning Session. There was general consensus that a master planning session shall be held at Shingle Bay Park at a to be determined date in August and that Commissioners shall come to the meeting with estimated costs for their proposed projects.

d. Memorial Garden

It was noted that this matter will be addressed as a potential project at the Master Planning Session.

e. Mount Menzies Trail

It was recommended and there was general consensus that the trail shall be called "Big Tree Trail" as a working title.

Motion: It was moved and seconded, that the Commission direct Ben Symons to report back on the cost off constructing Big Tree Trail.

CARRIED

There was general consensus that Barry Mathias shall be the point person on the project

f. Orca Signs

Note This item was addressed under maintenance report

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Maintenance to Danny Martin Park

Note This item was addressed under maintenance report

b. Clear Cutting on Pender Island

Barry Mathias noted that there is a practice of clear cutting that has seen increased activity on the island

He recommended that the Commission send recommendations to the Islands Trust that they deal with this matter.

c. Covid Plan for In Person Meeting

Shannon Brayford reported that since circulating the agenda, the direction has changed and the Commission is now free to meet in person, provided that contract tracing is still undertaken.

d. Gowlland Point Map

Chair McConchie provided an overview of the proposed map display.

Motion: It was moved and seconded, that the Commission approve installation of the Gowlland Point Map as created by Jim MacDonald.

CARRIED

e. Request to close Closing Of Castle Road Park

Chair McConchie noted that there was a request to close Lllias Spalding Park and Castle Road trail due to concerns of wild fire safety.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded, that the Pender Islands Parks and Recreation Commission will not close trails in response to forest fire concerns, except when directed to do so by the Pender Islands Fire Rescue Chief or similar authority.

CARRIED

9. IN CAMERA

None

10. NEXT MEETING

There was general consensus that the next regular business meeting shall be in September, but that a Master Planning Session shall be held at a to be determined date in August at Shingle Bay Park.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

