

PENDER ISLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (PIPRC)

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, March 13, 2023 @ 3:00 PM**

CRD Community Center Meeting Room & Zoom Video Conference

Present:

Commissioners: George Leroux (Chair), Rob Fawcett (Vice Chair), Paul Brent (CRD Director), Larry Colcy, Andrea Mills, Barry Mathias, Sandra Tretrick, Erin O'Brien, Lisa Baille

Regrets:

Guests – Ben Symons (Maintenance Contractor), Melody Pender (CRD staff), Kelly Friesen (PIPRC admin), Justine Starke (CRD staff), Laura Mattias (Biologist), Sue Long (Resident)

1) Call to Order

Chair Leroux called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM

2) Approval of Agenda

The Agenda, inclusive of School use agreement and Dip Project additions, is approved.

Moved - Fawcett, Seconded - Brent
Carried

3) Approval of Minutes

The February 13, 2023 draft Minutes, circulated in advance, are approved with amendments.

Moved - Mathias, Seconded - Brent
Carried

4) Business Arising

1. Outhouse Maintenance Contract – Justine Starke reported that a new Outhouse Maintenance contractor is expected to start April 1, 2023. Ben Symons will coordinate between the previous and new contractor to assist with the transition.

Conery Cres. Easement request – Commissioner O'Brien provided a biological assessment of the site and the easement request. Concerns were raised for the poor planning that resulted in the subdivision approval that provided inadequate lot access.

The Commission supports the Conery Cres. easement proposal on the basis that it supports the local ecology, subject to the understanding that CRD, as the legal agent for the PIPRC, will ensure the Park's interests are protected.

Moved - O'Brien / Seconded - Mathias
Commissioner Fawcett abstained
Carried

5) Correspondence

1. Laura Matthias - Sharp Tail Snake monitoring request at George Hill and Mt. Menzies Parks. Commissioners supported the request.

Laura Matthias left the meeting at 3:35 PM

2. Island Trust Conservancy – the boundary survey at the Enchanted Forest Park was completed. The neighbouring property encroaches on the Park, and the Park encroaches on another neighbouring property. Ben will relocate ~ 10 trees and a portion of the boardwalk onto Park property.
3. Kelly McArthur – expressing opposition to a potential dog park on South Otter Bay Rd. Commissioner Leroux will respond to the email.
4. Chuck H – asking for further information concerning trees felled on Capstan Lane trail. Commissioner Leroux will respond to the email.
5. Bob Tippet/Mia Samson – expressing opposition to off leash dogs at the Thieves Bay Park. [see further discussion under item 10 below].

6) Activities

1. Director's Report – Director Brent thanked the commissioners for their work.
2. Chair's Report – Chair Leroux provided a brief synopsis of his report, circulated in advance, highlighting dogs and invasive species in the parks.
3. Maintenance Report – Ben Symons provided a brief overview of his report, circulated in advance. Ben reported that Cliffside Trail is now closed for nesting season. Ben discussed moving trees and the boardwalk at Enchanted Forest Park. Commissioners agreed and offered to help.

Ben left the meeting at 3:50 PM

4. Volunteers – Commissioner Mills reported on her work to organize volunteers and asked about discussing the intake forms with Justine at the CRD.

5. Magic Lake Park - Commissioners Colcy and Tretick reviewed options and led a discussion for addressing derelict boats left in the Park.

The Commission will update signage and communicate with the community advising that boats must be kept neatly within the designated area, are left at the owner's risk, and must be clearly marked with the owner's name and contact information. Clearly abandoned, derelict boats will be removed.

Moved – Tretick, Seconded – Baille
Carried
Commissioner Mills opposed

6. Trails – Commissioner Fawcett provided an update on the proposed Schooner Way trail, including that Engineering work was ongoing and should be available in April.
7. Recreation Grants Program – Commissioners Tretick and Fawcett reported work underway to update grant forms and website updates. The first advertisements / notices will be in the April Pender Post.
8. Native Species –
 - a. Commissioner Mathias updated on proposed planting at Thieves Bay. Barry would like form an ad hoc committee to develop a planting program for winter 23/24.
 - b. Commissioner O'Brien provided an update of ongoing work at Danny Martin Park.
 - c. The Annual Broom Bash is schedule to start on May 7th.
 - d. Gardom Pond – plans are under development for restoration work to begin in Q4-23.
9. Annual Beach Clean-up Day – April 22nd. O'Brien will send an email sign-up sheet for Commissioners who would like to participate.
10. Dogs & Parks –
 - a. Chair Leroux reported feedback opposing dogs being off leash in parks as well as to new dedicated dog parks.
 - b. Sue Long, a community member, spoke on behalf of dog owners. Sue advised that many in the community feel it is incumbent on the Commission to provide for the needs of dog owners. Sue emphasized that the Commission's closure of the previous dog park, and its failure to either find alternative locations or loosen leash restriction, is unacceptable to dog owners.
 - c. Director Brent suggested PIPRC consider amending the by-law from dogs must be leashed to dogs must be under control. Paul indicated this is the policy on the rest of the Southern Gulf islands.

- d. Leroux and Fawcett agreed to consider dogs in parks further and report at the next meeting.

Commissioner Colcy left the meeting at 4:49 PM

11. Treasurer's Report – Chair Leroux provided a review of fiscal 2022 including discussion of expenses and reserve accounts. Director Brent advised that the fiscal 2023 Budget will be approved shortly, and Leroux will provide a budget and Q1-23 report at the April meeting.
12. Communications – Commissioners agreed to the Pender Post article schedule as follows:
 - a. April issue –Tretick,
 - b. May issue – Fawcett,
 - c. June issue - Mathias
13. Other – CRD staff Justine Starke informed the commission on the Dip project timeline and the use of Mortimer Spit for the off-loading of equipment.

7) In Camera

Motion to go in Camera, requesting staff to stay.

Commissioner Fawcett / Commissioner Tretick
Carried

8) RISE AND REPORT

A letter received by the Chair from Ben McConchie was discussed, and no further action was considered necessary.

9) Next Meeting

Monday April 17,2023 – 1500 hrs – CRD Community Center / Zoom Video Conference