

Meeting Minutes
Regional Parks Committee

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

9:30 AM

6th Floor Boardroom

PRESENT:

DIRECTORS: S. Brice (Chair), Steve Price (Vice-Chair), M. Hicks, B. Isitt, D. Screech, L. Seaton, R. Kasper (for M. Tait), K. Williams, N. Jensen (Board Chair, ex-officio)

STAFF: L. Hutcheson, General Manager, Parks and Environmental Services; M. Walton, Senior Manager, Regional Parks; D. Green, Environmental Science Officer, Environmental Protection; P. Perna, Committee Clerk (recorder)

OTHERS: Directors R. Windsor and A. Finall

ABSENT: Director M. Tait

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Director Price, **SECONDED** by Director Williams,
That the September 16, 2015 Regional Parks Committee agenda be approved with the addition of delegation items 4.4 through 4.8 on the supplementary agenda.
CARRIED

2. Adoption of Minutes

2.1. 15-971 Minutes of the June 17, 2015 Regional Parks Committee Meeting

MOVED by Director Screech, **SECONDED** by Director Williams,
That the minutes of the June 17, 2015 Regional Parks Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

3. Chair's Remarks

Chair Brice spoke in regards to moving along with a transportation service, part of this involves the regional trails. She stated that further discussion and direction from this committee is needed to ensure that the recreational values of the regional trails are maintained, enhanced and incorporated.

4. Presentations/Delegations

- 4.1. 15-979** Mick Collins Re: Agenda Item 5.3 Elk/Beaver Lake Watershed Management Plan
- Mick Collins, representing the Victoria Golden Rods and Reels Society, spoke in support of item 5.3 Elk/Beaver Lake Watershed Management Plan. He advised that for the last 2 years, the society has been involved in coordinating and performing water sampling at Elk/Beaver Lake and are funding consulting studies into the health of the lake and remediation options.*
- Reading from a letter of support from Peninsula Streams' Executive Coordinator, Ian Bruce, Mr. Collins pledges that the two societies would continue to support this initiative over the next four years.*
- 4.2. 15-980** Ben van Drimmelen, Re: Agenda Item 5.1 and 5.2 Island View Beach Park Management Plan
- Ben van Drimmelen, Victoria Natural History Society, spoke in regards to the risk and endangerment of the species and ecosystem in Island View Beach Park and offered suggestions on getting the park back to its natural state and protection.*
- 4.3. 15-981** Ann Nightingale, Re: Agenda Item 5.1 and 5.2 Island View Beach Park Management Plan
- Ann Nightingale, representing a large group of naturalists and nature lovers, provided statistics of the bird colony and reasons for the need for ecological steps to prevent the diminishing population of birds. She would like to encourage the natural values of the park to ensure the safety of the animals and species in the area and discourage putting loop trails around natural areas, which disturb the animals.*
- 4.4. 15-991** John Kaye, Re: Agenda Item 5.2 Island View Beach Park Management Plan
- John Kaye spoke to the topics and need for the management plan for Island View Beach Park. He also spoke of the protection and conservation that should be set by staff or by resolution.*
- 4.5. 15-992** Andrew Harcombe, Rocky Point Bird Observatory, Re: Agenda Item 5.1 and 5.2 Island View Beach Park Management Plan
- Andrew Harcombe, recently retired conservation biologist, spoke to the needs of the park to ensure the protection and safety for the animals and all species, as well as bringing the park back to its natural dynamics.*
- 4.7. 15-994** Adam Taylor, Habitat Acquisition Trust, Re: Agenda Item 5.1 and 5.2 Island View Beach Park Management Plan
- Adam Taylor, Executive Director, Habitat Acquisition Trust, encouraged the CRD to strive for the best ecological outcome for Island View Beach Park including the animals, species, and environment.*

4.8. 15-995 David Blundon, Environmental Technology Program, Camosun College, Re: Agenda Item 5.1 and 5.2 Island View Beach Park Management Plan

David Blundon, Environmental Technology Program, Camosun College, spoke regarding their studying and sampling research at Island View Beach Park. He provided suggestions for improving the park in order to reverse the damage to the ecological aspect of the park, which would allow the return of specific species and ecological aspects.

4.6. 15-993 Adam Parfitt, Victoria Rowing Society, Re: Agenda Item 5.3 Elk/Beaver Lake Watershed Management Plan

Adam Parfitt, Vice President, Victoria Rowing Society, spoke to a PowerPoint presentation on the hazards from the weeds in the lake at Elk/Beaver Lake. He spoke about the weeds hindering the rowers and rescue boats for the athletes and spoke in support of the staff report. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is on file and available from the Legislative and Information Services department.

5. Committee Business

5.1. 15-958 Island View Beach Regional Park Management Planning Public Participation Process - Results of Step 2

M. Walton provided an overview of the report as well as an overview of the Island View Beach Regional Park Management Planning Public Participation Process. He advised that this is the conclusion of step two in the four step process and explained that this was a way to gather information, for people to understand the scientific aspects, and to identify issues. He explained that step three in the process will include taking this information to the public for discussion and then begin step four, to produce a draft plan for the Regional Parks Committee to consider.

Discussion ensued that the meeting should include conversations with Indigenous partners, ecological viewpoints and values, and residential viewpoints for use in recreational purposes. It was further discussed how to address these three points, come to a decision, and make it a part of the draft management plan while recognizing that parks are for people and conservation.

Director Windsor provided further information on the processes and spoke to the next steps involving the public.

**MOVED by Director Screech, SECONDED by Director Price,
That the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:**

That the Results of Step 2 of the Island View Beach Regional Park Management Planning Public Participation Process be received for information.

CARRIED

5.2. 15-960 Island View Beach Regional Park Management Planning Public Participation Process - Step 3

M. Walton provided an overview of the report and advised that November 22, 2015 will be the final public meeting. He stated that the next step is to bring together all of the information to form the draft management plan, which will then move the process into step four.

MOVED by Director Tait, **SECONDED** by Director Price,
That the Regional Parks Committee approve the proposed Step 3 process as described in Attachment 2 by holding a single community dialogue session and adding an online response form to increase opportunities for public participation; and
That staff be directed to provide a summary report at the January, 2016 Regional Parks Committee.
CARRIED

5.3. 15-968 Elk/Beaver Lake Watershed Management Plan - Dual Regional Parks and Environmental Services Committee Initiative

L. Hutcheson provided an overview of the report and M. Walton spoke to the operations of removing weeds.

Discussion ensued on weed harvesters and aerators and how they work, cost and equipment sharing with other municipalities, and clearing up water quality.

Staff noted that there are multiple stressors at Elk/Beaver Lake and the need to look at what is happening in the lake and the whole system.

Director Windsor left at 10:53 a.m.

The committee referred this item back to staff to provide a more detailed report addressing the issues of the weeds, the problems causing the weeds, and the water quality of the lake.

MOVED by Director Screech, **SECONDED** by Director Price,
That staff bring back a report to the Regional Parks Committee on options for the purchase of a weed harvester for weed removal in Elk/Beaver Lake; and

That staff provide a technical water quality report for Elk/Beaver Lake.
CARRIED

6. Information Items

6.1. 15-972 Trans Canada Trail Project Update

L. Hutcheson provided an overview of the project. There was discussion of the grades on some parts of the trail.

MOVED by Director Price, **SECONDED** by Director Isitt,
That the Regional Parks Committee receive this report for information and that it be forwarded to the Capital Regional District Board for information.
CARRIED

6.2. 15-962 Recreational Values of Regional Trails

Staff prepared a report on the recreational values of the regional trails, which was presented by M. Walton. There was discussion by the committee on the recreational value of regional trails and the importance of maintaining the duality of the trails in the future, serving both recreational and transportation interests.

Director Finall, Chair of the Planning, Transportation and Protective Services Committee, provided information on the use of the trails from a transportation perspective.

Discussion ensued on the need for making the trails safe for both pedestrians and cyclists. Staff advised that a draft Regional Trails Management Plan will come back to the Regional Parks Committee next month.

MOVED by Director Price, **SECONDED** by Director Screech,
That the Regional Parks Committee receive this report for information.
CARRIED

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Adjournment

MOVED by Director Hicks, **SECONDED** by Director Screech,
That the September 16, 2015 Regional Parks Committee meeting be adjourned at 11:33 a.m.
CARRIED

Next Meeting: October 21, 2015

CHAIR

RECORDER