

Meeting Minutes

Regional Parks Committee

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

10:00 AM

6th Floor Boardroom
625 Fisgard St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

PRESENT

Directors: R. Mersereau (Chair), G. Young (Vice Chair), G. Holman, B. Isitt, R. Martin (EP), J. Ranns, D. Screech, L. Seaton, M. Tait, N. Taylor, C. Plant (Board Chair, ex officio)

Staff: R. Lapham, Chief Administrative Officer; N. Chan, Chief Financial Officer; L. Hutcheson, General Manager, Parks and Environmental Services; J. Leahy, Senior Manager, Regional Parks; M. Lagoa, Deputy Corporate Officer; T. Pillipow, Committee Clerk (Recorder)

EP - Electronic Participation

Regrets: Councillor J. Olsen

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Director Tait provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Director Tait, **SECONDED** by Director Screech,
That the agenda for the September 22, 2021 Regional Parks Committee meeting
be approved.
CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1. [21-680](#) Minutes of the June 23, 2021 Regional Parks Committee Meeting

MOVED by Director Screech, **SECONDED** by Director Taylor,
That the minutes of the Regional Parks Committee meeting of June 23, 2021 be
adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Mersereau noted the volume of the agenda, and looked forward to the ensuing discussions.

The Chair thanked the Parks staff who have gone above and beyond for the past year and a half to ensure our residents' needs are met.

5. Presentations/Delegations

- 5.1. [21-702](#) Delegation - Corey Burger; Representing Capital Bike: Re: Agenda Item 6.3.: Regional Trails Widening and Lighting Project
C. Burger spoke in support of Items 6.2. thru 6.4.
- 5.2. [21-703](#) Delegation - Alastair Craighead; Resident of Victoria: Re: Agenda Item 6.5.: Ecological Values and Biodiversity in Regional Parks
A. Craighead spoke in support of Item 6.5.
- 5.3. [21-704](#) Delegation - Nitya Harris; Resident of Langford: Re: Agenda Item 6.5.: Ecological Values and Biodiversity in Regional Parks
N. Harris spoke of concerns with Item 6.5.
- 5.4. [21-705](#) Delegation - Alison Spriggs; Resident of Victoria: Re: Agenda Item 6.5.: Ecological Values and Biodiversity in Regional Parks
A. Spriggs spoke of concerns with Item 6.5.

6. Committee Business

- 6.1. [21-679](#) Regional Parks Land Acquisition and Infrastructure Financing Strategy
N. Chan introduced Item 6.1.
- Discussion ensued on the following:
- quantifying the net savings
 - applying this strategy to physical assets
 - potential solutions for future land acquisitions
 - implications of changing land values
 - the impact to taxpayers
 - annual debt servicing costs over the life of the loan
 - developing guidelines to address spending concerns
- MOVED by Director Isitt, SECONDED by Director Holman,
The Regional Parks Committee recommends the Committee of the Whole
recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the annual land acquisition levy be used to implement a debt financing
strategy for future land acquisitions.
CARRIED
OPPOSED: Ranns**

6.2. [21-684](#) 2022 Service Planning - Parks & Natural Resource Management

L. Hutcheson spoke to Item 6.2.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- the anticipated rate of increase to staffing levels
- the need for a land acquisition planner
- next steps to advance ecological protection in our parks
- this service plan's net impact on the 2022 requisition

MOVED by Director Isitt, **SECONDED** by Director Tait,
The Regional Parks Committee recommends the Committee of the Whole recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:
That Appendix A, Community Need Summary - Parks & Natural Resource Management be approved as presented and form the basis of the 2022-2026 Financial Plan.

MOVED by Director Plant, **SECONDED** by Director Isitt,
That the motion be amended to add the words "And ask staff to provided additional staffing information, including the staff establishment chart as part of the additional information, for the next meeting of the Committee of the Whole."
CARRIED

The question was called on the main motion as amended.

MOVED by Director Isitt, **SECONDED** by Director Tait,
The Regional Parks Committee recommends the Committee of the Whole recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:
1. That Appendix A, Community Need Summary - Parks & Natural Resource Management be approved as presented and form the basis of the 2022-2026 Financial Plan; and
2. Ask staff to provided additional staffing information, including the staff establishment chart as part of the additional information, for the next meeting of the Committee of the Whole.
CARRIED

MOVED by Director Tait, **SECONDED** by Director Plant,
That agenda items 6.3. thru 6.5. be postponed until the next meeting of the Regional Parks Committee.

MOVED by Director Isitt, **SECONDED** by Director Taylor,
That the motion be amended to remove 6.3. from the postponement.
CARRIED

The question was called on the main motion as amended.

MOVED by Director Tait, **SECONDED** by Director Plant,
That agenda items 6.4. and 6.5. be postponed until the next meeting of the Regional Parks Committee.
CARRIED

6.3. [21-678](#) Regional Trails Widening and Lighting Project

Discussion ensued on the coordination of traffic plans.

**MOVED by Director Screech, SECONDED by Director Isitt,
The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That staff be directed to actively develop partnerships and pursue grant funding opportunities, including submission to the federal Active Transportation Fund, to support implementation of the separated use pathway design with lighting.
CARRIED**

6.4. [21-677](#) E&N Rail Trail - Humpback Connector

Postponed until the next meeting.

6.5. [21-673](#) Ecological Values and Biodiversity in Regional Parks

Postponed until the next meeting.

7. Notice(s) of Motion

Director Plant read the following Notice(s) of Motion into the record for consideration at the October 27, 2021 meeting.

That the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Board:
That staff develop a Lighting and Trail Improvement/Widening Policy.

That the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Board:
That staff develop a Construction and Detour Policy.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Adjournment

**MOVED by Director Screech, SECONDED by Director Taylor,
That the September 22, 2021 Regional Parks Committee meeting be adjourned at 11:53 am.
CARRIED**

Chair

Recorder