



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
 Tuesday, June 10, 2014
 Colwood Municipal Hall

Present: Beth Mitchell, Joe Richardson, Judy Nault, Jason Nault, Ivo van der Kamp, Iain Bourhill, Kitty Lloyd, Nancy Wilkin, Judith Cullington, Aimee Pelletier (Fort Rodd Hill)

Guest: James Moller, Colwood CAO

DECISIONS				
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Next Meeting: 12 August 2014				
ACTIONS			ACTION BY	DUE
1	Attend Royal Bay public hearing and submit ELSI response		Kitty	June 10
2	Send a PDF of the Harbour Survey results for Esquimalt Lagoon		Kitty	ASAP
3	Plan details of invasive species workshop at Ft Rodd Hill in fall		Kitty/Aimee	Summer
4	Let Jody know what water quality parameters should be measured in Bee Cr.		Judy	Fall
5	Volunteer at Acres of Art at Coast Collective		Joe	July 12

INFORMATION

Presentation and Introduction: James Moller, Chief Administrative Officer, Colwood

- Colwood is re-branding itself, lots of positive changes are in the works for the near future
- Aiming to build resilience to challenges and opportunities as they present themselves; quality and efficiency in service delivery
- Looks forward to working collaboratively with staff and council, being open and responsive
- Opportunities for partnerships within the community
- Iain Bourhill is the acting Director of Planning, soon to become the permanent Director.

Development Proposals

Royal Bay:

- Iain gave a summary of the Royal Bay Area Plan being considered at the public hearing tonight.
- There were three public open houses, and the area plan proposal was modified after considering the public input received
- The area plan update process is being expedited to work within the timelines of the Colwood Official Community Plan review process currently underway

- A presentation was made at a special meeting of the Committee of the Whole (20 May 2014), and subsequent changes made to the proposal based on recommendations by staff and committee
- Recommendations included:
 - Increase the robustness of the policy statements regarding sustainability features
 - Landing and Commons sub-area plans – include a terms of reference for foreshore interface
 - Set minimum commercial space for Commons and Landing neighbourhoods
 - Enhance policy statements regarding waterfront parks
 - Murray's Pond - should be designated a special study area
 - Enhance language regarding naturoscaping, including specific park management plans for each neighbourhood area
 - Include a commitment to controlling invasive plants and preventing erosion
 - Policy statement addressing “aging in place” housing units
 - Foreshore area – include statements addressing protection of forage fish habitat and eelgrass beds
- Beth reported that she witnessed the felling of multiple trees near Perimeter Park at the Royal Bay site earlier today, on a bluff near the waterfront. For years the trees on this bluff have been used by adult and juvenile eagles as a roost while food foraging in the area. Photos of the tree and land clearing were circulated. This was news to Colwood staff, and James said they will investigate this issue.
- The regrading work currently underway at Royal Bay is being done under existing (old) permits and approvals.
- An improved communications plan is needed for the site, with neighbourhood alerts to let people know when to expect dusty conditions, noise, etc.
- Colwood staff have been diligent and responsive to Royal Bay developer's needs
- Since developer “has money but not time”, they hired an arms' length contractor to review development proposals on behalf of Colwood, but the overall process has not left adequate time for community “digestion” of plans and proposals
- ACTION: Kitty will attend the public hearing on this area plan tonight and submit the ELSI response

Seafeld Cottages:

- Public hearing 23 June, 6:30pm at the Colwood Municipal Hall
- Only change in the proposed plan is that the playground has been moved to opposite side of the development
- ELSI has already submitted a coordinated response to this proposal (5 June 2014)

Ocean Grove (Aquatro):

- Colwood staff are presently reviewing the new development proposal which will go before Planning and Land Use Committee in August
- Concern expressed about the herbicide spraying that was done in the orchard at this site over the winter, especially as there were no signs posted about this and neighbours were apparently not notified
- There is a provincial requirement to notify adjacent properties when herbicide application is planned and a notice should be posted onsite
- James will talk to Parks department about this

First Nations Interpretive Signs/Mural

- Colwood staff recently met with Songhees, and Colwood offered to pay for ceremonies to honour the ancestors' remains uncovered during construction of the lift station at the lagoon
- They are doing all the right things with respect to relationship building
- Offered to provide support to Esquimalt Nation, but Songhees have not had confirmation from Esquimalt that what is being proposed will satisfy their desires about this site
- A local archaeological consultant provided some pro bono work in support of this effort

Outreach Events:

Invasive Species Workshop

- Aimee reported that they have done several tours and hands-on events for visitors and volunteers describing the work with invasive species and species at risk at Fort Rodd Hill
- There are many resources in the region to offer a workshop, and FRH has a native plant nursery onsite that could be used for propagation demonstrations

ACTION: Kitty and Aimee will discuss dates and timing for an event at Ft Rodd Hill around mid-October

2013 ELSI Annual Report

- Hard copies handed out, more available upon request and PDF version was emailed out to ELSI members last week.

CRD Harbour Survey results:

- Jody has been working hard on collating and graphing the results for four harbour areas surveyed in 2013
- Just finished putting together a presentation illustrating survey results for Esquimalt Lagoon, which Kitty showed the group
- **ACTION:** Kitty will send a PDF version of the survey to ELSI committee

Partner updates:

Fort Rodd Hill: biweekly volunteer events restoring Garry oak meadows and other natural areas; removing broom, Daphne, grasses, EDRR species (Early Detection Rapid Response); there is a native plant nursery where plants are seeded and propagate; they give guided restoration tours to schools and other community groups

Beth – reported that yellow flag iris is growing along Lagoon Rd

Colwood: Judith reported that the OCP update review open house is scheduled for June 19th; can sign up for updates about news, events and meetings on Colwood website

Bee Creek Restoration: Events during the summer: Acres of Art July 12th – Judy will be away then, Joe offered to help with the ELSI display

RRU: Nancy reported that the internal RRU newsletter “CrossRoads” is now available to the public; spring convocation is underway; regional invasive species issues were investigated by Environmental Studies students with funding provided by the CRD; their final report will be submitted to the CRD Round Table on the Environment in August

Fish Monitoring: Joe reported that monitoring was conducted last week, coho and cutthroat were found in creeks, along with sunfish and sculpins; temperature in Glen Lake was 22 and 23° recently, schools of rainbow trout could be seen in the lake; pond on the golf course was 20°

Meeting adjourned: 4:30pm