

Minutes of the Cowichan Station/Glenora/Sahtlam Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, held on September 22, 2009 at the Glenora Community Hall.

Present: Ron Smith, Phil Gates, Howard Heyd, John Ramsey, Irene Evans, Frank McCorkell, Larry Whetstone, Director Loren Duncan and Tanya Soroka

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the June 21st, 2009 meeting were distributed and reviewed by the commission members present and accepted.

Business Arising:

Tanya Soroka, Parks Planning Technician, indicated that she will be having a meeting with Ministry of Transportation staff shortly regarding the request for easements to the Cowichan River within the Glenora area.

Frank McCorkell brought the Commission up to date on what has been accomplished at the Glenora Staging Area Community Park. This included the extension of the waterline, power to the outer parking area, the clearing of an area for the paddocks and he was also looking into the cost of metal gates.

New Business:

Before starting the information session dealing with the development of facilities to accommodate area horse riders the representatives from the four clubs at the meeting drove down to the park and looked over what has been undertaken to date. The Commission then dealt with other business.

1. Potential Park Land Acquisition: Director Duncan brought the Commission up to date on the land the Commission looked at in July. The Commission was told of the process being followed. At this point the Commission members discussed various pros and cons concerning this parcel of land.

2. Cowichan Station School: Director Duncan informed the Commission of a meeting held earlier today with some members of the Cowichan Station Association who are trying to save the school and use it for various community uses including possibly establishing a day care and after school care facility.

At this point the horse riding club representatives returned and the meeting resumed discussion on the facilities for the Glenora Staging Area Community Park. Director Duncan wanted to make it very clear to everyone present that there was a long established gun club adjacent the park and that it may be an issue and concern with some riders and their horses.

The Chair distributed some pictures of the Campbell River Regional Park Equestrian Centre on the mainland to everyone for information purposes only.

Discussion then centered on a number of issues and ideas that included the following:

The idea of developing a **trail system** was mentioned. It was felt that over time a good trail system would be important. There was mention of present loop trails used at the present time through largely forest company lands in the area. There was a general feeling that over time a good back country trail system could be developed not only east and west but also north and south throughout the Cowichan Valley. Some of the trails would be managed regionally while others would be looked as local trails and funded through Electoral Area parks budgets.

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The location and design of **corrals** was also reviewed. There is land cleared for six corrals and it was proposed that four be built to start with. Photos of corrals used in other parks were looked at. These were made of wood except for the gates. There was considerable discussion on whether to use wood or metal for the railing material. The width of the alley between corrals was also discussed and it was felt that they should be around three metres wide. Tanya was going to look into the design and material costs on behalf of the Commission.

Director Duncan asked if any of the clubs or associations had any funding that could be acquired to assist to expedite the project. It was suggested that clubs could be approached once they had an idea what the overall costs would be. In addition there are some national associations that provide funding through application and this information would be provided to Tanya. Once the Commission knows what has been spent on some of the major improvements such as water and power, for example, they would have it provided to the various clubs.

At this point Tanya Soroka, had everyone look at the **sketch plan** she prepared for the meeting. A number provided input on the location of things like hitching rails, compost bins, split rail fencing and landscaping between the parking lot and the park road as well as the need to improve signage along the Trans Canada Trail to direct horse riders to the corral area and not the walking trails up to the washroom and grassed area of the park. There was also a suggestion to develop a good hand out map with other information about the trails, location of facilities and distances between key sections of the trail and so on.

Commission member Larry Whetstone asked about **liability**. Evidently all club members have insurance but it was pointed out that because these are CVRD parks they would likely also be party to any action taken should accidents happen.

The question of 'booking' by riding clubs to use the facility was also mentioned. Tanya said this should be done through the Parks Department office and then they could inform others, such as the park caretaker, about any event. A local club would like to use the area on October 17th for a riding outing and to show members the facilities.

At this point riding club members left the meeting.

Other Business:

Glenora Staging Area Park Washrooms: It was pointed out that the park toilets are not working and must be immediately fixed. Likewise as previously requested, the Commission would like the showers operational and money for this work is within the 2009-10 budget. The Commission requests this work be completed by October 15th, 2009.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 15th at the Glenora Community Hall and will include the 2010-11 budget and projects.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.