

Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting of the Cobble Hill Parks and Recreation Commission held on Monday, February 17th 2014 at 7 pm in the Cobble Hill Hall on Watson Avenue.

Those present: commission members John Krug-Chair, Dennis Cage, Al Garside, Annie Ingraham, Ruth Koehn, Alan Seal and Lynn Wilson. Director Gerry Giles along with approximately 20 members of the public.

Regrets: Jennifer Symons, Gord Dickenson and Bill Turner.

1) Director Giles conducted the election of Commission Members: After due process, those nominated and elected to the parks commission for a two year term were Jennifer Symons, Shelley Balme and Alan Seal. Elected for a one year term was Al Garside. Ansel Koehn will be an appointed member of the commission.

2) Cleasby Bike Park - Chair Krug called upon Dan Brown, CVRD Parks and Trails Technician along with Ansel Koehn and Knathen Schneidmiller to present and discuss the 2014 modifications planned for Cleasby Bike Park. It was noted that Grant Lestock-Kay also helped develop the plans.

3) Chair's Annual Report - John Krug gave the following report on the 2013 Activities Undertaken and the 2014 Activities planned and budgeted for by the parks commission:

**1. Meetings:**

- Regular Meetings: During 2013 we had 8 Parks Commission meetings, 2 Parks Chairs meetings at the CVRD and 5 site visits. We participated in 2 South Cowichan Parks meetings and 3 site visits.
- Pacific Northwest Conservation Society: The meeting with the Conservation Society was not productive and was quite frustrating, as we have spent considerable time trying to establish a partnership with this group for the benefit of both the Society and the citizens of Cobble Hill with no progress whatsoever.
- Annual General Meeting: The 2013 Annual General Meeting was held on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in the Youth Hall on Watson Avenue.

**2. 2013 Projects:**

Cobble Hill Common:

- The sign kiosk was completed with the roof and sign installation. A Great many hours were spent weeding, tending to fruit trees and bushes, installing river rock around planted areas and steps were taken to alleviate run off. Gerry Giles, John Giles and Gord Dickenson did much of this work.
- The Historical Wall concept design was considered and approved by the Commission.
- Approval for the Cobble Hill Fall Fair to utilize Cobble Hill Common Park was discussed and approved.

#### Quarry Nature Park:

- The washroom site, design modifications, all season drinking fountain and bike wash design were worked on over several meetings. Thanks for the great collaboration to Ryan Dias and Mike Miller who supervised the construction with daily visits. It was a great team effort! We opened the washroom with a ceremony on August 10<sup>th</sup> and then participated in some 'fine tuning' of various features. Mr. Doug Lockhart designed and donated the control system for the bike wash installation. Landscaping design by Graham Gidden was discussed and funds were reallocated to complete the attractive surroundings.

#### Off Leash Dog Park:

- A stainless steel water fountain was designed, constructed and installed by Commission members. The installation segment was completed by our 2 very competent Parks carpenters. An additional bench was refurbished by Commission members and installed in the Dog Park by the Parks carpenters.

#### Boatswain Park:

- A survey/questionnaire was developed by Gerry to determine what changes area residents would like to see in Boatswain Park. Lynn Wilson was appointed to head a small Citizens' Advisory Group assisted by Tania Soroka of CVRS Parks Staff. This group will investigate and advise on future changes to the park.

#### Lefran Road Trail:

- The possibility of a Lefran Road Trail extension initiated by the late Mr. Peter Yates is still awaiting agreement from a property owner.

#### Cleasby Bike Park:

- Several discussions were held concerning changes/improvements in the bicycle skills park and a new design was prepared by Dan Brown with assistance by youth riders.

#### Property Acquisition:

- Two site visits and much discussion with the property owner did not result in an acquisition. Previously the ALC had prevented another property acquisition.

#### Cenotaph/Memorial Park:

- A Japanese Maple in Memorial Park had died and Gerry purchased the beautiful lime green Japanese Cedar to replace it. Gord Dickenson and John Giles spent a day planting it.

Summer Parks Program:

- The Kerry Park Staff were asked to review the program and determine if either Evergreen or Galliers Park might provide a suitable venue.

2014 Operating Budget and 2014 and 2015 Capital Project Budgets:

- These budgets were reviewed, discussed and approved.

Area 'C' maintenance Contract:

- The contract was awarded to Easy Living at a slight reduction over the previous contract even though the new washroom requires daily maintenance.

Purple Pipe:

- Director Giles has worked on all aspects of the Purple Pipe System that is now in operation and will supply effluent water treated to a Class 'A' standard to flush the washroom facilities. This water will also be used to irrigate the Train Station Park, Memorial Park, the Common and the Farmers Institute grounds. This will all result in cost savings for our Parks budget and water from the Cobble Hill Improvement District will no longer be needed or much reduced for these purposes.

Chair Krug stated that Director Giles efforts over the past 30 years “had changed the face of Cobble Hill Village”. This began with her foresight in arranging the purchase of the 23 acre Quarry Nature Park in 1985 and with her leadership the improvements and park developments have continued throughout the village core. Quarry Nature has become the most utilized park in all of the CVRD with approximately 115,000 visits per year and park users and Cobble Hill citizens often express their delight and appreciation with the “new” Cobble Hill.

**3. 2014 Projects:**

- Continue to develop the Cobble Hill Common which would include the installation of the Historical Society's Wall
- Maintenance improvements on all trails
- Installation of culverts and handrail on Watson Trail
- Wheelchair accessible trail in Quarry Nature Park including washroom access
- Install mural on Telus building.

Chair Krug also mentioned that Evergreen Independent School is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year and that they are holding a major fundraiser with profits to go toward improvements to the Sport Court. The sport court was funded in part by the community in exchange for community use after school and during holidays.

**4) Question Period:** A general discussion took place where questions were asked and where possible answers were provided.

Concern was expressed about the lack of trail signage on Cobble Hill Mountain. Several suggestions were made including how to get to the trailheads, having the trails colour coded, displaying bar codes on the sign at the bottom that once linked show the trail system and showing the difficulty level of each trail, designating horse trails with a horse symbol and designating the parks as a no smoking park. Those present who use the trails on a regular basis agreed the conflict between different user groups seemed to be getting worse not better.

A question was asked about park ownership and an explanation was provided that clarified the difference between a community park, a regional park and the recreation area on Cobble Hill Mountain. Although no questions arose regarding the Cobble Hill Parks budget, it was explained and stated this commission in the main agrees with setting money aside for replacing park playground equipment, general repairs or upgrades like the new washroom or for parkland acquisition.

Those present were asked whether they support a no smoking policy in Cobble Hill Parks and all present agreed smoking should not be permitted in parks. Fire hazard concerns contributed to the general consensus.

Comments were made about the unique ad placed for the AGM with those present saying their eye was drawn to the ad which is why they came out.

There being no further items of business the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

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John Krug, Chair