

Meeting of the Cowichan Station/Glenora/Sahtlam Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, held on April 29th, 2010 at the CVRD Office, Duncan

Present: Director Loren Duncan, Ron Smith (Chair) Frank McCorkell, Howard Heyd, Irene Evans, Larry Whetstone, Mike Lees, John Ramsey and Phil Gates.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

A delegation from the Cowichan Station Area Association came to provide the Commission information on the progress with School District 79 and their proposal to lease the former Cowichan Station Rural Traditional School. They included Angela Davis, Patty John, Alison Nicholson and Madelaine MacLeod.

The delegation also provided the Commission with a copy of their draft Business Plan and outlined both the short term and long term plans for the use and restoration of the school buildings including the older wooden structure, the gym and stage area, and the cinderblock second building on the site. They also discussed the costs associated with the upgrading of the facilities and annual costs to manage the facilities and grounds.

To date the delegation had met with the Electoral Area D Parks and Recreation Commission and will be meeting shortly with the Area D Advisory Planning Committee. Mention was also made of applying for a federal grant to assist with the necessary restoration on the older part of the school building.

Discussion then turned to the need to develop a trail system that could connect with the trail along Wilmot Road in Area D to the Cowichan Station school/park area and also look at the potential to expand the trail system along the railway corridor right-of-way north towards Bright Angel Park and on towards Duncan.

At this point John Ramsey asked about their plans for the old (wooden portion) school and it was indicated that they would request they be allowed to remove the back two rooms that were on stilts and have just four large rooms (2 up and two down). Frank McCorkell indicated that he had attended their community meeting and was concerned that their estimate of around \$1 million to renovate the building may not be sufficient given its age and other unknowns. Phil Gates said he was not keen of keeping the old building and it may be more important for the hamlet to focus their attention on St. Andrew's (Anglican) Church which is now closed but could be a more important asset for Cowichan Station. Discussion then turned to the park/playfields on the south side of Koksilah Road and it was mentioned the Commission was still committed to cover the costs of maintenance and liability of this area as long as certain issues were resolved.

The Chair thanked the delegation for their attendance and information provided on their community project.

Minutes:

The minutes for the March 4th, 2010 meeting were reviewed, and accepted by the Commission.

Business Arising:

Commission members wanted to know whether the new signs requested in our previous two meeting at the Glenora Park horse parking area had been installed yet. If now it was requested they be put up soon

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as the area is going to become very busy as the weather improves. (See Minutes of March 4th 2010— Business Arising).

At this point the Commission asked about the progress on the development of the new signs that were to go at Boys Road and the Trans Canada Highway, on the outside wall (kiosk area) of the washrooms at the Glenora Park, the need for the completion of the Sahtlam information sign as well as a small sign with an arrow pointing to the washrooms on top of the hill near the stairs in the Glenora Riverside Park. At this point Rob Grant of the CVRD GIS department joined the meeting and outlined a general plan to proceed with the completion of the two large signs. It was recommended that he have a quick meeting with Mike Lees (Sahtlam Sign) and other commission members from the Glenora area (kiosk sign at Glenora Park) and then he would sketch out some ideas and meet further to insure all the necessary information was on the signs prior to final production.

Correspondence:

1. Proposed Subdivision at 5270 Koksilah Road

Director Duncan and Ron Smith brought the Commission members up-to-date on the proposed subdivision of this property and monies received in lieu of parkland would go into the parkland reserve fund.

2. Fees and Charges and a Rational for Recreation Services Workshop

Information was distributed to see if any Commission member was interested in attending the ½ day workshop. Frank McCorkell indicated he would like to attend and the Chair informed Brian Farquhar, CVRD Parks and Trails Manager immediately after the meeting.

New Business:

1. Summer Students Projects

The memorandum outlining some of the proposed work to be undertaken this summer was provided to Commission members. Besides projects listed it was mentioned that the summer students could also put up the directional sign to the washrooms at the Glenora Riverside Park while working at the Glenora Adventure Park.

2. Glenora Adventure Park Update

The Commission wanted to know when the anti-graffiti spray would be applied to the completed as there was a feeling that this must be done before the heavy summer use period. They also mentioned the signage at the corral area needed to be put in place (as mentioned above) but that the present informaton sign (near the washrooms) should not be moved until the new kiosk sign is installed. Frank McCorkell also provided the other Commission Members with the progress and possible time line for the completion of the playground at the park.

At this point there was mention that once this project, and the cookhouse at the park were completed the focus of attention by the Commission would start to shift to both the Cowichan Station and Sahtlam areas. Commission members felt there would likely be a need to hold a community meeting in Sahtlam to ask the residents what the believed is needed in the way of parks and recreation services within their particular section of the Electoral Area.

3. John's Road Improvements Memo

This was distributed and there was no discussion other than agreement with the work to be undertaken this summer.

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4. Parks Commission Chairs Meeting

This memo was distributed and the Chair indicated that new staff was being hired for the Parks and Trails Department and a general overview of the great many projects planned for this fiscal year throughout the Regional District. The Parks Capital Projects Steps and Procedures memo prepared by Ryan Dias, Parks Operations Superintendent, was also distributed to the Commission members.

At this point the meeting moved into closed session.

The closed session meeting rose without report and returned to the regular session.

Other Business:

1. Future Parks Commission Meetings

Frank McCorkell suggested that because the Commission was dealing with so many new projects, and the need to see that they are completed as quickly as possible, or at least not forgotten, that we should start having monthly meetings (except for possibly July and August). Others felt that we should also be having more field trips to our parks since a number of new Commissioners were not totally familiar with their location, size or facilities. Because the CVRD office in Duncan was very central for all members it was believed at least half the meetings would still take place there.

2. Parks Commission Chairs Meeting

The Commission discussed this memo further at this time and the need to our Commission to spend some time developing the vision for our community parks and trails for the next ten years. It was suggested by Phil Gates that instead of having staff attend each Parks Commission meeting that we turn our attention to this matter at our next meeting so that Ron Smith would have at least a general outline from the Commission to take back to the June Chair's meeting. The issue of trails connections between each adjacent Electoral Area was also discussed and should be included in our vision at the next meeting.

3. Picnic Table and Bench Pads

The Commission members indicated that the cement pads at the corral area at the Glenora Adventure Park were far too small to accommodate the new tables. Because we will be constructing up to five new pads it was believed we should make them considerably larger and also ensure that a wheelchair could be brought up and sit at the picnic table since the tables were designed to accommodate this need. As for the benches, it was felt that they should be long enough that the cement overhangs both ends and the front by about a half metre (basically so people sitting on the bench will have their feet on the pad and not the ground around the pad).

4. Park Name

The Commission revisited the name "Glenora Adventure Park" and felt that there should be more discussion on the use of the word "Adventure". The Chair asked that members think about other names that may be more suitable and that we make a decision at the next meeting as it was important to have this finalized before we finish the kiosk sign as well as the new sign for the entrance to the park adjacent Robertson Road.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on May 27th at 9:30. If it is good weather we will have it at the Glenora Adventure? Park, or else at the Glenora Hall. The Chair will e-mail everyone closer to the date.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

