

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks Commission held in the Upper Community Hall, 8550 Hemlock Street, Youbou, BC, on Tuesday, July 8, 2014 at 7:15 pm.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Marcia Stewart  
Vice-Chairperson Gerald Thom  
Rose Davidson, Recording Secretary  
Rob Somers

**ALSO PRESENT:** Michael Miller, CVRD Capital Projects Specialist  
Director Pat Weaver

**ABSENT:** Dan Nickel

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved.

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks meeting of June 10, 2014 be amended by correcting the date in the Header of the Minutes from May 13, 2014 to June 10, 2014 and that the minutes, as amended, be adopted.

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **BUSINESS ARISING**

None

#### **REPORTS**

##### **AREA I DIRECTOR**

- Director Weaver
- Valuation of Creekside Sewer Expansion Property – a value of \$75,000 has been approved for the repayment of funds advanced by Area I Parks Commission on this property.
  - Youbou Truck Wash – P. Weaver will be meeting with representatives of TimberWest on Friday, July 11 to get an update on the status of this project.

##### **COWICHAN LAKE RECREATION**

- L.Blatchford
- At Arbutus Park, two fulltime lifeguards/instructors are now on duty and will be rotating between teaching Red Cross swimming lessons and active guard duty from Monday to Friday (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) until August 29<sup>th</sup>.

Guard duty is also scheduled for Saturdays and Sundays from noon till 5 p.m. Swim lessons started July 7<sup>th</sup>. Four sets of 9 lessons per set will be run between now and the end of August. Participants can register for any and all of these sets by calling the Arena office at 250-749-6742.

- Day camps will run Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (except for August 4<sup>th</sup> statutory holiday) out of the Arena and will move to Youbou Hall/Arbutus Park from August 18<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> to accommodate swimming lessons. Before and after camp care is also available for parents who need coverage for a longer day.
- Canada Day event at Mesachie Lake Skydome was well attended (200+ people). We received a \$2,700 grant from Heritage Canada for this event.
- With the ice going back in August 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be hosting the BC Hockey Summer Officiating School in addition to our regular hockey school that is now in its 43<sup>rd</sup> year. Registrations are going well; revenues are expected to bring in approx. \$25,000.
- Maintenance progressing well.

**CHAIRPERSON**

- M. Stewart
- No Report

**CVRD**

- Ryan Dias
- Creekside Hiking Trail – removal of plant material encroaching on the path used up three full days’ work by the student crew plus an additional day for brushing the path by the maintenance crew. CVRD Waste Disposal also provided a bin for plant disposal. Apparently the maintenance crew comes by every 3 months to clear the path? R. Davidson, being a Creekside resident, questioned this because crews have been seen brushing the path at most twice a year by the residents.
  - Price Park – maintenance crew, with assistance from student crew, are resurfacing main trail with gravel.
  - Swordfern Park – the old piece of dock on the beach has been removed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**OB1** Creekside Sewer Extension Property – see report by P. Weaver

**OB2** Playfield Park – Linden and Pin Oak trees and grass

R. Somers reports that a Woodlands resident, who has offered to pay for the grass seed needed to seed the reclaimed area, has also extended his offer to pay for the trees. Question: will CVRD staff plant the trees and seed the grass?

**OB3** Memorial Bench for Gillian Scott – no update.

**OB4** Playfield Park broom – no update.

**OB5 Creekside Hiking Trail**

Since R. Dias brought up the issue that it takes a lot of effort to keep the trail clear, Parks Commission members discussed whether it is worthwhile to maintain the trail. R. Davidson commented that, although few people are actually seen using the trail, it creates a buffer zone between Youbou road above and the private Creekside road below. The area between the two roads is quite narrow and ranges from extremely steep to almost flat. It is feared that, if the trail were to disappear, some Creekside residents might start parking their trailers and RV's in the low-lying areas resulting in damage to the ditches and ultimately to the roads themselves.

**OB6 Discussion with Michael Miller, CVRD Capital Projects Specialist – Arbutus Park Public Washroom and Lifeguard Facilities**

The Area I Parks Commission has a budget of \$5,000 for planning these facilities. M. Miller advised commission members should focus on what is actually needed to best serve the community. The park gets quite a lot of use, especially in the summer season, but basically year-round. On the other hand, lifeguards are only on duty for a period of two months a year. The main priority is therefore to replace the existing building with a new station that would house the washrooms and change facilities, plus a storage room for year-round storage of lifeguard and other equipment.

And for the two months a year when lifeguards are on duty, the most economic solution would be to rent a "portable lifeguard unit". A proper gravel pad could be built next to the washroom building, where the portable lifeguard unit could rest, with electrical and water hook-ups to the main building. Since this is the only lifeguard service west of Duncan, depending on the number of population using the site, there is a minimum size requirement for these units. However, M. Miller estimates that the cost of renting a portable unit would be around \$300/month plus moving costs of \$200 (back and forth) for a total of approx. \$800/year. The budget for this item will also need to be discussed with Cowichan Lake Recreation.

Core elements to be considered for the main building:

- How many toilets/urinals? Maybe three toilets in the women's washroom and two urinals plus one toilet in the men's washroom.
- Do we need/can we afford a family change room?
- Storage facilities

Washroom buildings in Stoker and Mile 77 Parks are in the 400 sq.ft. range. Recently completed buildings in Bright Angel Park and Cobble Hill Mountain Park are in the 600 sq.ft range. M. Miller brought photos of the finished buildings and floor plans to the meeting for review. He also said he would be willing to take Parks Commission Members to these sites to get a better idea of the layout.

Since we could use or adapt an already existing plan that would suit our needs, the "soft costs" (mechanical/technical/architectural planning) will be low. Considerations for building new washroom facilities at Arbutus Park:

- The current building will need to be demolished.

- Existing septic field needs upgrading.
- The new building should be moved further up the embankment and away from the beautiful Arbutus trees, otherwise their root system would be destroyed.
- Water.
- Auto-lock doors on timers for year-round automatic closing/opening of washroom facilities.

**RESOLUTION**

**R1**

Be it resolved that \$5,000 be used for planning a 600 sq.ft. Class 1 Cost Estimate on a similar building as in Bright Angel Park.

**OB7**

**Gates at Mile 77 and Stoker Parks**

R. Stewart discussed with R. Dias the concerns around locking the park gates while cars are still in the parking lots. One solution to work around this problem is to close the gates whenever the parking lot has been emptied, so that people get used to seeing the closed gate, however, to leave it open if a car is still parked there. So far, only families have been observed using the beach in the park late into the evening.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved and seconded that the Regular meeting of the Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks Commission be adjourned.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

**The next Regular meeting of the Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks Commission is September 9, 2014 in the Upper Community Hall at 7:00 pm.**