

Minutes Area A Parks Commission Meeting – Thursday, April 16, 2015

Present: David Gall, Chair, Kerry Davis, Director, John Ramsey, Nicole Dyrbye, Ron Parsons, David LeStock-Kay, Greg Farley, Deryk Norton

Guest: One guest from the community.

Regrets: April Tilson, Brook Adams

The meeting came to order at 7:03 p.m.

New Business

Members of the Commission inquired when there may be information available regarding the Area A budget for this year. Director Davis advised that there likely would be information available by June of this year. Concern was raised as to the 10% allocation of funds from the budget and whether this is automatic or the Commission would have a say in where these funds are used. It was agreed to discuss this matter further once a budget is provided to the Commission from the CVRD.

Discussion was had regarding the hiring of summer students for summer programs at the local parks for children in the area, specifically Huckleberry, Mill Springs and Deloume parks. As well, it was discussed as to what maintenance of parks and trails can be delegated to summer students as additional work.

The Commission agreed that discussion and information should be requested of the Kerry Park Arena to determine the feasibility of doing a split this year between Huckleberry and Deloume parks for summer children's programs. It was agreed that this matter be brought back on the Agenda for the next Parks Commission meeting.

George Patterson Park in the Sentinel Ridge development in Mill Bay was brought up regarding the trail that is going through the development that has yet to be completed. Mention was made how it would be nice to have the trail continue on down to the ocean and provide access. Further investigation by the Commission would be required on site to fully understand the situation.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded that the Commission meet on April 25, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. to do a walkabout at George Patterson Park in Mill bay in Sentinel Ridge. Carried.

Further mention regarding the perimeter trail around Bucktail Road Park was made. It seems as though the trail requires a lot of maintenance with regard to removal of brush and such, and it was recommended this be delegated to summer students as well.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded that the Commission direct the removal of brush from Bucktail Road Park to the summer students hired by the CVRD. Carried.

Master Plan

The plan is to have an open house for the community as well as advertised in the local papers concerning the master plan. Any comments provided by the public will be taken into consideration and the plan amended as necessary. In addition, the comments and observations made by Commission members below will also be considered:

#1

1. I agree with all six priority recommendations in section 5.1 (years 1-10) but I suggest that we consider adding one (moving up the second one described on page 50, from beyond year 10). My reasoning is that the Benko/Butterfield area may be developed before 10 years and present more immediate opportunities to begin the proposed shared roadway and multi-use pathway along Benko Road.
2. The plan should have some guidelines to protect public areas (eg. road rights of way) from being left scarred and open to invasive species when development of adjacent land takes place.
3. The plan should have some flexibility to repair existing public areas that have been left scarred by past development of adjacent property (eg. corner of Bucktail and Deloume).
4. Shouldn't there be a stated goal of connecting various bits of existing trails into a walkable network of trails? I think such a goal has been behind various past projects and underlies some of the priority projects in the draft plan. However, I cannot find it stated in the pages I have.
5. Codes of conduct should apply to horse riders as well as dog walkers. If dog owners should clean up after their dogs on CVRD trails, why not horse owners?
6. I suggest adding scotch broom to the illustrations of invasive species on page 61.

#2

I have a few recommendations/comments about the proposed Community Parks and Trails Master Plan;

1-5.1, page 46, Rec. #3, Rat Lake- further to Acquisition of land around the lake we also need to provide agreed to access to the park. There is a recommendation for this in 5.2.

It might be a good idea to link the two to same timeline.

2-page 47, Table #10, a good idea but not sure what it is linked to.

3-5.3, page 56 An additional item should be around the specific protection and rehabilitation of all creeks, streams within Area "A". Further to that we would need a partnership with all stakeholders including but not limited to First Nations, private land holders, NGOs, Streamkeepers groups, etc.

Due to the nature of waterways to meander where they want to this would require a joint umbrella group lead by South Cowichan Parks and CVRD.

#3

Section 5.1 Priority 1 recommendations #2

Coordinate to accommodate a shoulder walkway along the Shawnigan Mill Bay Road from Briarwood Dr east to the Trans-Canada Highway. The recommendation as it stands goes from Francis Kelsey School to the Highway. I would recommend that the walkway be lengthened go to Briarwood Drive to accommodate both students and seniors who walk along the road. This would be fairly easy to accomplish as there is already part of the old road on the south side of the road from the skateboard park to Bourban Road that just needs a little cleanup. A pathway could easily be built on both the the United Church land (possibly by their volunteers) and on the Kerry Park Arena property. Since there is an extremely steep slope immediately across from the skateboard park a crosswalk could be put across Shawnigan Mill Bay Road at the far west end of that park to hook up to the old road.

Rational:

There are two Mobile Home Parks including Kerry Park Village as well as a good sized development in Briarwood that would benefit from having cycling and walking access to the high school and the arena. Also, since Shawnigan Lake District (B) has as part of their Master Plan a walkway from the Lake to the Mill Bay boundary, this would make a pedestrian and bicycle friendly way to get from one community to the other.

Discussion ensued regarding acquisition of ecological sites in the area and that there was no mention of this in the Master Plan. These types of lands that are in the CVRD should possibly have additional requirements as well as regular checks of the water quality of streams and other waterways.

Riparian areas are currently already protected by regulations from the Provincial Government. A more detailed budget from the CVRD would be required prior to determining whether the Commission may have more detailed groups available to check and maintain waterways in the CVRD lands.

The Community Parks & Trails Master Plan for Electoral A priorities were discussed and suggestions made as follows:

1. Coordinate with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (BC MoT) to accommodate a shoulder walkway along Mill Bay Road from Deloume Road to the Malahat Indian Reserve #11 boundary.

The Commission is in agreement with this priority.

2. Coordinate with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoT) to accommodate a shoulder walkway along the Shawnigan/Mill Bay Road from Frances Kelsey School, east to the Trans-Canada Highway.

The Commission recommended that this walkway should be all the way along the road and connect up with Area B - Shawnigan Lake. As well, the Commission thought having a pathway on both sides of the road would be better than just one.

3. Acquisition of lands around Rat Lake to create a nature park.

The Commission recommended that the trail should also be connected with Old Baldy Mountain in Electoral Area B.

Additional Discussion

The Commission requested that additional information be provided on the maps of the parks and trails in the area. For those who are new to the Commission or the area, it would be worthwhile providing background and rationale concerning these areas.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Next meeting: May 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at Brentwood College.