

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) Parks Commission
held in the Upper Community Hall, 8550 Hemlock Street, Youbou, B.C., on Wednesday, July 14, 2015 at 7:05 pm.

PRESENT: Chairperson Marcia Stewart
Vice-Chairperson Rob Somers
Rose Davidson, Recording Secretary
Monroe Grobe
Ian Halowaty
Dan Nickel

ALSO PRESENT: Area I Director Klaus Kuhn

**APPROVAL
Of AGENDA:**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be amended by adding the following item:

NB3: Commission and Committee Meeting Protocol

And that the agenda, as amended, 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 held on June 17, 2015 be adopted.

MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

**AREA I
DIRECTOR**

Klaus Kuhn brought Parks Commission Members up to date on the latest developments concerning the Lake Cowichan weir and other projects of interest in Area I.

**COWICHAN LAKE
RECREATION**

No further news concerning ongoing programs.

L. Blatchford

A letter, sent by L. Blatchford to M. Stewart, referring to the proposed removal of boom sticks at Arbutus Park was read and discussed by Parks Commission Members. In it, Linda stated that she has revised her previously held view that the boom sticks should stay in Arbutus Park in light of the recommendations contained in an Aquatic Safety Audit and the MIA report she had received.

Members of the Area I Parks Commission feel that there are other considerations that are not being addressed in this debate:

- **Removal of the boom sticks will compromise the wharf and shorten its life span.**
- **Boom sticks serve as break-water to protect the shore line** (lately we have had strong winds and strong waves on the lake)
- **Owners of wake boats do not seem to respect buoys.**
- **“Keep-Off” signs should be posted on boom sticks.**
- **Life guards to teach children the dangers of playing on boom sticks.**

**CHAIRPERSON
REPORT:**

M. Stewart

- Marcia Stewart and Rob Somers attended the **Parks Chairs Working Group Meeting** on June 23rd.

CVRD REPORT:

Ryan Dias

- **Stage 3 Watering** in effect now. No more sprinkling of lawns in parks, with the exception of Little League Park and other sports fields since the dry grass could become a safety issue.
- **Nantree Park:** The ladder on the float had to be removed because it was rusty and will be replaced.

OLD BUSINESS

OB 1

Memorandum from Tanya Soroka – Public Process to prepare a Concept Plan for Revitalizing Arbutus Park:

- The first meeting to be held with the public will be scheduled for September. The main purpose is to inform the public that money from the reserve will be used for the replacement of the new washroom facilities. A community survey by way of a questionnaire will be conducted to find out what improvements or changes local residents would like to see in Arbutus Park. **Area I Parks Commission Members will come up with questions to be included in the questionnaire and send them to Marcia Stewart, to be forwarded to Tanya.**
- Marcia Stewart has received an inquiry from Mike Southwell concerning the possibility of renting a trailer for the two months the life guards are on duty in the summer and replied it was still under consideration for future plans.

OB 2

Memorial for Gerald Thom:

Estimates received from the CVRD for the proposed picnic shelter in Mile 77 Park have now increased from \$20,000 to \$30,000. Members of the Parks Commission feel that it will be very difficult to raise that kind of money through donations. **We are therefore asking the CVRD to provide us with a list of materials needed and their estimated cost.**

Rob Somers and Monroe Grobe will then try and see if they can source the materials at reduced cost by approaching companies/suppliers for donations. Monroe mentioned the best time for contacting companies would be before November. Hopefully the project can be finished next spring.

OB 3

Boom Sticks in Arbutus Park:

Area I Parks Commission Members continue to stand behind our original motion to keep the boom sticks in place (see also comments made earlier under “letter from Linda Blatchford”).)

OB 4

Creekside Hiking Trail, Youbou:

In reply to the inquiry received by the Commission from Creekside residents, the CVRD advised the following:

“At the time the Creekside subdivision was created, an easement was granted in favour of the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) across all of the Creekside residential properties between the strata access road and Youbou Highway for construction and operation of a community pathway. The Creekside Residents Association wish to have considered by the CVRD the relinquishment of this pathway easement across all of the Creekside residential properties so that the embankment area can be used by individual property owners to enhance screening of the Youbou Highway through planting of trees, vegetation and other means. In

exchange for relinquishing this easement, the Creekside Residents Association would need to obtain the consent of all of the Creekside property owners to grant in favour of the CVRD a similar easement over the existing strata road, across all of the residential properties, allowing public use for walking and cycling, as otherwise is currently enjoyed by the public in the use of the existing pathway”.

Area I Parks Commission Members have no objections to the Creekside Residents Association raising this issue at their upcoming AGM on August 29 and voting on the relinquishment of the Creekside Hiking Trail under the conditions as outlined above.

OB 5

Youbou Regatta at Arbutus Park, Saturday, August 8:

Marcia Stewart, Klaus Kuhn, Ian Halowaty and Rob Somers have volunteered to help with the operation of the concession stand. Members of the Youbou Community Association will also be helping out.

NEW BUSINESS

NB 1

Stoker Park – Picnic Table

Rob Somers reports that there is a picnic table that never gets used and might be worth moving to a better location. Rob will give it some thought as to where it should go.

NB2

Arbutus Park – Parking Problem:

During summer weekends, when the parking lot overflows, people tend to park up and down Alder Crescent on both sides and on the sidewalks around Arbutus Park. Residents are worried that emergency vehicles would not be able to get through, if needed. Klaus Kuhn will discuss with MOT to see if signs could be put up to remedy the situation (maybe prohibit parking on one side of the road).

NB 3

Committee and Commission Meeting Protocol

Bylaw No. 2922 and the accompanying email sent by B. Farquhar regarding this matter were reviewed by the Park Commission Members.

NB 4

Shaw Creek Park Proposal – Upcoming Open House, Saturday, July 18 (2-4 pm)

The Shaw Creek Joint Venture group is proposing to dedicate 140 acres of land around the Shaw Creek estuary as a community park. In exchange for the park dedication, the group is proposing a low density recreational development on the remaining 90 acres. Klaus Kuhn mentioned that, if this proposal is accepted, the park would become a Regional Park.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

**MOTION CARRIED
Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm**

The next Regular Meeting of Area I (Youbou/Mead Creek) Parks Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2015.