

Minutes of the Cowichan Station/Sahtlam/Glenora parks and Recreation Commission Annual General Meeting, held on January 20th, 2011, at the Sahtlam Fire Hall.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. and Director Loren Duncan welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and introduced all members of the Commission that were present. There were approximately 40 in attendance. He also indicated that this was an annual event .

Highlights of 2010

Director Duncan outlined many of the projects and accomplishments of the Commission during the previous 12 months. This included the following:

- The purchase of Wake Lake which he mentioned is a lake in transition to a western Cranberry bog and is an important ecological reserve for the protection of toads and rare frogs. The total cost to purchase the property was \$479,000 of which \$117,000 was recovered from the sale of a two acre portion subdivided for a residential property, thus it cost \$362,237 or about \$36,200 per acre to establish the 10 acre ecological reserve.
- The new tot lot at the Glenora Trails Head Park which cost \$82,454. This amount included the actual equipment plus other site improvement requirements and amenities such as fencing and trees.
- The planning work for the new landscaped and kiosk work in the Boys Road-Trans Canada Highway intersection. This work should be finished later in the spring.
- New maps were produced for the side of the washrooms in the kiosk area at the Glenora Trails Head Park. The CVRD parks and GIS staff was commended for their exceptional work on information maps both at the Park as well as at the kiosk adjacent the Sahtlam Fire Hall. In addition, Director Duncan wanted to thank the members of the Sahtlam Fire Department for their effort in constructing the kiosk and adjacent improvements to this site.
- Director Duncan also mentioned the support given by the Parks and Recreation Commission for the maintenance of the sports field at the Cowichan Station School for the enjoyment of area residents.
- In 2010 there was additional improvements made at the trail riding facilities at the Glenora Trails Head Park. This included the second picnic table and notice board in addition to the already constructed corrals, manure shelter, power and water at the site.

At this point Director Duncan touched on three other projects that were being looked at by the Commission. They included the development of a trail running from the kiosk area at the Boys Road-TCH intersection south to Allenby Road, then to the Koksilah School and finally to the Miller Road rest stop area. This could be done in sections as staff time becomes available. Also he mentioned the work undertaken by the Ministry of Highways and Federal Fisheries to create very important Coho salmon habitat on a lower section of Busy Place Creek just north of Miller Road. He indicated that in the future there may be a very small trail constructed in the area.

Finally, there was mention of the work being planned in the Sahtlam area. This included the lands in the Jordan's Lane area as well as the Inwood Creek parcels that were recently subdivided. With respect to the latter area 54%, or 118.5 acres was returned to the CVRD. It is an ecologically significant elk habitat as well as will allowing for a portion of a north south trail connector to the Trans Canada Trail system on both the north and south side of the Cowichan River. An appropriate bridge will of course be required to cross the river some time in the future which, Director Duncan mentioned, the Commission has been considering for a number of years.

Area E Parks and Recreation Commission AGM of January 20, 2011, continued:

Chairman Frank McCorkell touched on other aspects that he felt the public should be aware of with respect to parks development in the Electoral Area. This included the fact that while the Glenora Trails Head Park was in Glenora adjacent the Trans Canada Trail and it was developed for the enjoyment of everyone. He also mentioned the Glenora Cowichan River Park with its viewing areas on the extensive stair case and the swimming area was located just a short distance from the Trails Head Park.

He also mentioned that as the Commission starts to consider the development of parkland within the Sahtlam area it will be important to hold some public meetings to get input as to what the community would like to see done before any final decisions are made.

At this point Director Duncan opened the floor for questions.

One resident asked if there was going to be any connection between the first and second phase areas in the Inwood Creek development. Director Duncan indicated that there is but the green space corridor in the first phase is quite narrow compared to the large parkland area in the second phase.

Another individual asked when a new OCP and Parks and Trails Master Plan would be undertaken for the Electoral area. With respect to the OCP Director Duncan felt that while it was still a very good plan and had been updated on a regular basis that a more thorough review could be started in a year or so. CVRD staff were presently updating four other OCP's. As for the Parks and Trails Master Plan he indicated that the Commission had looked at this and actually started to put some ideas down on paper eight or more years ago but because of the uncertainty about the future use of a number of large parcels of land within the electoral area it was next to impossible to start any master plan.

Finally, one resident mentioned that there seemed to be a number of celebrations planned around the province to mark the 100th anniversary of B.C. Parks and wanted to know if the Commission or Director was aware of any events planned for the Cowichan Valley. At this point, to their knowledge, nothing has been announced but the Commission suggested an appreciation day could be hosted at the Glenora Trails Head Park this summer and involve B.C. Parks. The Commission will look into this shortly.

Nominations for Park & Recreation Commission Members

A total of 10 individual were nominated for 5 elected positions to the Commission with others to be appointed by the Director in the future. The following were elected:
Frank McCorkell, Paul Slade, Howard Heyd, John Ramsey, Ron Smith.

Adjournment

The Annual General Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.