

Area B (Shawnigan Lake) Parks and Recreation Commission

February 16, 2012 - 6:30

Attendees: Margaret Symon, Al Brunet, Kelly Musselwhite, Bruce Fraser, Bill Savage, Catherine Whittome, Michael Miller, Lori Treloar

Guests: Brian Jackson, Brendan Joyce

Scribe: Lori Treloar

Minutes: January 2012 minutes approved

Minutes: Margaret Symon thanked Bill Savage for scribing in January. Bill S. suggested that it was only fair that everyone take turns with the minutes. Some members felt that they were too busy or that they would not produce efficient minutes but Margaret S. advised that every member of the commission should participate and do the best that we can.

CVRD Updates – Michael Miller

Michael Miller reviewed the projects that are in progress. Michael M. advised that it would cost \$8500 for the hydro hookup for Shawnigan Hills park. The washroom building at Shawnigan Hills will be finished hopefully by the end of March but definitely in time for the spring ball season. A change was made to the roof design to make it a more attractive and comfortable place. He suggested that it would be great to shingle the roof gable. Agreed by the commission. Bill S mentioned that he had cedar available, due to an agreement with the CVRD, for potential small projects on site such as a utility shed, cedar sign and fencing. The commission reminded Michael M. of the monetary donation and promise of plants by Doug Makaroff. These would help with the landscaping plans at the entrance to the park. Michael will contact him. The commission supports the landscape design and cedar sign concepts put forward by Michael M. with the following suggestions: 1) that the CVRD pursue acquisition of “rescue plant material” and promised monetary donation from LFC; 2) to use available cedar for signage and fencing; 3) to plant the front entrance early in the spring, rather than waiting until May (summer students); 4) to talk to Gaileen Flaman about playground design.

Catherine made the motion: ***“The commission supports a children’s playground and its placement as suggested but we would like to be involved in the decision of what playground equipment is chosen.”*** All in favour. Approved.

A split rail fence will be considered as a barrier around the children’s playground. We have a budget of \$25000 for Old Mill Park. The trails need work in low areas. Michael M. suggested a dry-pack cart path material. He also suggested that there were areas near the entrance/parking lot that could use fencing and some landscape upgrades with native plants. The signs should be updated as well. The parking lot needs to be organized into more formalized parking, and also needs re-surfacing.

Road Ends

Margaret S. noted that the Area B P&R budget for 2012 had been approved by the commission for the management of an initial 3 road ends in this fiscal year. The CVRD has advised that too much time and resources are required to manage more than three road ends. Brian Farquhar

will address this issue with the commission at the next meeting. Brian F feels that MoT will consider the acquisition of road ends on a case by case basis and only a few per year. It is a time management issue. Brian J asked whether site plans for each road end would help the cause? Michael M suggested that we arrange a special meeting to discuss the road ends issue and the previous road end studies with Brian F. It was also suggested that there could be a representative from MoT at the meeting.

Catherine W made the following motion: ***“The acquisition/possession and/or management of the road ends around Shawnigan Lake are a high priority for the commission and require immediate action. As a commission, we feel that it is imperative to acquire all of the road ends from the priority list submitted to the CVRD in January 2012. We do not believe that every road end needs money for development at this time, as some will remain natural and others require some restoration which could be achieved with volunteer help”*** All in Favour. Approved.

RCMP Boathouse

The commission believes that the relocation of the RCMP Boat, which is currently moored off Millicent Road, to a new location at Shawnigan Wharf on Thrush Road, is essential. The Regional Board has approved a necessary hurdle in the lease application. The Commission plans to meet with the SL Improvement District to discuss this issue and the road ends.

Shawnigan Hills Park

Michael advised that the windows in the washroom building will be obscure glass to ensure privacy.

The S.L. Beach Estates Greenbelts

The Commission requests an update from Brian Farquhar regarding the progress to date of the Park Place encroachment. This request was initiated at our Oct 2011 meeting. The map provided to the commission does not identify all of the green belts. We request that these maps not be posted and that a correct map be provided to the commission.

Commission Expansion

The Regional Director, Bruce Fraser, and the commission will continue to consider expanding the number of commission members. Margaret S will contact Bruce F to discuss further.

Shawnigan Triathlon

The next meeting for the triathlon will be the first Thursday of March. Volunteers are needed.

Shawnigan Focus

Margaret S appreciates the work that the newspaper is doing in the community. Lori T suggested that the commission consider organizing nature walks such as the one mentioned in Margaret S's recent article. Margaret S said that she would look into it.

Director's Report

Bruce F had concerns that the commission was limited to three road ends by the CVRD and recommended that we pursue the twelve that were outlined as priority. Bruce F is willing to follow up for support. Bill S and Al B made the observation that the commission does not consider the acquisition as a budget issue as many of the road ends will not need financial support. Michael M observed that some of the road ends are as simple as cleaning up the waterfront, adding signage and upgrading trails. The community wants to control/stop encroachment but CVRD has no authority to control encroachment – MoTi does. Michael M feels that the CVRD with one bylaw officer could not cope with issues that will arise with multiple road ends. The CVRD has no jurisdiction below the high water mark.

-Worthington: According to Bruce F, the CVRD and MoTi are referral agencies. The Provincial Approving officer has the final approval and follows the legal zoning/strata bylaws. In this case, the APC recommendations were considered, but the Approving officer could not stop the development, he could only add additional, specific requirements to the plan. It has preliminary layout approval. In addition, the Surveyor General has approved the natural boundary change. In essence, the CVRD initially established the future approval of the density of the development by allowing them to hook up to the North water system.

-Bill S brought up the question of whether the commission has the right to choose the specific land desired for park in a subdivision situation. Michael M and Bruce F agreed that the commission can ask, but they cannot dictate.

Other

Bill S brought to the attention of the commission that the CVRD has a W3 zoning at the Galley for their commercial purpose on the lake. A map shows that the marina is encroaching far beyond its actual jurisdiction. It is felt by the commission that this bylaw should be adhered to as the boats that use the marina are largely from out of the area with no stake in the lake as such. Adding more boats to the lake traffic is not beneficial to the watershed or the community.

Next meeting: March 15, 2012 at Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.