

Area B (Shawnigan Lake) Parks and Recreation Commission

Thurs. March 15, 2012 630 pm SLCC

Attendees: Margaret Symon, Al Brunet, Bruce Fraser, Bill Savage, Catherine Whittome, Lori Treloar, Gaileen Flaman

CVRD: Brian Farquhar

Scott Overhill, Brian Jackson, Brendan Joyce

Scribe: Gaileen Flaman

Meeting brought to order at 6:32pm

Guest Presenter - Rick Monnington

Rick proposed he would like to purchase the road end (no access to W. Shawnigan Rd) adjacent to his W. Shawnigan property from MoTI, would pay a negotiated price to MoTI, and would provide a donation of up to \$20, 000 to Parks and Rec in the form of building a public trail and/or picnic table and/or float at the May Rd road end. He noted his neighbours are in agreement. The commission thanked Mr. Monnington for the presentation.

CVRD Updates – Brian Farquhar

Brian provided 3 handouts that help explain the issue with the Commission assuming the authority of the road ends around Shawnigan Lake which are currently owned by the Province and managed by the Ministry of Transportation. When and if Shawnigan Lake becomes incorporated we would own and manage the road ends or we can request Permitted Improvements which means maintaining and policing and those costs are prohibitive. Brian suggested an alternative option mentioned by Mike Tippett which is through the S. Cowichan OCP zoning bylaw approval process. This would protect the road ends as park land and enforce no further development/destruction until incorporation. A draft of bylaws will be presented to the community in 3 to 4 months for input at a public hearing. Should the rezoning bylaw be approved and the road ends designated as park and institutional the Area Director can then hold the Ministry accountable.

Motion: The Area B Parks and Recreation Commission support all road ends around Shawnigan Lake be designated Parks and Institutional as part of updating the zoning bylaw of Shawnigan Lake (re S. Cowichan OCP). All in favour. Approved.

This motion provided important consideration when reflecting on Mr. Monnington's request. Despite the donation of monies/equipment towards development of specific road ends, disposal of other park land may cause a long-term problem if and when the land sells adjoining properties would not have road access. Additionally, selling the road ends goes against the Area B Parks and Trails Master Plan, which advocates protecting and managing lake access for the public. Brian F. suggested writing a letter to Mr. Monnington kindly thanking him for his presentation and offer, but denying his request due to long-term implications.

The topic of the Worthington property came up and various commission members noted cutting of timber has commenced, resulting in a significant change in the viewscape. Scott Overhill mentioned he is a neighbour and that the eagle's nest is still active and mentioned that the Ministry of Environment is attending to the situation. MoE was present last weekend during the felling of the timber. The eagle's

nest and surrounding trees are being retained.

A request went to the School Board to approve a 40-year-long operating lease by the CVRD. CVRD submitted to the province grant requests for Bright Angel Park, Arbutus Park (Youbou), and Shawnigan Community Commons (Elsie Miles and surrounding parkland) for \$400,000. The specific grant for Shawnigan Community Commons would involve Elsie Miles and Dougan Park. A handout of the proposal illustrated an early design including upgrading the facility, providing a playground, a fitness trail circuit, and amphitheatre, community gardens and sport court. Bruce Fraser also suggested a mini-Kinsol Trestle timber-frame feature. CVRD hopes to hear about the grants by the end of March.

Director's Report – Bruce Fraser

Bruce Fraser has organized and met with a Village Improvement Council to vision various possibilities, one being the creation of a timber-frame project, potentially resembling the Kinsol trestle and joining different areas of the commons. Bruce Fraser also noted the meetings have commenced to discuss the watershed.

Minutes: February 2012 minutes approved

Shawnigan Hills Athletic Park

Washrooms are almost complete with a targeted date being the beginning of April. Some minor vandalism from last month generated discussion about options including installing bright lights, having the gatekeeper presence when locking up facilities and Coval security providing drive-bys. The Commission will discuss a launch of the Hills and Silvermine Park at the next meeting. Graham Gidden has provided Gaileen Flaman with catalogues and information to research and provide a proposal for the Tot Lot.

The Jack Fleetwood Trail parallels the Koksilah River from east of Burnt Bridge to the north side of the trestle. The 5 year agreement with Island Timberlands expired in February and the commission has been requested to continue to fund the \$2000/year maintenance and ongoing clearing costs for a 2 year term (set by Island Timberlands).

Motion: **The Parks and Recreation Commission supports the renewal of the licence with Island Timberlands for the Jack Fleetwood Trail at a cost of \$200/year for the next 2 years.** All in favour. Passed.

Lori Treloar raised the point of an article in the Focus regarding woodlots and the interpreted forest designation of a woodlot on the back of Cobble Hill. It was suggested that the Parks and Recreation Commission work with the woodlot owners to help maintain the integrity of the lots. Brian said that currently the CVRD does not have a woodlot program but there are plans for future collaboration especially around providing trail connections, and suggested that the commission have an informal chat with local woodlot owners to start developing a working relationship.

South Cowichan Parks Commission

A recent meeting at the Mill Bay Historic Church and Cemetery resulted in a decision to remove the rear hall, and to start a phased program to rehab the 110+ year old church, providing a new foundation and roof, and upgrading plumbing and electrical.

Shawnigan Beach Estates Greenbelt Maps

Brian Farquhar confirmed that the map that was sent to residents was accurate, however, there is a section illustrated on a handout in yellow that is not owned by the CVRD, but the province. This particular portion of the greenbelt is not managed by the CVRD.

Trialthalon

A large group of volunteers has been assembled. In the past, Area B paid for the removal of rocks and minor maintenance of park trail route. Last year, however, a decision was made by the commission, in consultation with the CVRD, to have any costs to parks being the responsibility of the private entity organizing the event. This policy applies to any commercial organization holding venues in public parks. It was noted that at the recent EASC meeting, the Ceevacs made a donation of \$3000 to the CVRD for works at the Kinsol Trestle. The monies were raised by the non-profit Ceevacs through the October 2011 Kinsol Half Marathon running event.

Memory Island

Bill Savage took Parks staff to the island to plan for a new washroom facility that may be subsidized by the province. Currently, the CVRD holds a 5 year lease but is asking for a 40 year lease.

Other

The brown colour of the lake at the south end was mentioned as a concern and Conservation and the Ministry of Fisheries are looking into activities associated with trout farm pond excavations at the nearby Xmas tree farm.

Next meeting 630 April 19 2012 at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre