

Minutes of the Cowichan Station/Sahtlam/Glenora Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, held on April 26, 2012, at the Sahtlam Fire Hall.

Present: Frank McCorkell, Chair, Ron Smith, Mike Lees, Patty John, Jeff Hunter, Paul Slade, Irene Evans, Howard Heyd, Larry Whetstone, Director Loren Duncan and consultant Pat Munroe

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes:

The minutes of the February 16th and March 23rd meetings were reviewed by the Commission and accepted as read.

Business Arising:

1. Boys Road Kiosk Sign—no update
2. Wake Lake Signs—no update
3. Sahtlam Community Survey Analysis

The secretary prepared an analysis of the first three questions of the survey. He then went over the findings section by section and then Commission members discussed some of the key findings. Chairman Frank McCorkell felt that since the Commission has been discussing the Cowichan River bridge crossing for a number of years we should discuss this project once again at an upcoming meeting and further that we should consider a number of options to fund the project. Mike Lees felt that this bridge should be looked at as being a regional recreational asset, one that would be attracting users from throughout the Cowichan Valley as well as tourists. As such the costs for building the bridge should not just be shouldered by the taxpayers of Area E.

New Business

1. Donation from Cowichan Riding Club

The secretary mentioned that the local riding club has donated \$1,000 to the CVRD for the Area E Parks and Recreation Commission. The chair requested the secretary to write a letter to the association thanking them for their donation on behalf of the Commission. The secretary will contact the Parks and Trails staff to get additional information before writing the letter.

2. Glenora Trails Head Cookhouse and Other Improvements

Frank McCorkell reported that the cookhouse very nearly completed, a dawn to dusk light is in place and appreciated by the caretaker, a new water stub is also going to be appropriately located so park users could get water without going into the washrooms and for other park cleaning requirements. Director Duncan mentioned that four picnic tables have been ordered, one is finished and the other three likely will be done around the first part of June.

3. Summer Students

The Chairman updated the work projects planned for the summer staff including a few of the changes.

At this point in the meeting the Commission moved into closed session.

The closed session meeting rose without report and returned to the regular session.

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**Minutes of the Cowichan Station/Sahtlam/ Glenora Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of
April 26, 2012, continued**

Other Business

1. Area E Parks Web Site

The secretary prepared a short memorandum about the Area E Parks web site after reviewing its contents and made a number of points. It was suggested that the Commission members go through the site themselves and look at the information provided for each park and consider ways to improve the site. This includes correcting mistakes, adding additional information, such as the Glenora Trails Head brochure, and others as PDF downloads that users could acquire and assisting parks staff with regular updates (changes, new park improvements etc.) so the site remains current and correct.

He also was concerned that some of the tourist maps and guides that are being distributed, even within the CVRD office, are containing false information simply because it is not being checked over before being published. One example given was the 1912 “Visit Cowichan” map issued by MapWorks Publishing with dozens of errors including even a notation on the map “Kinsol Trestle (closed)” and non-existent gas stations and railway lines displayed. These kinds of errors, he feels, are doing a disservice when it comes to promoting tourism and that a *knowledgeable* group of residents should be tasked to go over all the tourism information in advance of publication.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be called by the Chair, likely in early May.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.