

MINUTES

South Cowichan Parks Commission

Monday, October 1, 2012, 6:30 PM

Clubhouse Meeting Room, Arbutus Ridge

In attendance: Director Mike Walker, Director Lori Iannidardo, Margaret Symon –Chair, John Krug, Lynn Wilson, Kerrie Talbot, David Gall, Frank McCorkell.

CVRD Staff: Brian Farquhar, Graham Gidden, Ron Austen

Regrets: Director Gerry Giles, Director Bruce Fraser, Director Loren Duncan

Public in attendance: Sherry Ayers (arrived 6:35 pm)

Meeting called to order at 6:35pm following provision for moving meeting location to window seating in the main lounge due to power black-out in area.

Minutes of previous meeting February 13, approved by consensus.

Business Items:

1. Verbal Update on Mill Bay Historic Church Rehabilitation Project and Site Tour Scheduling

Graham Gidden reported that Phase 1 of the Rehabilitation Project has generated a Budget cost savings of over \$20,000 thus far due to lower than projected bid tenders. As an example Graham cited that the demolition project, budgeted for \$15,000 came in at \$8000. Additional project cost savings have been generated by using CVRD staff (Norm Olive, CVRD Project Engineer) to complete project engineering as opposed to having to contract this work out.

The septic and water infrastructure installation is now complete and the electrical installations, component 1 of 3 of the ramp work and the roof work (weather permitting), are now underway.

A Commission tour of the site is recommended for the end of October.

2. Bright Angel Park Group Facility Booking Procedures and Use Update

Brian Farquhar gave a brief history of Bright Angel Park from its original Society governance system to the CVRD Parks management takeover in 2001.

Since the Parks and Trails Division have been managing the park, a marked and steady increase in parks group user attendance has taken place (51 group bookings in 2012). During the spring of this year, the CVRD introduced revised group facility use policies and procedures in support of protecting both the group site use capacity and also the park's fragile eco system. One area of concern was the growing use

of RV vehicles in the group camp site area which was originally designed and laid out to accommodate tent camping.

Since the updated group camping policies and procedures have been in place this spring and summer, only one of the regular past user groups have raised concerns about the updated policies which would prohibit their group from using RV's in the group campsite from 2013 onwards.

Motion: to approve the updated Bright Angel Park User Policies and Procedures as presented in the September 19, 2012 staff report. Approved/Carried.

3. Bright Angel Park Rejuvenation Project and Park Management Plan Proposal

Graham Gidden presented an overview of his staff report of October 1 which detailed the Bright Angel Park Recreation and Rejuvenation Project & Park Management Plan. Because of its heavy use and limited infusion of maintenance upkeep funds (and lack of volunteer upkeep labour) during the past decade, the need for rejuvenation funds and a Park Management Plan at the Park is crucial. The timely Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development \$400,000 grant plus an additional \$60,000 in Federal Gas Tax funding committed by the CVRD Board requires \$100,000 total in matching Bright Angel Park capital funds between 2013-2015 (total value \$560,000) to complete the necessary site preparation/demolition, trail repairs, installation of 10 fitness stations, construction of an off leash trail area, barrier-free washroom building, new playground, reconditioning of the sports field, replace site furniture and install a seasonal volleyball court by March 31, 2015, as detailed in the Province of BC/CVRD grant contract. As also detailed in the staff report, a series of public consultation sessions, both at the park site and in meeting venues will be held, again, as detailed in the staff report.

The Commission agreed that the public consultation process commence in mid-November with both in-park consultation and through a scheduled open house at a yet to be determined venue (staff to look into the availability of the HUB).

Running parallel with the Park Rejuvenation Project, complete with public consultation, will be the development of a broader, long term Bright Angel Park Management Plan.

Motion: to endorse the Bright Angel Park Rejuvenation Project and the planning process and timeline for preparation of the Bright Angel Park Management Plan as presented in the Oct.1, 2012 Staff Report. Approved/Carried.

3. Cowichan Bay Interpretive Centre

Update provided on interpretive signage installed at the Cowichan Bay Boat launch site (signs and installation paid for by Cowichan Land Trust). User statistics kept since the Nature Centre opened on April 21/12 indicates over 4000 visits, well above initial predictions.

It was reported by Commission members and staff that the new signs have been installed and look great. Also, that some of the older interpretive signs are in need of repair.

4. Cowichan Bay Boat Launch Parking Lot Reconfiguration

The parking lot stall reconfiguration is working exceptionally well from when the lines were repainted in spring. No concerns or issues have been raised from boaters or park visitors on the reconfiguration which increased the number of designated truck/boat trailer parking stalls.

5. 2013 South Cowichan Parks and Bright Angel Park Budget Preparation

Staff presented a summary overview of the 2013 South Cowichan Parks and Bright Angel Park Budgets. An \$11,746 surplus is projected for the South Cowichan Parks Community Park Budget and a \$68,176 surplus is projected for the Bright Angel Park Budget. The Bright Angel Park budget surplus is targeted in 2013 towards the recreation infrastructure grant project noted in item 3 of the minutes. Due to the evening power failure and dwindling light in the room, it was suggested by the Chair that Commission members read the budgets over the next week and direct any questions they have to staff and/or the Chair.

Meeting adjourned 8:35 PM