

Minutes of the Cowichan Station/Glenora/Sahtlam parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, of February 14, 2013, held at the CVRD office, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan

Present: Frank McCorkell, Larry Whetstone, Howard Heyd, Ron Smith, Mike Lees, Paul Slade and CVRD Parks and Trails staff, Graham Gidden and Mike Miller

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Election of Chairman and Secretary: The committee members present recommended that Frank McCorkell be Chairman and Ron Smith be Secretary for 2013.

New Business:

1. Jeffries Road Park: It was recommended that two bollards be appropriately placed at the entrance of the park to restrict vehicle access except that required by the adjacent property owners.

2. Sahtlam Community Park: This new park adjacent to Cowichan Lake Road and Creighton Road was discussed at length. Graham Gidden prepared a series of maps which included the orthophoto, location diagram, layout concept, a circulation and site layout plan, concept elements for the playground area and trail system as well as a mowing concept for the property. It was agreed that the location of the playground area, for a number of reasons as explained by Graham, was very suitable. In addition, there was discussion on future development which included a cookhouse, possible planting of new fruit trees and other vegetation, the introduction of tall grass within a meadow area, the small five or six car parking lot area among other things.

Commission members familiar with the park also suggested that there be a clean-up undertaken in the back corner of the park near the wetland area and furthermore they mentioned that it would be good to get as much community involvement as possible with, for example, with some small projects. This could be discussed at a future meeting.

Graham also distributed some playground concepts along with a recommendation that the Commission consider a more natural playscape instead of buying standard plastic and metal playground equipment. He indicated that this would better lend itself to the rural community. This was well received by the commission members. Graham mentioned that there would likely be some pieces of equipment that would be acquired from suppliers such as swings as well as a slide that would be incorporated into the topographical features of the park.

The mowing plan distributed would leave areas not to be mowed, or in long grass and possibly wildflowers that would attract birds, butterflies and bees among other things and provide a more pleasing landscape for the park and protect some winter wetland area.

The Commission requested staff to acquire the necessary bids for the construction of the parking lot and trails to the playground area as soon as possible. In addition, it was requested the staff provide some quotes for the metal parts of the playground (e.g. slide, swings) so we Commission members may have a general idea on the cost associated with this equipment. If at all possible, it would be appreciated if we had these quotes prior to the next meeting

Because there were three members missing from the meeting as well as Director Loren Duncan, Chairman Frank McCorkell suggested that another meeting is held within the next two weeks to discuss development priorities at this park for the 2013 fiscal year. It was also suggested that a sign be placed at the parking lot area to indicate what is planned at the park so the public is aware of the plans for the enhancement of the park.

Minutes of the Area E Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of February 14, 2013 continued

The upcoming meeting will allow the other members to get an overview of the concepts outlined by Graham Gidden as well as provide a list of immediate (2013) projects the Commission would like to see undertaken.

Next Meeting: The meeting will be held at 7p.m. at the Sahtlam Fire Hall on Thursday, February 28th.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

File: Minutes of the Parks & Recreation Commission of February 14, 2013