

Meeting minutes
Shawnigan Lake Parks & Recreation Commission
July 16, 2009 SLCC

Called to order at 7:10

Present: Margaret Symon (chair), Betty Lord, Al Brunet, Lori Treloar (scribe), Bill Savage

Guests: Warrick Whitehead, Kelly Black

Meeting minutes from June 18, 2009 approved.

Parks and Trails Master Plan. The Master Plan is held up by more other CVRD Parks Dept. commitments (grant applications/implementation) at this time. However, this will give us time to fine tune the plan. One key component is to make sure that the Koksilah corridor is represented in our plan

Shawnigan Hills. at the previous meeting we discussed the idea of replacing the sand based play field with synthetic turf and decided to explore the possibility further. Update from Ryan Dias: A synthetic turf field is used primarily for soccer, field hockey, and football. Softball would be eliminated and that is a primary use of the field in the summer. In most cases, sand based fields are converted to turf for increased use on a heavily used field. Demand, in general, is currently low for the fields at Shawnigan Hills. Projected costs to convert are in the neighbourhood of \$1.2-\$1.5 million with a 15-20 year lifespan. In addition, there are annual costs (approx \$10,000) for ongoing maintenance and for grooming. We have therefore decided to sideline the idea for the present (pending meetings with user groups).

Water Safety. The protest has died down somewhat over the removal of the logs at Mason's Beach. The logs have been given as in-kind payment for work done. There is some concern about the size of the buoys. They are quite small. Larger marker buoys will be added and signage will be put on the pilings. The project is taking longer than expected.

-CVRD had approved increased spending on RCMP patrols on the lake and there has been a noticeable improvement in their presence on the lake. The Parks Commission is very pleased with the increased visibility of the RCMP.

Memory Island. Betty Ford suggested that the commission send a Camp Pringle regarding their picnics on the island. Apparently they are leaving their garbage behind which builds up. They aren't taking their juice boxes either which could be returned for a refund.

-Bill ferried CVRD workers to the island recently for a clean up. Ryan had said that a 6 member crew was to be sent but there were only 3.

South End Trail. Hogweed is out of control. Margaret Symon will check into it. The rough trail at the Sooke Lake Road end will likely be fixed when the trail connection to Victoria is made.

Youth Information Kiosk. We received a thank you letter regarding this event.

Warrick Whitehead presentation on the Koksilah Ancient Forest

Currently, Timber West owns the property and it is #15 on the acquisition list for BC Parks. The TLC is interested, but it is on their back burner. Fortunately, the Nature Conservancy has the forest on their priority list. Acquisition could be led by the Nature Conservancy with the help of the TLC. The Government is also in contact with both of these groups. Warrick Whitehead presented a slide show regarding the park corridor that could potentially connect the Kinsol Trestle with the Ancient Forest. Warrick Whitehead requested that we make a resolution to acquire the three parcels of land in question.

Motion: “To pursue immediately the acquisition of the Koksilah River Ancient forest and the three parcels of land for sale by Timber West on Renfrew Road – approx. 623.68 acres – a high priority to purchase for addition to the Koksilah River Provincial park or Community Park” All in favour.

-Warrick Whitehead is arranging a meeting with Ron Austin, Ken Cossey, and Commission members to meet with Timber West. The property is on the open market so we want the opportunity to make it clear how important it is to acquire for park land. Date TBA. Warrick is taking a group out to the forest 19Jul09 and others are welcome.

Silvermine Trail Fuel Reduction Project. the project is on hold due to the high fire hazard. This will happen in the fall.

Millicent Road. There is a problem with the public access that includes a dock that has three boats attached (but is off limits to other users), excess garbage and partying.

Elsie Miles. The progress is slow because the School District must come up with a disposal proposal for the Ministry of Education. This process will include public input so it might take a while.

South Cowichan Parks. Next meeting is Aug. 20th at Arbutus Ridge. Margaret Symon attends the meetings as Area B P&R chair and suggested that the rest of us take turns attending the meetings.

The Parks Commission will not have a regular meeting in August due to proposed South Cowichan Parks meeting in August. Next meeting September 17, 2009

Meeting adjourned 9:15

