

Minutes of the Cowichan Station/Sahtlam/Glenora Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, held on March 5th, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Glenora Community Hall.

Present: Director Loren Duncan, Frank McCorkell, Paul Slade, Howard Heyd, Irene Evans.
Ron Smith, Larry Whetstone, Phil Gates, John Ramsey

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:25p.m. The Chair welcomed the two newly appointed members to the Commission.

Minutes

The Minutes for the January 29th, 2009 Annual General Meeting and the January 29th, 2009 Commission meeting were distributed and reviewed. One typographical error was corrected in the AGM minutes

Business Arising

Cherry Blossom Strata Development: Director Duncan provided the Commission with an update of the public meeting, which ran from 3pm to 10 pm On February 24th. There were extensive comments from the public including the fact that some believe the development's density, as presented, was too high while others were in favour of the proposal as opposed to having the existing spot industrial zone remain adjacent residential and agricultural zones.

The developer will now be reviewing the development plans in light of the public input.

Correspondence

1. Ron Smith reported that he had e-mailed Jennifer Brownlow regarding setting up an on site meeting with the valley riding clubs at the Glenora Staging Area Community Park in May. Jennifer replied that there is to be a meeting of the Cowichan District Riding Club in mid March and she will bring up the proposal with them and report back to me.

2. Letter of March 3rd from Brian Farquhar regarding the CVRD Board's approval of the appointments of John and Phil to the Commission.

Old Business

a) **2009 Budget Update**

There was a quick review of the proposed 2009 parks and recreation budget. A requisition of \$140,000 will be made to cover operational costs. The Commission was also made aware of the amount of funds in the reserve.

b) **Cowichan Station School**

Director Duncan briefly outlined what happened at the meeting with Ron Austin in early February. There was discussion on the possible future uses of the facility and all agreed that far more information will need to come forth before and Commission can make any assessments as to upgrades needed, ongoing costs, community input and potential users.

c) **Caromar Development**

The large parkland transfer should be completed within the next 60 days.

Minutes of the Cowichan Station/Glenora/Sahtlam Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of March 5th, 2009 continued:

New Business:

a) B.C. Hydro request for underground service right-of-way through Maplewood Park

The underground service would extend down Hykaway Road to Maplewood Community Park then cross the park to extend through a gated roadway between this road and Polkey Road and the industrial park.

The Commission recommended that approval in principal be provided from the CVRD at this time so the preliminary work can be undertaken by the crown corporation. In addition, the Commission believed BC Hydro should contribute some funding to Maplewood Park in recognition of the 'value' of the easement requested. Once the final proposal is provided to the CVRD, parks staff should review this and outline all restoration work needed for the park to be undertaken by B.C. Hydro.

b) Insurance for Commission Members

A request was made for information on the type of limitations of any insurance coverage there was for Commission members. To date nothing was received either by the Commission or the Director. As a result the Commission request written information from the CVRD on this matter for the next meeting, and further that the CVRD look at having adequate Work Safe B.C. Insurance for their volunteers (e.g. Park Commission members, APC members etc.).

c) Dumping of Debris in Fairbridge Common Community Park

The Commission was brought up to speed on the most recent problem that was brought to the attention of the Parks Commission and the actions taken to date. Past problems were also mentioned. Director Duncan was hoping to do an on site inspection late this afternoon but unfortunately it was too dark to do this prior to our meeting. This will be done in the near future and will discuss the matter further with the parks department.

d) Boys Road/Island Highway Boulevard Improvements

This proposal has been on the 'work to do' list by the Commission for a number of years and there was general agreement that it must be completed this spring or early summer. There will be a major landscaping improvement and signage indicating where the many local business are located. Director Duncan indicated that he had sent a memo to staff to get the necessary agreements with the Ministry of Transportation in place now so this work can start.

e) Summer Student Projects

There was discussion in two areas:

First, the Commission wanted to know exactly what work was to be undertaken by the caretaker at the Glenora Staging Area Park vs. what work could be undertaken by summer staff. A memo to the Commission is requested from staff.

The following projects for summer staff were mentioned:

Sunrise Road: -improvements and signage at the parking area as mentioned last year
-cleaning up of windfall debris on the trail and resurfacing where needed
-clearing any steep bank material in certain areas of the trail and putting some ground cover or seed the banks with appropriate material.

Minutes of the Cowichan Station/Glenora/Sahtlam Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting of March 5th, 2009

Glenora Staging Area Park

- make a walkway to the washrooms, likely with a crushed rock surface or of other suitable material
- trail improvement from the Glenora Staging Area parking area to the Trans Canada Trail. This may include some resurfacing work but also the removal of small alders and broom adjacent the trail.

Fairbridge Park Trail

- adding an appropriate surface to the trail, some brushing
- removal of any debris behind adjacent strata lots, make a small park area in the west corner. This may or may not be a job for the contracted parks maintenance firm.

Other Business

a) Handicapped tot lot/playground at the Glenora Staging Area Park

Director Duncan mentioned that an application for funding for this project has been submitted and to date there has been no word whether or not the application was successful.

b) Needed Trans Canada Trail Improvements

There was considerable discussion regarding the deplorable condition of the Trans Canada Trail in the Glenora area (basically from the Koksilah River to Holt Creek). The trail is becoming overgrown with alders and broom and the deep pot holes make it looked like a war had taken place along the trail with the holes created by an air bombardment. The problem with dog excrement on the trail is also of concern and needs attention. Is this situation covered in any parks bylaw with adequate fines?

c) Signs

Some Commission members have noticed the signs directing people to the parks are missing. One is the sign at Indian Road/Allenby and Miller Roads. Evidently it may be in the ravine. It was also suggested there be a sign made near main intersections in Glenora to direct people to the Glenora Staging Area Park, the Cowichan River Provincial Park etc.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in mid April at the call of the Chair.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.