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**PRESENT:** Chantal Blumel; Gail Pasaluko, April Marrington (Citizens); Carol Henderson (Councillor); Clayton Postings, Glen Britton (Staff); Anita McLeod (Staff/Recorder)

**REGRETS:**

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## 1. Introductions & Background

Round table introductions:

- Clayton Postings (Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture); in Ladysmith almost 4 years,
- Glen Britton (Supervisor of Parks); 32 years with Town of Ladysmith, April Marrington (citizen); started Ladysmith Broom Busters, experience with Surrey groundskeeping, gardener, interested in active involvement and volunteering
- Carol Henderson (Councillor); gardener, interested in botany / invasive species
- Gail Pasaluko (citizen); recently retired Horticulture Supervisory City of Nanaimo, was on the team that created Nanaimo's Invasive Species Management Strategy
- Chantal Blumel (citizen); Registered Professional Forester, former PRC Commission chair, interested in silviculture, manages a woodlot
- Anita McLeod (Recreation & Culture Coordinator); 35 years with Town of Ladysmith.

Clayton thanked everyone for attending and gave a brief history of the committee development, with special acknowledgement to April for responding to the Broom Busters presentation to Council last year and Broom Busters volunteer initiative last spring. Everyone has been given a package with background information, Terms of Reference, CVRD regional plan, etc.

2. **Elect Chair** – Gail Pasaluko was nominated and accepted the role of chair with thanks for the opportunity to share experience from Nanaimo and elsewhere now that she has time.

## 3. Committee Orientation

### a. Terms of Reference

Clayton reviewed the Terms of Reference; TofR are more flexible than a bylaw as previously existed, and can be adjusted if committee members have suggestions. Glen outlined his concern that priority species such as blackberries and ivy can be very difficult to eradicate, and the need to identify priority actions of the committee. Discussion re: good start with Broom Busters partnership, although broom is not as big a problem in Ladysmith as some other species; volunteers welcome to assist, and Parks Dept. would supply safety gear such as high viz vests, gloves, and signage; the Town could also set up mesh baskets for drop-off of invasive species once proper education has taken place, as disposal can be costly; other species can be planted

to prevent takeover by invasive species, such as the planting of Western Red Cedar at Gourlay-Janes Park to mitigate ivy growth.

**b. Committee Member Terms**

Council did not assign terms to each appointee, so this can be discussed at future meeting.

**c. Meeting Schedule**

Meeting schedule approximately quarterly, or at the call of the chair; next meeting confirmation at end of this meeting.

**d. Committee Communications**

Email will be primary method of communications.

**i. Council**

Council liaison will be responsible for regular communication with Council; Council would approve resources as appropriate based on committee recommendations.

**ii. Chair**

The Chair speaks on behalf of the committee, and may attend Council meetings to report as appropriate.

**iii. Agenda / Minutes Distribution**

Agendas will be emailed to committee on the Friday prior to the meeting, and minutes within two weeks of meeting.

**iv. Website**

Agendas, minutes, etc. will be posted on the Town of Ladysmith website; the public is welcome to attend committee meetings.

**e. Committee Contact Information**

Committee contact list is included in binder; please advise if any updates required.

**f. Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan**

Parks, Recreation & Culture Master Plan has been provided and can be used in committee deliberations; developers often approach the Town for guidance as to what species should be planted; the tree replacement program offers some information but sometimes standards change.

Discussion re: tree protection bylaw and need to revise before finalizing

**g. Regional Information / Projects**

Invasive species are costly to manage, but lots of information is available, we can learn from regional strategies, take advantage of best practices and opportunities to partner with other agencies and organizations:

**i. CVRD Invasive Plant Species Strategy**

**ii. North Cowichan Invasive Species strategy**

**iii. BC & Coastal Invasive Species [www.bcinvasives.ca](http://www.bcinvasives.ca) [www.coastalisc.com](http://www.coastalisc.com)**

Councillor Henderson showed samples of pocket card and other resource materials available from Coastal Invasive Species Committee, and recounted the conversations she has had with Rachelle McIlroy, who is a great resource.

**iv. City of Nanaimo Invasive Plant Management strategy**

**v. Broom Busters Invasive Plant Society <http://www.broombusters.org/>**

Discussion re: the need to set local priorities and identify concerns that may not be regional in scope; Councillor Henderson discussed concern over discarded garden waste taking hold on local trails and the need for public awareness; all agreed that an updated brochure and info online would help with community education.

Discussion re: pesticide restrictions, resources for activities of the committee.

Discussion re: need recruitment of student volunteers in the spring.

Discussion re: possibility of advance notice in cases where developers may be clearing land to enable volunteers to do some “plant rescue” projects.

Discussion re: the damage done by knotweed, and improper disposal of knotweed leading to its rapid spread.

Discussion re: the need to update the Town of Ladysmith inventory and map of invasive species and the schedule for management.

Discussion re: identifying priorities; Clayton advised that many items will come forward however it will be the committee who will recommend priorities to Council.

Discussion re: committee liaisons to the Coastal Invasive Species Committee and Broom Busters; Chantal is already on the Coastal Invasive Species Committee, so is willing to act as liaison; more discussion at next meeting.

**h. Parks Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee**

There is an opportunity to work jointly with the Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee where appropriate; some things may be referred by Council to both committees, and there may be some crossover, so further discussions about Terms of Reference will clarify scope of this committee.

**4. PRC Department Information & Questions**

Clayton reminded the committee that the LPRC department is available to support the committee.

**5. Any Other Business**

Glen will bring existing Town of Ladysmith invasive species map to the next meeting.

*Next meeting is scheduled for 3 pm Wednesday, February 22, in the meeting room.*

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.