

Minutes of the Parks, Recreation & Culture Advisory Committee for Wednesday, April 15, 2017 at 7pm

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim Richards, Chair
Gord Horth
Bruce Mason
Tara Pollock

Jim Allair
Roger Kimmerly
Councillor Steve Arnett

STAFF PRESENT:

Clayton Postings
Julie Tierney

REGRETS:

Tim Godau
Councillor Duck Paterson

AGENDA

Moved and seconded:

2017-08: That Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee approve the agenda for the meeting with the following addition:

- Holland Creek Development

Motion carried.

MINUTES

Moved and seconded:

2017-09: That Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee approve the minutes from the meeting held March 8, 2017 as presented.

Motion carried.

REFERRED BY COUNCIL

Urban Star Park – Nanaimo Astronomy Society

S. Arnett provided background information regarding the request that went to Council on December 5, 2016. Nanaimo Astronomy Society's proposed location, Transfer Beach Park, for an Urban Star Park, was considered by the Committee. The overall consensus was that there are several easily-accessible parks in the area that are more suited for this designation.

Moved and seconded:

2017-10: That Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee support the concept of an Urban Star Park and that Council considers directing Staff to advise the Nanaimo Astronomy Society of alternative locations in the area.

Motion carried.

Citrus Cycling – Kelly Demoline

C. Postings provided background information regarding the request that went to Council on April 3, 2017. The Committee considered the benefits and noted concerns such as safety of cyclist and park users, mandatory equipment and age restrictions, high traffic areas, safe and unsafe areas for riding, and parking limitations. It was recommended that within the agreement, guidelines are in place to identify safe practices.

Moved and seconded:

2017-10: That Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee support the concept of cycle rental at Transfer Beach for a one-year term and that staff establish guidelines as part of the agreement.

Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED
BUSINESS**

Permanent Event Signage Station at Aggie Hall – pending budget approval

NEW BUSINESS

BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) Symposium Update
C. Postings attended this year's Symposium and provided information on sessions attended. Highlights included grant opportunities through BCRPA, creative use of laneway space in other communities, mountain bike tourism and ideas for simple and successful trail development including information on other community's partnerships with local First Nation.

UPDATES

Department Update: C. Postings provided an update of current department projects.

Waterfront Area Plan Update: J. Allair explained the process of the recent charrette that included a detailed geotechnical presentation regarding area features, environmental concerns, costs associated with the remediation and constraints resulting from working with multiple jurisdictions.

Following a tour of the area, stakeholders were grouped to discuss future design and uses of the area, which revealed in many cases, a common vision. Ideas include ensuring public access to the waterfront, increasing parkland and trail areas, improving access from downtown, creating a cultural hub in partnership with Stz'uminus First Nation, establishing residential / commercial opportunities and expanding the tourism industry.

Comments from the Committee included historical information provided by B. Mason regarding Slack Point and the section that appears to be detaching; many people have attributed this to erosion, but it was a manmade crevice that was used to drag the area for wood debris using a blade and large winch. Later this was used by local commercial fishermen who would place their boats there during high tide, and then during low tide, they would maintain the bottom of their boats. B. Mason also informed the Committee that the former campground at Transfer Beach used to be a clay tennis courts.

Holland Creek Development: G. Horth enquired about formally establishing park and trail areas within the development in advance to avoid challenges that

occurred when establishing Holland Creek Trail.

Master Plan Discussion Discussion regarding balancing the desire for residential growth while maintaining access while protecting the natural environment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10PM

Next Meeting will be held at 7:00pm, May 16, 2017 at Frank Jameson Community Centre