



DRAFT MINUTES

Pearkes Recreation Centre, **7:00 P.M.**, Thursday, Feb. 4, 2016

In Attendance: Rob Wickson, Richard Bouchard, Chris Bullock, Marcus Fedoruk, Christine Fedoruk, Ray Farmer, Pam Loadman and Vera Wynn-Williams

Regrets: Scott Karpes, Chris Kask, Gabe Epstein, Wendy Farwell, Katherine Brandt and Trevor Hancock.

Guests: Bill Williamson and Arthur Caldicott

1. Adoption of January Minutes

Moved VWW /Seconded RF – Approved

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved CB /Seconded RB – Approved

3. Reports

a. Finance – No Report

b. Membership - Christine

Board members need to pay membership before the AGM.

c. SCAN/Council

SCAN

- Last meeting was a full house with new Saanich CAO Paul Thorkelson as the guest.
- The new CAO was invited to tour the various neighbourhood association but there were no commitments made.
- Saanich budget process is ongoing.
- Burnside Gorge would be hosting an Eastside Sewage Treatment Workshop on Feb. 9th.

Council

- Approved an additional \$200,000 for the Austin St. pump station.

d. Transportation Committee – McKenzie/Hwy 1 Intersection Task Group

McKenzie/Hwy 1 Intersection

- Reports have just come out and a two hour meeting was held at Rob's office at which there was good discussion on the details including: outbound traffic, Admiral's outlets and the proposed loop.
- **Feb. 24th there would be a meeting at St. Joseph's – board members were strongly encouraged to come out. The GTCA plan for the intersection would be presented at this meeting.**
- Rob noted that there were also several other issues of concern including ensuring that future Light Rapid Transit (LRT) can be accommodated and that the 2 parcels of parkland, which belong to the former Provincial Capital Commission (PCC), be transferred to Saanich.

- The Ministry of Transportation is leading the McKenzie interchange project, however Saanich has all the links to the highway so they are the only municipality that has a say in the project.

e. Land Use Committee/Developments

- 574 Walter Street – Saanich is looking at removing the house and returning the property to a natural state.
- Burnside/Gorge – There have been a few open houses to deal with issues resulting from the mix of industrial, single family homes and high density.

g. Lights on the Gorge Committee

A meeting was held to see what could be improved and the following were identified:

- Better procession
- Improved P.A. system
- Increased promotion
- Work closely with the library – lantern making event

It was noted that in order for the event to grow, the organizing committee would need to grow. Currently there is only a small team – hence a small event.

4. Parks

a. Community Garden – Chris Bullock

- Since Jan. 1 volunteers have built 4 new 4x8 beds and 6 new 3x8 beds (replacing the V beds). The beds are being filled with tree branches and sand and will be topped off with soil in the next few weeks.
- All beds have been allocated and there is currently a waiting list of about 40.
- Planning is underway for a benefit dance and chocolate potluck feast to be held Saturday, March 19. Rusty and the Roosters will play again. Tickets will go sale mid-February. Donations of goods and services are needed for the silent and live auctions. For more information or to volunteer, email Kay Stewart at kay_stewart@shaw.ca or call 250-384-8236.

b. Cuthbert Homes Park Way finding

- Saanich has put forward a proposal of names for the trails.
- Work in the park has been delayed due to flooding.

5. Communications

a. Newsletter – Vera

- Deadline on the spring newsletter had not yet begun but the plan was for the newsletter to be ready by the end of February for distribution in March.

b. Websites/Social Media – Marcus

- Community Garden’s website was in development. Brenda was currently putting in content.
- GTCA Twitter had 230 followers.

6. Homelessness - Rob

Rob reported that there was a group pushing Saanich to address the issue of homelessness. There is concern that Saanich addresses the causes and solutions of homelessness and not just focus on the issue of camping in the parks.

These factors include:

- Coordinated responses
- Safe supply of housing
- Homelessness prevention
- Other options for campers
- Support for people who experience homelessness

7. Veins of Life Watershed Society

John Roe and his son started with cleaning out the Gorge and the organization has grown to manage and protect the Gorge. The goal of the society is to:

- Get the moored boats out of the Gorge
- Get better monitoring of the storm water run off

The society has a Facebook page, which people can check out to find out more and show support.

8. Urban Forest Update – Pam

- Pam reported that she had met with Saanich and they have confirmed that they have planted 443 trees since 2010.
- This an ongoing project and Saanich will now focus their efforts on planting trees on Obed (after the road works are completed)
- Residents can still apply for the boulevard trees (the planting will take place in the autumn.
- There is also a new initiative which will give residents free trees that can be planted anywhere on their property, however it will be the owners responsibility to plant the trees and then take care of them. Owners will be offered a variety of trees for this initiative. Information can be found on the Saanich website.

9. Music in the Park

- Music in the Park will take place on August 23rd.
- As in previous years there are 20 bands to choose from. (Saanich pays the first \$500 dollars of the cost) Ray will take a look at the bands.
- In previous years there have been issues with the quality and variety of food available. It was suggested that Coast Lunchbox could be a good vendor. Other vendor contact information could be obtained from Chris Kask.

10. Canada 150 Funding Request – Richard

Richard reported that he had been in contact with the Federal Government to discuss the possibility of a Canada 150 grant. Richard noted that the response to the grant inquiry was favorable but that that much work was needed to prepare a solid grant proposal. Vera and Bill Williamson offered to work with Richard on the grant proposal.

The concept being discussed was the installation of a War Canoe near the Tillicum Bridge. This is a sacred site for the First Nations groups and also the site of the first bridge in 1866.

11. AGM

The Annual General Meeting had been set for March 31st at the previous board meeting. It was suggested that the old school house be explored as a possible venue and Vera agreed to take on this task.

It was also noted that there may be some environmental issues about Mudlarking so other possible speakers were being investigated.

Next Meeting

Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm

Date: Thursday, March 3, 2016

Place: Pearkes Community Centre