



MINUTES

Pearkes Recreation Centre, **7:00 P.M.**, Thursday, Oct. 6, 2016

In Attendance: Rob Wickson, Scott Karpes, Katherine Brandt, Chris Kask, Vera Wynn-Williams, Marcus Fedoruk, Pam Loadman, Ray Farmer, Bill Williamson Christine Fedoruk, Richard Bouchard, Gabe Epstein and Chris Bullock

Regrets: Irena Jazwinski Trevor Hancock

Guests: Melanie Quenneville (presenter), Jim & Doug (Whittier Ave. residents)

1. Adoption of June Minutes

Moved BW/Seconded CB – Approved

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved RB/Seconded GE – Approved

3. Boats – Melanie Quenneville

Melanie is a student who had prepared a Hazardous Waste Management Proposal focused specifically on derelict pleasure crafts. Dorothy Chambers was the sponsoring client for the project and had sent the scope of the problem. The recommended strategies to deal with these boats. Step 1 in dealing with derelict boats is determining which municipality has authority. Step 2 requires professionals to do the initial assessment due to the hazardous nature of materials on some of these crafts.

Melanie's report would be posted on the GTCA website.

4. Reports

a. Finance - Financial statements were distributed prior to the meeting.

Chris Kask noted that there were no new issues other than a maturing GIC, which has been reinvested into a new short term GIC.

b. Membership

Christine reported that there were 134 individual and 7 business members who have renewed.

c. SCAN/Council – Rob

Council

- Saanich is still looking for applications for advisory committee positions and the deadline to apply is November 7th.
- Bill also noted that the Heritage Foundation has nine vacancies.

SCAN

- There is a workshop coming up which will address dealing with association paperwork.
- The Food Security survey is still in progress. It was noted that in addressing food security, the Gorge Waterway should be identified as a vital and historic food source

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

McKenzie Interchange Project Parking

- Work on the project has begun with the clearing of the trees behind Marigold and Spectrum schools.
- Pam noted that the transportation needs a new chair and members due to fatigue. She noted that most members on the committee had served at least six years and many of the original issues had been addressed by Saanich. (e.g. traffic calming, tree planting, and rain gardens)
- Rob suggested that the GCTA host a Special General Meeting to bring together people concerned about traffic issues in the neighbourhood. It was noted that there are numerous new traffic issues such as commuters parking in the Whittier Ave. neighbourhood, transit concerns and the McKenzie Interchange project construction. It was suggested that James Wordsworth from BC Transit be invited. The meeting would be planned for late November and would be promoted in the newsletter.

e. Land Use Committee/Developments

- Saanich is looking at Granny Flats but the GTCA does not currently have a position as it has not looked at the issue.
- The CRD Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw is online and the CRD is looking for input. There will be a meeting on October 19th, with an open house from 3-6 pm and the meeting at 6 pm.

5. Parks

a. Cuthbert Holmes Park

- To compensate for damage to the park, \$450,000 has been given to Saanich Parks for the Cuthbert Holmes Management Plan.
- It was suggested that Becky be invited to a future meeting to explain how these funds would be used in the park.

b. Gorge Park Community Garden

- Fall cleanup has taken place
- The irrigation system has been modified with timers
- The committee is currently applying for grants
- Site coordinators have been established
- Several community groups have toured the gardens

c. Walter Street

- The site will be returned to a natural state and in the spring there will be a planning of indigenous plants
- Saanich is looking at a crosswalk with a stop sign leading from the site to Cowper
- Neighbours have expressed concerns about the site attracting campers
- Neighbouring property may be an issue and the fence is in poor shape so Saanich may plant a hedge
- Lifecycles may be brought in to harvest the fruit trees

d. Fish Fence

- Chris Bos and Barry Goodwin have stepped away from managing the fish fence but Dorothy has managed to get support from DFO and volunteers so that the fish fence can operate
- People have been spotted illegally fishing in the Colquitz

e. Gorge Park Clean Up

- Gorge Park clean is re-scheduled for November 5th, 9 am to noon
- Volunteers to meet in Gorge Park across from Fairway

6. Lights on the Gorge – Chris B.

Chris reported that there is a diminished organizing team and the event will be slightly scaled back. Chris had distributed a funding request in the amount of \$300.

MOTION: It was moved by Chris Bullock and second by Scott Karpes that the GTCA provide \$300 funding for the Lights on the Gorge event. The motion carried was carried unanimously.

7. Communications

a. Newsletter – Vera

- Vera will take over as editor of the newsletter with Christine and Chris Bullock taking on copy editor roles.
- Content will be accepted until Oct. 15th and the newsletter will be distributed in early November.
- Rob suggested that the GTCA host an event to thank all the volunteers who deliver the newsletter. It was decided to combine this event with the GTCA board Christmas party. The event would be held on December 1st. Possible locations include VCKC, Silver Threads and the Gorge Soccer Club. Vera agreed to organize the event and would bring a budget forward for approval at the next board meeting.

b. Websites/Social Media – Marcus

- Marcus reported that he was working on a new GTCA website based on the Square Space platform
- Currently the site is in the free trial version – Square Space requires an annual hosting fee
- Marcus would send around a link once the site was ready to view

8. GTCA Constitution/New Societies Act – Bill

- Bill, Vera, Rob, Christine and Chris K. would meet to discuss changes and then bring a proposal forward to the board

9. GTCA Survey Results – Bill

- The GTCA had done a small unscientific survey at the GTCA tent during Canada Day
- 66 people had filled out the survey (53 from the GTCA, 13 from outside the area)
- Bill had done a simple analysis of the results which showed that traffic and traffic related issues were of most concern to members
- Also of concern was the natural environment/green spaces, crime, homelessness, affordability, development and secondary suites
- What people liked most about the neighbourhood was the Gorge Waterway, central location, amenities and area history

Next Meeting

Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm

Date: Thursday, November 3, 2016

Place: Pearkes Community Centre