



DRAFT MINUTES

Pearkes Recreation Centre, **7:00 P.M.**, Thursday, Jan 7, 2016-01-31

In Attendance: Rob Wickson, Scott Karpes, Gabe Epstein, Pam Loadman, Chris Bullock, Katherine Brandt, Marcus Fedoruk, Wendy Farewell, and Richard Bouchard

Regrets: Chris Kask, Christine Fedoruk, Ray Farmer, and Trevor Hancock

Guests: Shellie MacDonald and Sergeant Andy Stewart

1. Adoption of November Minutes (No minutes from December meeting)

Scott/ Chris B. - Approved

2. Adoption of Agenda

Pam/ Wendy - Approved

3. Guest Presentations

Shellie MacDonald from Repair Café Saanich

Shellie provided the Board with a overview of this initiative in our municipality, which started in the Netherlands in 2009. It basically add an additional R (for Repair) to the three well known R's - Reduce Re-use and Recycle. Repair Café is now a coast-to-coast movement in Canada with the aim to link people with broken "stuff" with skilled-based personnel who will attempt to fix the item.

The first Saanich Repair Café was held on Saturday Oct 17th at the Commonwealth Place (Douglas Fir Room) from 10:30 to 13:30 Hrs. Overall, the event was successful where many small appliances/ electrical items were brought and fixed.

Saanich Repair Café is planning another event to be held on February 6th at Pearkes Recreation Centre. As a "Community Connection" initiative, Shellie was also seeking assistance from GTCA in the forms of donation, support from local business and/or promotion via our network.

It was agree to "Post" an invitation for this event on our Website and Facebook page and to put an event flyer (when available) on our Bulletin Board by the front entrance of Pearkes Recreation Centre.

More information can be found on their website at saanichrepaircafe@gmail.com

Sergeant Andy Stewart – Saanich Police Department Bike Squad

Sgt Stewart provided the Board with an overview of the recent changes and the “Way Ahead” of his division, which is comprised of four officers. Also, each bike officers will become a Police Liaison Officer assigned directly with a specific Community Association with the hope for providing better community involvement, communication and actions when needed.

Constable Lisa Bruschetta has been appointed as our immediate Point of Contact for any concerns / queries in our neighbourhood. The mandate is for a two years continuity commitment with an emphasis on homelessness and illegal camping in our parks, graffiti in the neighbourhood, SCAN, and Native Friendship.

Lastly, Rob invited Sgt Stewart and Constable Bruschetta to our upcoming AGM and re-iterated the need for close communication for our upcoming Gorge Canada Day Picnic.

4. Reports

a. Membership – Rob re-iterated the requirement to pay our membership dues and Marcus, on behalf of Christine, collected dues from some of member present that night. A reminder will be posted on the website.

b. Scan / Council – Rob updated the work he and Trevor are doing regarding the affordable housing/homeless strategy.

c. Transportation Committee – Pam provided the Board with an Update on the work conducted on Obed Street. It seems that Saanich has no plan to improve / add any traffic calming as Obed is designated as a Collector Road.

d. Land Use Committee / Development – Rob spoke about plans for 574 Walter Street, Nigel Valley and Uptown phase 4.

e. G T Community Tables – Chris informed that the 2015 Lights on Gorge was a success and the group is developing a “Way Ahead” for the 2016 Edition, which may include Tree Decorations / Holiday Theme similar to what can be experienced on Oak Bay Avenue. Such initiative will definitely requires the support of a wider based on volunteers and local sponsors for such great idea.

5. Parks

a. Community Garden – Gabe provided a quick review of the 2015 season for the Garden. He also presented a 2016 Budget, which was approved.

b. Cuthbert Holmes – Rob inform the Board that suggestion for name of walking trails within the parks will be entertain by the municipality.

6. Communication

a. Website / Social Media – Marcus provided a quick update of the work being done to the Web site and Facebook page.

7. Casino – There has been an inquiry by the BC Gaming Branch as to whether or not the GTCA would support a Casino in the neighbourhood, particularly at the current Bingo Hall site. There was general agreement around the table that this was not a good proposal for the community, however, it was also suggested we could/should poll our members.

8. Emergency preparedness – Based on the recent earthquake in the area, last December, Rob informed us of upcoming seminar being provided by the Saanich Disaster Volunteer Group. These presentations will be held at respective sports centre in the municipality. For further info, visit the Saanich website.

9. Derelict boats and the Veins of Life Watershed Society – Rob provided a quick summary of an info session sponsored by the Veins of Life Watershed Society at the Victoria Kayak and Canoe Club.

10. 150 Canada Funding Request – Richard proposed to investigate the possibility for GTCA of being granted some funds under the Canada 150 Funds – a Federal funding initiative that aims to promote Canadian values, culture and history. As the Gorge Waterway is rich with stories of its recent past, several ideas were discussed for such initiative.

All present agreed to seek the proper guidelines and process with the aim to put on display a traditional Coast Salish oceangoing War Canoe sculpture created by either Songhees / Esquimalt First nations carvers. The ideal site would be by the newly created green spaces adjacent to 321 Gorge Road.

Such project is definitively falling within Canada 150 Funds specific guidelines/criteria for inclusion of Aboriginal communities and in line with the recent initiative for recognition of First nations by Saanich Council.

11. AGM Date & Location – At Pearkes Recreation Centre on March 31, 2016

12. Refugee Sponsorship – Gabe informed us of the many initiatives undergoing by several Churches groups and other centres in the CRD. No actions required from GTCA at this time.

Next meeting, February 4, 2016.