



DRAFT MINUTES

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

In Attendance: Rob Wickson, Richard Bouchard, Ray Farmer, Katherine Brandt, Trevor Hancock, Vera Wynn-Williams, Marcus Fedoruk and Irena Jazwinski

Regrets: Christine Fedoruk and Pam Loadman

1. Adoption of March Minutes

Moved GE/Seconded TH– Approved

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved SK /Seconded RF – Approved

3. Reports

a. Finance – Chris Kask

- No report.

b. Membership

- Two new members were signed up at the AGM

**c. SCAN/Council – Rob
Council**

- Rob presented the homelessness paper to Council. In the future Rob will present to other community assoc. boards and SCAN.
- Saanich is creating a youth development strategy and will get the team to come present to the GTCA in the future.

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

Obed Avenue – Pam

- Obed is almost finished.

McKenzie/Hwy 1 Intersection - Rob

- The McKenzie Interchange team has sent out the environmental assessment. The assessment has not yet been reviewed.
- Rob requested that his paper on the McKenzie Interchange project be put on GTCA letterhead and be presented as a GTCA Working Paper. Rob would send the paper around to the board for final input/review with an eye to having the final ready for release by the middle of next week.

e. Land Use Committee/Developments

- No new developments

4. Parks

a. Incident on the Colquitz River – Scott

Two people in a red canoe used a chainsaw to cut through a fallen log over the Colquitz River. It was noted that the log had been down for some time and that animals were using it to get from one river bank to the other. The canoers had cut through the tree in order to be able to travel further up river into the very environmentally sensitive areas.

Scott reported that park advocates are very upset. It was noted that the Victoria Canoe and Kyak Club (VCKC) does a great deal of education and is also very upset about this incident.

It was discussed that much more public education and signage needs to be done. It was noted that this is an opportunity to open a discussion with Saanich Parks.

b. Gorge Park Community Garden – Gabe

- \$3600 was raised at the Spring Fling Dance
- The crosswalk at Millgrove is now complete
- The committee is looking at having the community garden filmed by a drone camera
- The committee will be reporting to the CRD tomorrow. The CRD provided \$10,000 towards the gardens.
- Saanich may add a bat box to the gardens
- There is a fundraising plant sale coming in May
- The split rail fence has been tagged and Saanich is coming to look at it
- Garden procedures are being documented in Google Drive so that the committee is well prepared for transition
- Chris Kask suggested that the garden committee look into using Eventbrite to collect payments for plots. Trevor suggested that the gardens also look at Canadian based programs.
- There are currently 42 applicants on the waiting list for garden beds

5. Communications

a. Newsletter – Vera

- The original content deadline was April 30th but content will accepted until May 15th. The newsletter is to be distributed in early June
- After some discussion it was decided that the personal contact information on the newsletter would be removed and the dedicated emails (i.e. Canada Day, Gardens etc would be promoted.) Vera would redesign the contact section of the website. Rob noted that as President he was fine with having his email and phone number remain on the newsletter

b. Websites/Social Media – Marcus

- Temporary website for the community gardens is up
- Chris Kask would update board/committee contact section on the GTCA website

6. AGM Debrief

- It was agreed that while having a change of venue was nice the old school house was cramped and that a larger venue should be secured for next year
- The mudlarking presentation by Bruce Campbell was a hit
- Rob reported that members and city councilors were impressed by the report and the overall organization of the event

7. GTCA Constitution - Chris Kask

- Chris reported that due to provincial legislation the GTCA Constitution would have to be replaced by a set of bylaws
- Initial changes would need to be made Nov. 28, 2016 and final changes would need to be approved by the membership by 2018
- Chris reported that one of the biggest changes is that board membership will be formalized with each board member having to fill out and sign a form annually
- The initial reviews of the constitution will be done by the Executive Board members over the summer

8. Homelessness – Rob

- Rob requested that both homelessness be put on GTCA letterhead
- Several board members raised concerns that the report did not adequately address the concerns of safety in the parks and ensuring that the parks are usable for the entire community (including children who attend nearby schools)
- After some discussion it was decided that the report be circulated to the board for additional feedback and comments before its public release

9. Music in the Park – Ray

- The date is set for August 23rd
- The selected band is Rukus
- Coast lunchbox and Jackson's Ice Cream, both high quality vendors, will provide food

10. Speed Limits – Trevor

- Trevor noted that Perry Kendall, Provincial Health Officer, had recommended that neighbourhood speed limits should be lowered to 30 km/hr. Kendall has stated that at 30 km/hr crash survival rates are about 80-90%. At 50 km/hr, crash death rates are 80-90%. Kendall has described 30 km/hr is a the "survivable limit".
- It was suggested that it made sense to push for 30km/hr limits for streets without sidewalks
- It was agreed that this is something that the transportation committee should revisit

11. Market at the Schoolhouse

- A new market will be starting at the schoolhouse
- Starting Saturday, May 7th, it will run from 10:30-2:30
- The market will be on the first Saturday of the month

12. Governance Review

- Rob noted the committee has only met once and is looking into hiring a consultant
- Trevor suggested that the GTCA push for a ward system, which would ensure that each neighbourhood gets representation

13. Anthropocene – Trevor

- Trevor reported that scientists have proposed that the Earth has moved from the Holocene epoch, which started 11,000 years ago, and have moved into the Anthropocene epoch (defined by human activity). Trevor noted that as society (university, community etc.) we should all be looking at what we can do to reduce our impacts by 80%.

Next Meeting
Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm
Date: Thursday, May 5, 2016
Place: Pearkes Community Centre