



MINUTES

Pearkes Recreation Centre, **7:00 P.M.**, Thursday, May 5, 2016

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

Regrets: Christine Fedoruk, Chris Bullock, and Trevor Hancock.

Guests: Bill Williamson, Janet Gamache, Annette Haldsted and Arthur Caldicott

1. Adoption of March Minutes

Moved GE/Seconded KB– Approved

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved RF/Seconded SK– Approved

3. Reports

a. Finance – Chris Kask

- Membership revenue continues to lag but usually picks up at Canada Day
- Donation revenue (Canada Day sponsorship) is up with Top Shelf, Saanich and Amica at Saanich all coming on as presenting sponsors (\$1500+)
- Vendor revenue is up as 60 of 65 Canada Day artisans have already booked and paid for their space through Eventbrite
- Community Gardens have raised \$7,600 and still have some grants pending
- On the expense side, newsletter printing costs have gone up and Vera and Chris K. are looking at ways to bring down printing costs

b. Membership

- No report

c. SCAN/Council – Rob

Council

- Rob noted that Environmental Development Permit Area (EDPA) terms of reference would be on the agenda at the Monday, May 9th Council Meeting
- Rob also reported that Council would voting on three Advisory Committee motions all relating to the McKenzie Interchange. Rob read out the motions supported by the Bike Ped, Environment and Planning Transportation and Economic Development Committees:

Motion: MOVED by D. Wick and Seconded by A. Topp, “That the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee expresses concern to Council that the proposed option for the McKenzie/Highway No. 1 interchange provided by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is contrary to the Regional Growth Strategy and does little to promote alternative travel such as cycling, pedestrian and transit options.”

Motion: MOVED by D. Wick and Seconded by A. Topp, “That the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Advisory Committee recommends that Council write a letter to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for the Province of British Columbia requesting, and strongly recommending, that the option presented by Mr. Rob Wickson for the interchange at McKenzie, Admirals and the Trans-Canada Highway receive the same level of consideration and evaluation by the ministry as those options which the ministry has brought forward itself.”

- Rob reported that there was a third motion from the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee which was very supportive of the park.

Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee

Motion: “Where as: Cuthbert Holmes Park is a signature park in Saanich with high environmental values;

Cuthbert Holmes Park is a popular natural area that promotes and demonstrates respect for the natural environment through progressive management and nature-based recreational opportunities;

Park management is guided by the council approved Cuthbert Holmes Management Plan (September 2015); and that

The Garry Oak knoll on the north side of the TransCanada Highway is listed provincially as a Sensitive Ecosystem;

The Provincial McKenzie Interchange Project will have significant and permanent impacts on the park and surrounding natural environment including permanent loss of ecosystems:

The Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends to Council that Saanich staff work with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure with the expectation that the outcome of the McKenzie Interchange Project results in significant improvements to Cuthbert Holmes Park and the surrounding natural environment with specific focus on, but not limited to:

- 1) Transfer of Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure lands along the north edge of the park to Saanich ownership;
- 2) Transfer of the provincially held lands (currently owned by Provincial Capital Commission) to Saanich ownership;
- 3) Enhancement of the Colquitz River and estuary;
- 4) Protection of existing wildlife habitat;
- 5) Recognition of valuable ecosystems through restoration or compensation;
- 6) Full financial support for Cuthbert Holmes Park in the form of an annual operating fund; and
- 7) A legacy fund to be used for further land acquisitions or projects in Cuthbert Holmes Park and surrounding natural environment.”

- Rob strongly encouraged board members to attend council and speak about the McKenzie Interchange

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

- Pam reported that the committee is trying to get a meeting with Saanich to discuss lower speed limits and follow up on some outstanding street improvements

- Pam noted that there were concerned neighbourhood groups on both Adelaide and Vincent who were having problems with excessive speed

McKenzie/Hwy 1 Intersection – Rob

- People have been sending Rob alternate plans for the intersection
- Rob noted that neighbourhood folks are concerned that the local residents concerns are being downplayed while the concerns of west shore commuters are given greater emphasis
- The board was unhappy that PISCES was positioned by the Province as representing the community, which they DO NOT
- Katherine noted that many parents at Marigold school were not aware that plan would include the removal of much of the vegetation between Marigold and the highway and that the relocation of the pedestrian overpass would increase the walk from 150 meters to 450 meters
- It was noted that all three of the proposals do not adequately address the left turn onto McKenzie
- It was agreed that the Goal of the GTCA should be to slow down the process in order that alternative options be explored which:
 1. Protect Cuthbert Holmes Park
 2. Provide for an LRT right of way

Next Steps:

- Attend the final open house on May 18th (St. Joseph's)
- Escalate discussion from the staff level to the political level
- Explore legal action – possible injunction

e. Land Use Committee/Developments

- 955-961 Portage Road – The development has still not been approved because of the A1-Agricultural zoning and because PISCES does not want to see any changes on Portage Road
- **Lowes** has just received their permit so renovation work has begun
- Boleskine/Whittier development has been changed to rental however no changes have been made to the curbside plan

4. Parks

a. New Saanich Director of Parks Manager – Rob

- Suzanne Samborski has been hired as the new Saanich Director of Parks
- It was suggested that the GTCA send her the Gorge Park Plan

b. Gorge Park Community Garden – Gabe

- A book box has been installed
- Planting is well underway
- Compost bins are coming soon
- Micro and drip irrigation is being installed (CRD Grant was for irrigation)
- Organizers are now focussing on community building and broadening the number of people involved in managing the gardens
- The garden plant sale is set for May 15th

c. Gorge Park Cleanup – Marcus

- While the turnout was not bad the event could use better promotion (i.e. posters)
- It was suggested that groups such as the Scouts should be approached for future clean ups

- **The next clean up is set for September 24th**

5. Communications

a. Newsletter – Vera

- Content deadline is May 15th, with distribution planned for the second week of June
- It was suggested that the feature article focus on membership

b. Websites/Social Media – Marcus

- May need to replace Mail Chimp with Constant Contact, a paid service, because it has greater functionality and is easier to use

d. Improved Membership Communications – Vera

- In response to a string of emails, Chris K. made the GCTA business section public (no need for login) so that minutes, agenda, letters and financials were easy to access
- After some discussion it was decided that Vera would email draft minutes to board members for review and board members would have 72 hours to send edits and once reviewed by the board, minutes would be posted to the website at least two weeks before the next board meeting

7. GTCA Constitution - Chris Kask

- SCAN was hosting a workshop on June 1st, which Rob and Vera would attend and then report back to the board

8. Canada Day – Chris Kask

- Planning is well underway
- 60 artisan vendors are already booked
- 20+ food vendors are booked
- The entertainment lineup is being finalized
- Overall sponsorship is up and Save On Foods has agreed to sponsor the volunteer party with a \$250 gift card

9. Homelessness Project – Rob

- Rob reported that he was asked to present the GTCA Homelessness Reports to the Healthy Saanich meeting

10. Eileen Archer Project – Scott

- Scott explained that Eileen Archer lived on his street for 72 years and when she moved to a nursing home she left her photographs with Scott
- Scott proposed to honour Eileen by framing a collage of her photos and donate it to Tillicum School in time for their 100th anniversary celebrations

Motion: Moved CK/Seconded GE that Scott proceed with the framing project with a budget not to exceed \$500. Approved

Next Meeting
Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm
Date: Thursday, June 2, 2016
Place: Pearkes Community Centre