



**DRAFT MINUTES**

Pearkes Recreation Centre, **7:00 P.M.**, Thursday, Nov. 3, 2015

**In Attendance:** Rob Wickson, Scott Karpes, Chris Kask, Richard Bouchard, Chris Bullock, Katherine Brandt, Marcus Fedoruk, Ray Farmer, Wendy Farwell, Trevor Hancock, Pam Loadman and Vera Wynn-Williams

**Regrets:** Christine Fedoruk and Gabe Epstein

**1. Adoption of October Minutes**

Moved PL /Seconded CB – Approved

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

Moved CB /Seconded RF – Approved

**3. Reports**

**a. Finance – Chris**

Chris had emailed financial statements to the board prior to meeting. He noted that the GTCA would have about \$8,000 surplus at the end of the year.

**b. Membership - No Report**

**c. SCAN/Council**

**SCAN Budget Consultation**

- Saanich has asked SCAN to provide feedback on the budget however SCAN informed Saanich that it is a networking group and does not have the resources to consult with the community.
- It was noted that neither SCAN nor the various community associations can conduct community budget consultations without money.
- The board wondered if there was a way to determine whether the Gorge/Tillicum was getting its share of services from the taxes.
- It was noted that Calgary and Victoria have participatory budgetary processes.
- It was also noted that the push for a proper participatory budgetary process could be done during the governance review.

**SCAN Misc.**

- There was a new presentation from the new Saanich Parks Manager
- Vicki Saunders promoted an event on to celebrate the Heritage of Saanich City Hall (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) which is to be held on Dec. 1
- Rob reported that he would not apply for the Governance Committee but encourage other board members to apply. The deadline is Nov. 30th.

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

**McKenzie/Hwy 1 Intersection**

- The first meeting of the task group was held and the ministry was aware of many of the issues that were previously raised by the community including preserving the park, pedestrian/bike safety and transit priority
- Rob reported that he had circulated a plan to various stakeholders that outlined a plan for the intersection that included a tunnel for through traffic and flyover for people turning from McKenzie. The tunnel would be designed to accommodate bicycles. Rob reiterated that this was just one idea but that many people he had spoken to thought it was worth exploring further.

**MOTION: Trevor Hancock moved and Richard Bouchard seconded that Rob proceed exploring the underpass idea, as one option, including sourcing someone to create a proper drawing or model of the idea. The motion was approved with two abstentions.**

#### **Misc. Transportation**

- Work on Tillicum has been delayed but looks near completion
- Work on Obed is expected to be complete by Feb. 2016

#### **e. Land Use Committee/Developments**

- Lurline development was going to public hearing
- Lowes application was going the Community of the Whole

#### **g. G.T. Community Tables - Lights on the Gorge**

**MOTION: Chris Bullock moved and Marcus Fedoruk seconded that the Gorge/Tillicum Community Tables Committee change its name to Lights on the Gorge, as this was now the singular initiative of the committee. The motion was approved.**

Chris Bullock presented a budget request in the amount of \$340 to put on this year's Lights on the Gorge event.

**MOTION: Trevor Hancock moved and Scott Karpes seconded that the board approve the \$340 request from the Lights on the Gorge Committee. The motion was approved.**

### **4. Parks**

#### **a. Community Garden – Chris Bullock**

- The gardens would be having all member meetings in order to ensure work around the gardens gets done

### **5. Communications**

#### **a. Newsletter – Vera**

- The November newsletter was printed and ready for distribution

#### **b. Websites/Social Media – Marcus**

- Marcus noted that he was having some challenges with the Word Press platform and the need for e-commerce plugins
- Marcus suggested that it may be easier to create a static site, like Canada Day, with Wordpress running the blog

## **6. Art on the Bridge – Scott**

The installation was delayed because of the need to apply for a heritage permit. The permit has been approved and installation should happen in the next few weeks.

## **7. Derelict Boat on the Gorge – Scott/Rob**

- Saanich does have a plan underway
- Saanich has amended to their zoning that live-a-boards could not stay within 300 meters of the shore for more than 72 hours
- It was noted that the Saanich border is in the middle of the Gorge so the GTCA should push that Saanich coordinate with Esquimalt.
- Despite promises to move the boat from the owner of the boat the boat remains in the Gorge
- Saanich would be having a public meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>
- GWI would be having a meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Canoe and Kayak Club

## **8. Campers in the Parks – Trevor**

Rob and Trevor had met with the Mayor, the Fire Chief and the Head of Parks to discuss the issue of homeless camps in the parks.

### **Background on the current issue**

- Many camps have been in the park for some time
- Cuthbert Holmes is not the only park with camps and camps have been spotted in Gorge Waterway Park as well
- The camps are littered with garbage, drug paraphernalia and stolen goods
- Police created a “police free zone” by discontinuing bike patrols in the park during the past summer
- During recent patrols police have ignored the stolen goods
- Some regular users of the Cuthbert Holmes now feel scared to venture into the remote parts of the park

### **Issues raised**

- Saanich does not have a homelessness strategy
- There are no services for homeless people in Saanich so sometimes homeless people are simply moved downtown
- The new Cuthbert Holmes Park Plan proposes closing the back trails which may make areas of the park “hidden” from regular users

### **Recommendations**

- Saanich needs to put some money towards solving this problem including hiring a community outreach worker and a homeless nurse coordinator
- Police should get out of the cars and walk through parks and bike patrols should go through the parks
- Police should take the issue of stolen goods seriously
- Saanich needs to develop a homelessness strategy
- In addition to tougher policing Saanich needs to provide services, shelters and affordable housing
- Resources are allocated in response to police calls so the community is encouraged to call the non-emergency number (There is a note in the November newsletter)

**There is a meeting scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss cleaning up the park.**

#### **9. Trees and Maddock Street – Scott**

Scott reported that Saanich cut down four large trees on Maddock Street during the recent streetscape construction but has failed to replant any new trees despite their own rules which stipulate that trees should be replaced 2 to 1.

Starting on September 27<sup>th</sup> Scott has exchanged numerous emails with Saanich staff however they have failed to commit to a timeline.

The board agreed that Scott draft a letter to be sent to the city requesting that they plant the trees on Maddock.

Pam noted that Saanich still has not planted all the trees required as a result of all the trees they cut down on Admirals Road during the bridge construction

#### **10. December Board Meeting - Christmas Party**

The next board meeting would also be the GTCA board Christmas Party.

The meeting and party would be hosted at Vera's house. Rob, Richard and Vera would meet to coordinate the food (catering) of party. Spouses were also invited to attend.

**Date: Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Time: 7:00pm**

**Address: 2915 Colquitz Ave.**