



DISTRICT OF SOOKE
Parks and Trails Advisory Committee
Meeting held November 3, 2015
at 1:00 pm
Council Chamber, 2225 Otter Point Road

Committee Members Present:

Councillor Brenda Parkinson
Kendall Arnold
John Boquist
Jim Bouthillier
Debbie Clarkston (left meeting at 1:45)
Ross Reid
Mark Ziegler

Staff:

Elisabeth Nelson, Municipal Engineer
Laura Hooper, Parks and Environmental Services Coordinator
Danica Rice, Planner II
Sarah Temple, Finance and Administration Assistant

1. John Boquist called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:**
MOVED to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business, as an opportunity for open discussion.
CARRIED

3. **Approval of Minutes:**
MOVED to approve the October 6, 2015 minutes as circulated.
CARRIED

4. **Municipal Hall Front Entrance**
Brenda Parkinson stated that she should not have voted on this item at the October 6, 2015 meeting, which is why the minutes reflected a defeated vote. The matter has been brought back from the October meeting, with the addition of Option 4 as a result of the previous committee discussion.

MOVED to recommend that Council authorize staff to renew the municipal hall front entrance with Option 1: Annual/Perennial fall and spring plantings.
DEFEATED

MOVED to recommend that Council authorize staff to renew the municipal hall front entrance with Option 2: Water feature with a bubbling rock.
DEFEATED

MOVED to recommend that Council authorize staff to renew the municipal hall front entrance with Option 3: Bench with Landscaping.
DEFEATED

MOVED to recommend that Council authorize staff to renew the municipal hall front entrance with Option 4: Water Feature with bubbling rock feature, plus a bench.
CARRIED **Committee members Reid and Arnold were opposed.**

5. **Discussion Topics:**

John Phillips Memorial Park – Preferred Features:

Laura Hooper gave a brief history of John Phillips Memorial Park and the preferred arrangement of amenities as outlined in 2006 by a Public Committee, with much public input. Ms. Hooper overviewed the amenities that have been installed since 2006.

Discussion:

- Discussion of making John Phillips Memorial Park a top priority for the Parks and Trails Advisory Committee.
- There is an appetite in the community to see John Phillips Memorial Park improved and its use increased. The recent Safe Halloween and fireworks show were an example of good community use of the park, but also the limitations in it's current state (no washrooms for example).
- Discussion of the possibility of expanding the size of John Phillips Memorial Park, as several acres commonly assumed to belong to the park are actually privately held.
- Discussion of other priority projects for the Parks and Trails Advisory Committee.
- Discussion of budgetary constraints and opportunities for phased improvements, as well as alternate funding sources.
- Discussion of Committee member ideas for park features, including a washroom, improved parking, a space for festivals and events, gathering places and outdoor gym equipment.

MOVED to recommend that Council support the top the priority projects for the Parks and Trails Advisory Committee as follows:

- John Phillips Memorial Park;
- Improved school linkages, between Sunriver and Poirier Elementary/Journey Middle School; and
- Create pedestrian access to the water from Brownsey Boulevard, with linkages to the boardwalk.

CARRIED

MOVED to recommend that Council direct staff to explore an agreement with private landowners to formalize public use of the trail between Eustace and Caldwell.

CARRIED

MOVED to recommend that Council authorize staff to investigate the purchase of the 3 acres of private land in John Phillips Memorial Park, or a portion thereof.

CARRIED

Rights of Way:

Discussion:

- Mark Ziegler provided the Committee with an overview of a discussion with representatives of the Parks and Trails Committee in Metchosis concerning municipal rights of way.
- Discussion of how rights of way can be obtained in the subdivision and development process and used as linear park, or cash in lieu for park land acquisition can be taken.

6. **Broomhill Park Equipment Repair**

MOVED to receive the correspondence regarding Broomhill Park Equipment Repair for information.

CARRIED

7. **New Business: None**

8. **Public Input:**

- Olena Russell, Sooke resident, addressed the Committee and spoke to the issue of acquiring more land for parking in John Phillips Memorial Park. Ms. Russell stated her support for encouraging active transportation to public parks, rather than using public park land for parking purposes.
- Al Jones, Sooke resident, addressed the Committee and spoke regarding the park land at the end of Possession Point Road. Mr. Jones would like to be the access to this park improved, as it is an excellent access point to the water.

Action: Staff to explore the improvement of access to Possession Point Park.

Gail Hall, Sooke resident, addressed the Committee and stated that ongoing public input will be required, especially when John Phillips Memorial Park is discussed, as this is an area of great interest to Sooke residents. Ms. Hall recalled a public meeting when the issue of a Bike Skills Parks in John Phillips Memorial Park was discussed, where many members of the public attended. Ms. Hall also spoke in support of having outdoor exercise equipment in the park.

9. **Next Scheduled Meeting:**

- Tuesday, January 12, 2015 at 1:00 pm
- Meetings – The first Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm.

10. **Adjournment:**

MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 2:09 pm.

John Boquist
Chair

Bonnie Sprinkling
Corporate Officer