

PENDER ISLANDS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (PIPRC)
Minutes of Monthly Meeting
Friday, March 27, 2015 (10:30 am)
Community Hall Lounge, North Pender Island

Present: Michael Symons, Rob Fenton, Arn Berry, Colin McLarty, Jim Stafford, Ben Symons (PIPRC Contractor), and Zorah Staar (PIPRC Recorder)

Regrets: John Chapman, David Howe

Public: Paul Petrie, South Pender Historical Society

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Michael Symons called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was amended to show the meeting date of March 27, and to add George Hill Indigenous Plants (under Maintenance), PIRAHA (under Recreation), and the Commonality Meeting (under New Business).

MOTION: Moved by Arn Berry, seconded by Colin McLarty, to approve the agenda, as amended. **CARRIED**

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Moved by Arn Berry, seconded by Rob Fenton, to approve the February 19, 2015 PIPRC minutes. **CARRIED**

4. DELEGATIONS

Paul Petrie spoke on behalf of the South Pender Historical Society (SPHS):

- SPHS in its second year, with a short term agreement with Anglican Diocese to lease Church of the Good Shepherd (agreement likely to be extended);
- events in the Church (e.g. Christmas Eve music, market, historical talks including First Nations) were really building community and connections;
- SPHS considering various steps to designate the Church as a heritage resource, including potentially asking PIPRC (later this year) to make joint application to Local Trust Committee to add Church property to South Pender Official Community Plan for consideration as a Community Heritage Park;
- not intended to fully renovate and maintain Church forever as a public building, but rather for property to be appreciated and used as resources permit;
- also seeking to promote appreciation and use of Liliias Spalding Heritage Park.

PIPRC Commissioners discussed some of the financial and human resource issues and other challenges that would have to be addressed, for the Church to become a park property. The PIPRC generally supported further discussions about potential cooperation with SPHS, especially re: First Nations relations. Paul Petrie said that he'd come back in future, and left the meeting at 11:02 am.

5. MAINTENANCE REPORT & DISCUSSIONS

PIPRC Maintenance Contractor Ben Symons had emailed his Maintenance Report. He made comments and/or there was related discussion as follows:

- this month, Symons busy with regular site maintenance and ongoing projects;
- Benches: deluxe bench installed at top of George Hill, and backless benches at Gardom Pond, Enchanted Forest and Found Road; Trex plastic composite wood now used for bench bases (lighter and cheaper than concrete);
- Signs: almost all CRD non-smoking signs installed (PIPRC suggested giving them to Ball Park and Disc Park to install); new signposts at Buck Lake;
- Lilias Spalding Heritage Park: chipping completed by Bear's Tree Service;
- PIPRC Shed: new outside door installed, and wall patched; will try caulking of metal roof leaking spots; need to ask Electrician Brent Kirby to move light switches and install two more (PIPRC authorized this expenditure, and also authorized Symons buying broom and trash can); Symons also asked to price out rainwater catchment for fire protection etc., e.g. filtration, tank and sink;
- Shed/Heart Trail Outhouse: Symons said that it wouldn't work to have outhouse near Shed (too wet), but how about on Heart Trail Extension? (PIPRC consensus that this was not a priority at this time);
- George Hill Plants: community member concerned re: pulled broom lying on top of chocolate lilies and camas (Arn Berry will contact community member, to connect them with Contractor Symons; Jim Stafford to consult);
- George Hill parking: Symons said parking was needed at main entrance, i.e. need culvert in ditch, covered by fill (local MOTI contractor not interested; agreed that Rob Fenton to contact Ryan Evanoff of Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure re: permission to add culvert and fill; Symons to price this out);
- Oaks Bluff: new picnic table installed at lower viewpoint.
- Bike racks: bikes being hidden or lying beside beside trails (PIPRC agreed to buy more bike racks, and if no Commissioner going to Vancouver soon, Symons could pick them up - PIPRC would pay his ferry and gas as shipping).

MOTION: Moved by Rob Fenton, seconded by Arn Berry, that the PIPRC purchase 6 Cora Bike Racks at a price of no more than \$485 each plus tax, plus an additional amount up to \$300 for shipping.

CARRIED

Ben Symons left the meeting at 11:45 am.

6. PRIORITY ITEMS

6.1 Enchanted Forest Proposal

A decision was needed on the Enchanted Forest Proposal by Mamie Hutt-Temoana (Rob Fenton's partner). This was to add features to the park to make it more "enchanted" for children, including gnomes, fairies, etc., plus renewed interpretative nature signage, and potentially First Nations cultural elements. Some PIPRC Commissioners supported renewed interpretative nature signage, but were not in favour of "theme-ing" PIPRC parks, and also believed that superimposing any non-indigenous cultural elements was not appropriate for this site (e.g. because it was nearby to Poet's Cove, where an ancient First Nations village was desecrated during Poet's renovations).

MOTION: Moved by Rob Fenton, seconded by Jim Stafford (for discussion purposes), that the PIPRC approve the Enchanted Forest Proposal in principle, with the proviso that the proponent actively involve local First Nations representatives in the planning, and then come back to the PIPRC with a more specific description of what is proposed to be done. **MOTION FAILED (1 in favour, 4 opposed)**

The Commissioners in opposition felt that any additions to the Enchanted Forest should have nature-based and First Nations cultural focuses, and that this could be a very good opportunity to consult directly with local First Nations about what they might support happening at this site. Arn Berry and Jim Stafford agreed to follow up (e.g. to speak with Gwen Underwood and Belinda Claxton of the Tsawout First Nation, and also Paul Petrie of the South Pender Historical Society). Mamie Hutt-Temoana was thanked for initiating this discussion and her efforts to date, and invited to be involved.

7. IN CAMERA ITEMS

MOTION: Moved by Rob Fenton, seconded by Colin McLarty, that the meeting be closed to the public for the purpose of approving past In Camera minutes, and discussing personnel and/or property matters, and further that Recorder Zorah Staar remain present. **CARRIED**

Note: See separate In Camera Minutes of the same date for the discussions that followed.

MOTION: Moved by Colin McLarty, seconded by Rob Fenton, that the In Camera Meeting be adjourned, and the PIPRC meeting re-opened to the public. **CARRIED**

One property matter was discussed during the In Camera meeting.

8. CORRESPONDENCE – None

9. REPORTS

9.1 Chair's Report

Chair Symons reported that he'd now spoken with Fire Chief Charlie Boyte about the emergency access route and forest fuel reduction demo project being proposed for the PIPRC Lively Peak Park. The initial consultant's report had been sent to the CRD (without the PIPRC being advised as agreed), and then the funding apparently ran out. The amount of tree cutting being proposed was very significant. A PIPRC site visit to the flagged proposed route was scheduled for Friday, April 3 at 1:00 pm (meet at Ketch Road entrance to Lively Peak Park).

9.2 Treasurer/Financial Report

Treasurer Rob Fenton noted that the PIPRC Bookkeeper had forwarded the updated PIPRC 2014 Budget & Expenses (summary for the previous calendar year), and also the 2015 Budget & Expenses to the end of February. The 2014 surplus was higher than projected, because the CRD had not yet accounted for the \$9,500 amount for the Guidebook order (as we requested). In addition, sales of the 2,000 new PIPRC Guidebooks were now in progress (at \$12 each, minus tax and vendor commissions, which varied). Treasurer Fenton proposed that the PIPRC Bookkeeper handle the various sales, commission, bookkeeping and re-stocking details involved.

MOTION: Moved by Rob Fenton, seconded by Michael Symons, that the PIPRC pay the PIPRC Bookkeeper at her hourly rate for the work relating to sales of the new Guidebook. **CARRIED**

9.3 CRD Director Report – None

9.4 Recreation Report

Arn Berry said that he was setting up a meeting with PIRAHHA (Community Hall) and CRD representatives, to discuss Recreation funding issues

9.5 Communications Report

Zorah Staar said that there was a red PIPRC file folder at the Hope Bay office that had some historical and background information about PIPRC sites. It could be useful in future for the writing of Pender Post articles (by Jim Stafford or others).

9.6 Volunteer Coordinator Report

New Coordinator Arn Berry was receiving materials from former Coordinator Michael Symons.

10. NEW / OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 Meeting Day / Time

To support greater availability for existing and new Commissioners, it was agreed to try transitioning into the PIPRC meeting on the third Friday of the month (instead of Thursday), in the morning.

10.2 Parks & Recreation Commonality Meeting

The next Southern Gulf Islands Parks & Recreation Commission Commonality Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, 2015 (on Mayne Island). Chair Symons said that he would send a related email.

11. NEXT PIPRC MEETING

Scheduled for Friday, April 17, 2015 (9:30 am, Community Hall Upstairs). [Note: The Hall Lounge was not available for that particular date.]

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Michael Symons, to adjourn the meeting at 1:47 pm. **CARRIED**