

Meeting Minutes

Regional Parks Committee

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

9:30 AM

6th Floor Boardroom
625 Fisgard St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

PRESENT

Directors: C. McNeil-Smith (Chair), J. Brownoff (Vice Chair), C. Coleman, S. Goodmanson, C. Harder (for L. Szpak), G. Holman (EP), S. Tobias (EP), K. Williams, R. Windsor, C. Plant (Board Chair, ex officio)

Staff: T. Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer; L. Jones, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services; M. MacIntyre, Senior Manager, Regional Parks; T. Moss, Manager, Visitor Experience and Stewardship, Regional Parks; G. Tokgoz, Manager, Regional Trails and Trestles Renewal, Facilities Management and Engineering Services; M. Lagoa, Deputy Corporate Officer; T. Pillipow, Committee Clerk (Recorder)

EP - Electronic Participation

Guests: N. Arason, Island Health; M. Fyfe, Island Health

Regrets: Directors L. Szpak, M. Tait

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 am.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Vice Chair Brownoff provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Director Williams, **SECONDED** by Director Goodmanson,
That the agenda for the June 26, 2024 Regional Parks Committee meeting be approved.
CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1. [24-505](#) Minutes of the April 24, 2024 Regional Parks Meeting

MOVED by Director Williams, **SECONDED** by Director Coleman,
That the minutes of the Regional Parks Committee meeting of April 24, 2024 be adopted as circulated.
CARRIED

4. Chair's Remarks

There were no Chair's remarks.

5. Presentations/Delegations

There were no presentations or delegations.

6. Committee Business

6.1. [24-558](#) Regional Trestles Renewal, Trails Widening and Lighting Project Update

G. Tokgoz presented Item 6.1 for information.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- consideration of solar power lighting and protected lanes on sections of the trails
- ensuring any existing heritage structure status remains
- environmental considerations to preserve habitats along the trails
- the status of grant applications for this project

6.2. [24-660](#) Water Safety in CRD Regional Parks

M. MacIntyre spoke to Item 6.2.

MOVED by Director Windsor, SECONDED by Director Goodmanson,
To allow Dr. M. Fyfe and N. Arason to participate in the discussion on Item 6.2. Water Safety in CRD Regional Parks.

CARRIED

Discussion ensued regarding:

- whether there is a rising trend of drowning incidents in the CRD
- Island Health to present updated data to the committee this Fall
- whether the current budget can support additional initiatives such as installing safety device borrowing stations at some regional parks
- sharing our best practices with municipal partners
- accessibility and placement of signage within the parks
- consideration of incident debriefs between CRD staff and other agencies when an incident occurs in a regional park

**MOVED by Director Windsor, SECONDED by Director Brownoff,
The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:**

- 1. That current service levels be maintained, focusing on continued public education to address water safety in regional parks, and that staff work with partners to increase education and awareness for key demographic groups.**
- 2. To implement a pilot program this summer for personal floatation devices and life rings at Thetis Main Beach and Elk Lake - Hamsterly Beach and report back after one season of implementation.**

CARRIED

7. Notice(s) of Motion

7.1. [24-623](#) Motion with Notice: Safety on Multi-Use Trails (Director Tobias)

Discussion ensued regarding the timeline for this scope of work.

MOVED by Director Tobias, **SECONDED** by Director Williams,
The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That the Capital Regional District Board directs staff to undertake a comprehensive study on the safety of multi-use trails, with a particular focus on the risks associated with cyclist speed and the use of e-bikes:

1. **Review of Recent Accidents:** A detailed review of recent documented accidents involving e-bikes and other trail users.
2. **Risk Assessment:** An assessment of current risks and contributing factors to accidents on multi-use trails.
3. **Public Consultation:** Engagement with the public to gather feedback and concerns regarding trail safety.
4. **Best Practices:** Identification of best practices from other jurisdictions in managing e-bike speeds and trail safety.
5. **Actionable Recommendations:** Development of actionable recommendations to mitigate identified risks and enhance the safety of all trail users.
6. That staff report back to the Regional Parks Committee with their findings and recommendations as soon as practical so that prompt and effective measures can be implemented to address these safety concerns.

Referral Motion:

MOVED by Director Plant, **SECONDED** by Director Windsor,
That this item be referred to staff to bring back an approach report to the Regional Parks Committee.

CARRIED

Motion Arising:

MOVED by Director Plant, **SECONDED** by Alternate Director Harder,
The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

Direct staff to augment a signage program on our regional trails to provide information that reinforces current legal requirements and courtesy protocols (i.e. speeds, passing with courtesy).

CARRIED

7.2. [24-691](#) Notice of Motion: Accessibility at Island View Beach Regional Park (Director Windsor)

Director Windsor provided the following Notice of Motion for consideration at the next meeting of the Regional Parks Committee:

"That staff report to the Regional Parks Committee on the development and potential partnerships with the District of Central Saanich and Tsawout First Nation on park accessibility improvements in Island View Beach Regional Park around three major areas:

1. Parking facilities;
2. Trails and kiosks; and
3. Development of a wheelchair accessible foreshore (beach) access."

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Adjournment

MOVED by Director Coleman, **SECONDED** by Alternate Director Harder,
That the June 26, 2024 Regional Parks Committee meeting be adjourned at 11:26 am.
CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDER