REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

ELECTORAL AREA 'E' PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2016 6:30PM

(Nanoose Place, 2925 Northwest Bay Road, Nanoose Bay)

AGENDA

PAGES	
	CALL TO ORDER
	ADOPTION OF AGENDA
	Motion to Adopt the Agenda
	DELEGATIONS
	Motion to receive any late delegations.
	MINUTES
3-6	Minutes of the Regular Electoral Area 'E' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting held May $11^{\rm th}$ 2016.
	Motion to Adopt the Minutes.
	BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
	COMMUNICATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE
7	L. Fesiak, RDN to C. Ironside, Fairwinds Community Association RE: Illegal Tree Cutting in Fairwinds Community
8-9	C. Demster, SD 69 to M. Dobbs, RDN RE: Request for Gate on Jack Bagley Field
10	Nanoose Resident to RDN RE: Jack Bagley Gate
	UNFINISHED BUSINESS
	Beach Accesses Public Meeting held May 2016 - Area E POSAC
11-12	Oakleaf Community Park (verbal)
	REPORTS
13-25	Monthly Update Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects – June - Aug 2016

26-28

Salish Sea Marine Trail Proposal BC Marine Trails Network Association Report

Directors Report – "share the road" (verbal)

Motion to receive Reports.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS

NEW BUSINESS

Parks and Open Space Plan for Nanoose Bay- May 2001

29 Five-Year Parks Plan (2017-2021)

Committee Members Term Expiry (Law, Varos, Young)

POSAC meeting time

Member requests for topics at the next meeting

COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn

NEXT MEETING

TBD

Nanoose Place

<u>Disbursement:</u> B. Rogers, G. Wiebe, D. Mitchell, V. Voros, P. Law, D. Young, M. Caskey,

T. Osborne, W. Marshall, K. Cramer

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

MINUTES OF ELECTORAL AREA 'E' PARKS AND OPEN SPACES ADVISORY REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, May 11, 2016 6:30 PM

(Nanoose Place)

Attendance: Director Bob Rogers - Chair

Peter Law – Secretary

Gordon Wiebe Vicki Voros Debbie Mitchell Diana Young Marlene Caskey

Staff: Lesya Fesiak, Parks Planner

Wendy Marshall, RDN Parks Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Director Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED G. Wiebe SECONDED V. Voros that the amended agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

MOVED G. Wiebe, SECONDED D. Young to receive the late delegation

CARRIED

Ross Peterson – 1482 Madrona Road; Subject – Road End Management in Area E.

Mr. Peterson spoke about his involvement (as the past President of the Nanoose Bay Residents Association) in a 2001 review of road end management issues carried out by the RDN and MOTI. Recommendations for road end management at the time were captured in the Nanoose Bay Park and Open Spaces Plan 2001 under the theme "Public Beach Access". Mr. Peterson indicated that this work done 15 years ago had some common understandings about how road ends would be co-managed (RDN and MOTI):

- Development of road ends for public access will occur only after local resident's consultation.
- Public Beach Access should be a subject of the Area E POSAC.
- Each road end is to be considered as unique, and
- Wildlife and ecosystem impacts will be assessed to ensure impacts are minimized to sensitive marine areas.

MINUTES

MOVED M. Caskey, SECONDED D. Mitchell that the Minutes of the Electoral Area "E" Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Committee meeting held on February 10, 2016 be adopted.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Illegal Tree Cutting in the Fairwinds Community

Director Rogers summarized how this issue was dealt with by RDN Bylaw Enforcement. The investigation concluded that the Golf Course cut trees in an adjacent RDN park unknowingly. The enforcement staff recommended no charges, and re-planting of trees in the fall of 2016.

MOVED D. Mitchell, SECONDED M. Caskey that the Board direct staff to send a letter to Fairwinds Community Association, to request they inform their membership of this recent Bylaw investigation and action regarding illegal tree cutting at Carmichael Road Community Park.

CARRIED

REPORTS

Monthly Update Regional and Community Parks and Trails Projects (Feb. 2016 to Mar. 2016)

Moorecroft Parking

Wendy Marshall provided an update to the committee members about changes to parking at Moorecroft Park in the coming weeks. There is a movie shoot happening in the Park and vehicles/equipment will be parked on the site. There will be no public parking starting on May 1 to May 20.

E&N Rail trail between Springwood Park and Coombs

Ms. Marshall gave the committee an update on this large Regional Parks project.

Blueback Community Park – Update

Ms. Marshall provided members with an update on this project. New drainage has now been installed. A porta potty site is to be constructed. Hazard and dying trees will be removed. Trail surfacing will be happening soon. Monitoring and removal of blackberry to occur this fall. Hydro seeding and tree planting to be implemented in the fall.

D. Mitchell suggested that we should place a notice so that local residents understand what progress has been made, and how much more is yet to be done on this project. Action –Wendy Marshall.

5 Year Plan Parks Plan

Handout to Committee Members: A spreadsheet Electoral Area E Community Parks – 5 Year Parks Planning 2016 to 2020 – Planning Worksheet.

The Committee members discussed the list of High and Medium Priority Parks on the list. Some of the comments included:

High Priority Projects: Comments							
Blueback	Construction to be completed by end of the year.	Some monitoring in next few year					
Claudet	Toilet upgrade to happen this year	Funds available					
Oakleaf	Planning and design of Park this year.	Funds available					
Davingham trail	No funding available in 2016						

Medium Priority Projects:

Group discussion about Brickyard Park and how it has serious parking and toilet issues in the summer months. There is committee support to move Brickyard to a Medium Priority. Action - Lesya Fesiak to modify 5 Year Planning Spreadsheet.

Beach Accesses – Verbal Update

Director Rogers provided a brief summary about the May 9th Public Meeting on this issue held at Nanoose Place. There were an estimated 150 residents in attendance. Director Rogers said the beach accesses that were the focus of the meeting were the Jib Road and Wall Beach.

Discussion topics included: - safety, commercial activities, toilets, parking.

Residents expressed concerns focused on the "local impacts" associated with the commercial activities. Other Participants included:

- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure expressed a requirement to follow Prov. Policy.
- RDN Parks No jurisdiction on these sites
- RCMP Safety concerns
- Commercial Users of Road Ends (in attendance) Listened to public concerns

The committee discussed the next steps. Director Rodgers believes that the Area E POSAC needs step up and discuss this subject at a future meeting. Committee members expressed support to meet at a future date to discuss

Decision: Area E POSAC will meet at a future date to discuss how to proceed on the issues voiced at the May 9th meeting.

District 69 Recreation Commission Report – Verbal Update

G. Wiebe indicated that the Commission met recently and considered a number of funding applications. Gord indicated he will be stepping down from this committee and Area E POSAC at the end of this year.

Directors Report – Verbal Update

Director Rogers indicated that the past few weeks have been very busy on the Area E Parks file. These have included the following:

- Road end and beach access May 9th meeting (organize and host at Nanoose Place).
- Nanoose Bay Activity and Recreation Society AGM (May 24th)
- Upgrades to the Nanoose Place Facility and securing funding
- Regional Parks and Trails E&N Trail Coombs to Parksville
- RDN Board meeting to review Regional Parks and Trails funding strategies.

MOVED V. Varos, SECONDED D. Young to receive the reports.

NEW BUSINESS

Oakleaf Community Park

Ms. Fesiak provided an update on this new park's planning. The proposed park has been subject to an assessment by an Ecosystem Biologist. All members were forwarded a pdf of the report by Ursus Environmental (May 6th, 2016). At the meeting, Ms. Fesiak provided members with a plant community map from Ursus, and maps showing "Existing Conditions" and "Proposed Park Improvements" where she has provided some ideas on park improvements

Director Rogers suggests that the Committee members meet on site to review development strategies with the goal of protecting sensitive plant ecosystems.

Decision: Area E POSAC will meet onsite (Oakleaf Park) at the end of June to review and comment on Park development scenarios.

COMMITTEE ROUNDTABLE

- M. Caskey asked RDN staff to consider giving more lead time to POSAC members if there are any future meetings at local parks.
- P. Law asked Director Rogers about the status of the "Enos Lake Monitoring and Protection Plan" (a component of the Fairwinds Regional Parks Plan). Ms. Fesiak responded that the document has been received and accepted by the RDN staff. It will be adopted by the RDN Board on June 21st, 2016.
- D. Mitchell asked whether the Enos Lake Monitoring Plan will lead to any changes to the Fairwinds Regional Parks Plan. Ms. Marshall stated there will be no changes to the Fairwinds Parks Plan as a result of the recently received Enos Lake Monitoring Plan.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED D. Young, SECONDED G.Wiebe that the meeting adjourn at 8:30pm.

CARRIED

Chairperson



September 6, 2016

Crystal Ironside President / Chairperson Fairwinds Community Association PO Box 281 Nanoose Bay BC, V9P 9G7

Re: Illegal Tree Cutting on RDN Parkland in the Fairwinds Community

Dear Ms. Ironside:

I am writing on behalf of the Nanoose Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee to inform you and your members of a recent bylaw investigation and action regarding illegal tree cutting at Carmichael Road Community Park. The investigation by RDN Bylaw Services concluded that the Fairwinds Golf Club unknowingly cut trees in an RDN community park on Carmichael Road adjacent to the golf course.

The Fairwinds Golf Club has been asked by RDN Bylaw Services to replace the removed trees in the fall of 2016; RDN Parks staff will be providing Golf Club management with a planting plan and list of approved tree and shrub species.

If you or your members have any questions or concerns related to this matter, please feel free to contact me by email at lfesiak@rdn.bc.ca or by phone at (250) 248-3252.

Thank you,

RDN Parks Planner

RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

HEAD OFFICE: Oceanside Place 830 West Island Highway Parksville, BC V9P 2X4 (250) 248-3252 Fax: (250) 248-3159

Ravensong Aquatic Centre

Toll Free: 1-888-828-2069

737 Jones Street Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1S4 (250)752-5014 Fax: (250)752-5019

RDN Website: www.rdn.bc.ca



SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 69 (QUALICUM) Operations & Maintenance Department

P.O. Box 430 1365 Springhill Rd. Parksville, BC V9P 2G5 Phone: 250-248-2067 Fax: 250-954-3028

July 7, 2016

Regional District of Nanaimo Hammond Bay Road Nanaimo, BC

Attn: Bob Rogers, Director, Electoral Area E - Nanoose

Re: Proposed Jack Bagley Field Upgrade

Dear Bob,

Jack Bagley Field in Nanoose Bay has many potential uses for the RDN, School District 69 and the Community as a whole.

The condition of the field has notably deteriorated in recent years. The grass needs to be revived, the ground is uneven, the diamond is in disrepair and garbage is an issue at this location. With the RDN offering a grant for improvements, we would like to apply for \$16,000 towards field repair. School District 69 would like to propose the following plan to upgrade Jack Bagley Field:

- Aerate the field
- Over-seed and over-sand
- Repair all holes and uneven ground
- Repair diamond
- Inspect and repair bleacher
- Install in-ground garbage system

We believe the above upgrade will enhance the Community use of the Jack Bagley Field in many ways. Not only would the field become more astatically pleasing to the Community, as well, the functionality of the site would be much improved for many functions.

Thank you for your consideration of our request for this grant. We look forward to your support with this much needed Community Project.

Sincerely,

Chris Dempster

General Manager of Operations, School Dist 69

250-954-3030

----Original Message----

From: Chris Dempster [mailto:cdempster@sd69.bc.ca]

Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 4:13 PM

To: Dobbs, Mark

Cc: Ron Amos; Rollie Koop

Subject: RE: Jack Bagley Field - Letter of Support

Mark, sorry it took this long to get back to you. The last few weeks of summer are always difficult. I will break down the estimated charges.

\$720.00 1-Aerate the field- labor only-2-Overseed- materials \$200.00 3-Labor for over seeding \$360.00 4-Top dressing(washed sand) \$480.00 \$270.00-\$405.00 5-Transportation of sand 6-Labor for top dressing \$1120.00 7-Repair of diamonds (material) \$235.00 \$720.00 8-Labor for diamonds 9-repair to bleacher(bringing up to code \$2570.00 10-Rebuilding removed bleacher \$4500.00 10- installation of 2 deep garbage cans \$800.00 11-purchase of cans \$2300.00 12 field sprinkler repair(material\$150x7) \$1050.00 13-Installation of sprinklers \$540.00

Mark, I have listed all expenses for the upgrade. If okayed, I will start certain projects this year and depending on conditions, work through the weather for the bleachers etc.

Chris Dempster General Manager of Operations SD69 Qualicum 250-954-3030 From: <u>Nicki</u>

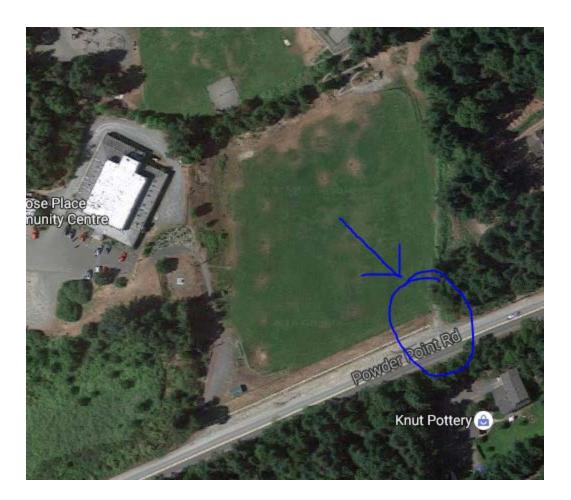
To: <u>Harvey, Ann-Marie</u>

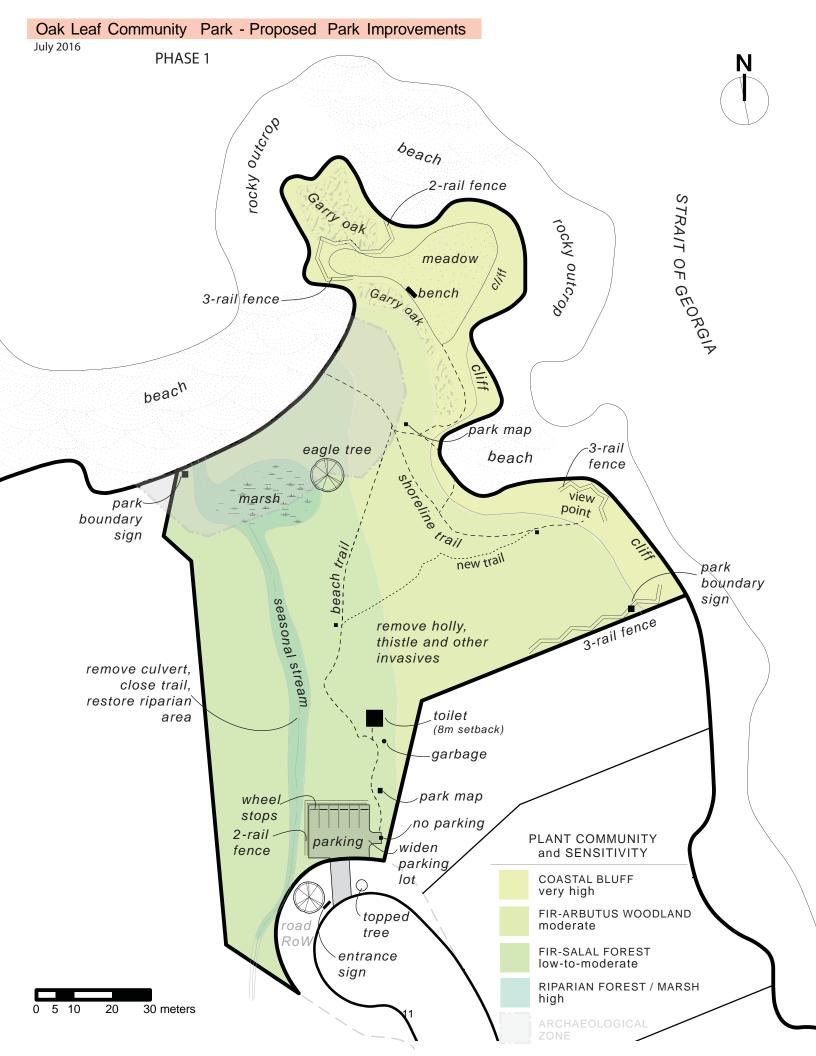
Subject: Jack Bagley Park Nanoose Bay

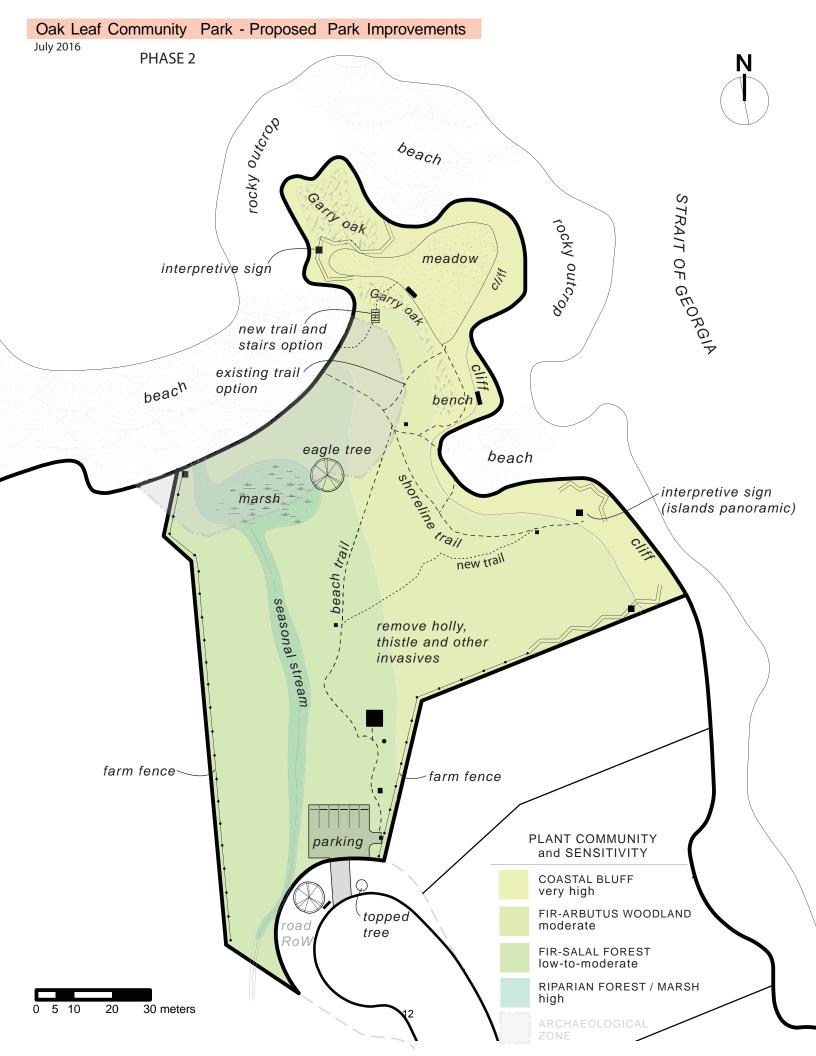
Date: Monday, October 03, 2016 11:45:10 AM

Attachments: 884667.305

Hello I love and appreciate that I am able to take my dog to this park everyday but I was wondering what the possibility of having a gate installed at one of the entrances? I only ask because this park is so close to a busy street that is kind of blind for drivers and if you dog runs out chasing a bunny or a deer or whatever, well, it's not a good situation. I would be even willing to help with the cost? As I mentioned I really appreciate the opportunity of having this field. I help with cleaning up waste that is left behind and even clean up after other owners just so this opportunity isn't taken away.









STAFF REPORT

TO: Tom Osborne DATE: September 8, 2016

General Manager of Recreation & Parks

MEETING: Recreation Commissions, RPTSC, EASC,

POSACs

FROM: Wendy Marshall

Manager of Park Services FILE:

SUBJECT: Monthly Update of Community Parks and Regional Parks and Trails Projects- June, July

and August 2016

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks Update Report for June, July and August 2016 be received as information.

Regional and Community Parks and Trails

During the summer staff have been involved with the following projects and issues.

Electoral Area Community Parks

Area A

Staff prepared revised construction cost estimates and design options for the Cedar Plaza Kiosks which were presented and discussed at the June 15 PRCC Meeting. A Development Variance permit application was submitted to RDN Planning and to the Province with approval received on July 28. Final engineer drawings were submitted for a building permit application on August 17 (with approval anticipated in September), and three construction bids from contractors were received on August 31. A contract will be awarded in early September and construction will be completed by December 31, 2016.

Staff provided parks comments regarding a Development Permit with variance application which involves a foreshore revetment in the unconstructed road right of way beside 1954 Shasta Road. Under condition of the approved permit there is a specific condition that "the applicant will construct a safe and appropriate public beach access along the portion of the revetment in the unconstructed road right-of-way..." The intention is that the new steps will be an enhancement to the existing steep steps.

Survey work was completed and staff retained a structural engineer to prepare drawings and costing information for the proposed public access stairs at the Driftwood Rd water access.

Staff provided parks comments to Planning regarding a subdivision application on Shasta Rd in terms of potential trail / pedestrian circulation between Shasta Rd, Headland Rd and Pace Rd.

Staff coordinated invasive plant removal and watering with contractors for a replanted section of the Morden Colliery Regional Trail at the Cedar Plaza.

A picnic table was installed at the Cedar Skatepark with funds donated by the Cedar Skatepark Committee.

At Nelson Road boat launch, improvements were done over the summer months, including a new toilet surround, safety line painting and brushing.

At Ivor Way Community Park, over a dozen large hazard trees were taken down, and an arborists report has been completed for the site. The report includes recommendations for both a monitoring program, and for some additional trees to be taken down in the fall or winter.

Area B

Staff reviewed the Gabriola Island Local Trust Committee referral request regarding the draft rezoning Bylaw Nos. 289 and 290 and prepared a Staff report to the Electoral Area 'B' Parks and Open Space committee identifying how the RDN's parks interests are affected by the proposed 136-hectare (336 acre) park land addition to the 707 Community Park as well as the potential additional 19.3 ha (47.7 acre) park land dedication which would result from future subdivision of the rezoned lands.

Staff submitted a grant application to Canada 150 Infrastructure Program for improvements to the Huxley Park tennis and sport courts. Grants will be awarded in October 2016.

A \$7,000 grant from the Nanaimo Foundation Community Fund for Canada's 150th for the Huxley Park playground installation project was awarded.

Parks received a request to install baby change tables in both the male and female washrooms at Rollo McClay Community Park. This has been added to the 2017 parks budget.

Staff provided follow-up correspondence to G. McCollum in regards to the 1520 McCollum Rd. subdivision application requirement to pay the 5% cash-in-lieu of parkland.

Staff received a request to realign the existing trail that connects Fawn Rd to the 707CP's North Rd trail. The existing trail alignment crosses private property.

At Rollo McClay Park, numerous instances of vandalism (graffiti) have required costly painting. Staff are working with the RCMP and the community towards a solution.

A contractor repaired a damaged and failed seal around the overflow pipe of the irrigation pond at Rollo McClay Park.

Following recent survey work staff directed a contractor to begin trail improvements to provide increased access and use of the Whalebone Area trails. Staff met with a trail neighbour regarding trespass issues, and attended to the removal of a large, downed hazard tree, and a large branch at another location. Trail improvements have commenced and are scheduled to be completed in September.

At Huxley Community Park a site visit for assessing a suitable toilet location was carried out, and numerous new park signs were installed at the tennis courts.

Following May's site development work, a toilet was added to the enclosure at Joyce Lockwood Community Park,

Park staff attended a Gabriola Fire meeting, and assisted with Oceans Day preparations.

Staff looked at existing beach access stairs towards replacements options, and provided budget input.

Staff reviewed the Field House facilities at Rollo McClay Park, and identified maintenance requirements and future improvements.

Area C - Extension

Staff met with a park contractor to discuss amendments to park maintenance at Extension Miners Park; a plan was prepared for a bench installation.

A new culvert and drainage pipes were installed at Extension Miner's Community Park.

Area C – East Wellington / Pleasant Valley

Staff contracted a landscape company to carry out biannual weeding and pruning at Anders and Dorrit's Community Park; a loop trail was mowed in the hay field by the mowing contractor in July.

Staff prepared and submitted a building permit application to RDN Building Inspections for a picnic shelter at Meadow Drive Community Park. The permit was received on July 14. Project construction began in late August and completion is anticipated in fall 2016.

At Meadow Drive Community Park, staff attended to vandalism of the new toilet on several occasions, with physical damage incurred to the roof, door, toilet fixture and dispensers. In addition the cleaning contractor was required for emergency cleanings on 5 occasions within a two week period. Staff repaired the damage and closely monitored the site for several weeks. Signs were temporarily posted notifying the community and stating the area would be under surveillance. Modifications to the building were made to prevent vandals from exiting through a gap in the roof structure, and deadbolts where installed to make the building more secure when and if required.

At Benson Meadows Community Path, reflectors were attached to the boulders for public safety at night, and Park staff conducted trail maintenance.

At Anders and Dorrit's Community Park, brushing was carried out adjacent the parking lot entrance way to improve sight lines for vehicles when entering or leaving the park. The park field was hayed over the summer months.

Staff met with a contractor carrying out restorative work to the river bank on the neighbouring property, and inspected the continuation of the back on the park property. The bank within the park is more secure due to existing tree and vegetation rooting structure.

Area E

Staff worked with GIS Mapping Services on registering two new community parks Oak Leaf Drive and Davenham Road.

Staff coordinated and attended a site meeting at Oakleaf Community Park on June 20th with POSAC members to discuss park development. A subsequent meeting with the Land Governance Manager from Nanoose First Nation occurred in the park to review the proposed plans and seek input. The Phase 1 plans for the park improvements will be occurring over the fall. Phase 2 improvements (fencing and interpretive signage mostly), will be revisited again with the POSAC.

Parks staff received a request for a playground in the Beachcomber area and suggested the request be brought forward to the Area E POSAC, either by letter or as a delegation.

At Stone Lake Drive Community Park staff removed fallen trees from the retention ponds and cleared brush from the fence.

At Brickyard Community Park a new garbage can was installed.

At Park Place Community Park staff graded the trail.

Area F

Planning staff provided input on an amenity contribution and potential park connection to the Coombs to Parksville Rail Trail from the Springhill Road industrial development.

Staff provided ongoing feedback regarding the rezoning application on Springhill Rd. Staff attended the June 27th Public Information Meeting.

Staff walked the proposed Palmer Rd trail alignment with members of the POSAC trail sub-committee to determine project feasibility. Staff has received quotes for survey work and spoken with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure as well as owner of the adjacent wood lot to determine future development plans for this portion of undeveloped road.

Vehicle barriers were installed at the Cranswick Rd trailhead (Matterson Rd end). Advice from a local medi-scooter user was used to ensure that there is universal access to the trail.

A donation of \$1,730 was given to Electoral Area 'F' Community Parks to install a bear-proof garbage can the northern trailhead of the Errington School Community Trail.

Park inspections and routine park maintenance was conducted throughout the area.

At Meadowood Community Park staff removed a vandalized picnic table from the park and dealt with a variety of vandalism issues over the summer. A concrete picnic table purchased by the community was assembled on a new concrete Base installed by contractor and park staff.

Staff also worked with event organizers and the Dashwood Fire Department to help ensure the successful provision of the 6th Annual Lighthouse Bluegrass Festival which was located at Medowood Community Park this year. Road grading work was conducted.

At Arrowsmith Community Trail, staff completed work on the newly installed trailhead sign.

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Area G

In June, Park staff advised Planning staff with regard to a proposed parklands dedication in conjunction with a subdivision application in Area G on Ganske Rd.

In August, Park staff advised Planning staff with regard to a proposed rezoning application of a property near Wembley Mall on the edge of the City of Parksville. No parkland dedication is required. Through an amenity contribution, there is the possibility of trail connections in the area around the development.

At Barclay Bridge, staff trimmed and cleared trail. Staff also met on site with a resident to follow up on a concern about the safety of numerous hazard trees adjacent to their property. The trees are on crown land and are not the responsibility of the RDN to remove. Staff corresponded several times with the Province to clarify the location and jurisdiction of the trees.

At Johnstone Road, staff removed, sanded and refinished a memorial bench.

At Top Bridge two cars were locked in due to them not reading the sign and not leaving the area by 9pm. In the morning when the security company came to open the gate they found that the lock was compromised. A new lock had to be made and installed.

Staff attended to complaints of illegal dumping presumed to be within the park boundary adjacent French Creek.

As per POSAC direction, plans to move forward with design and construction of Phase 1 of the Stanhope Trail are underway. Due to utilities in the corridor, staff prepared a request for proposals and an engineering firm has been retained to do the design work this fall. It is expected that construction of the first phase from Stanhope Road to the Wally's Way cul-de-sac will occur early in 2017. Phase 2 through the trees will happen at a later date.

Parks received suggestions for improvements to the Dashwood Community Park from an area resident and have contacted a playground inspector about the feasibility of using a play structure that was removed from a school ground. Any proposed changes to the park would be presented at a POSAC meeting.

Area H

A Picnic & Play event put on by RDN Recreation was held at Henry Morgan Community Park on July 8th. Approximately 15 adults and children attended.

RDN Parks worked with the BC Wildfire Service to complete a prescribed burn at Oakdown Community Park and the surrounding Crown lands on August 29th. This was a FireSmart Initiative and is a fuel management project.

Staff continued to assist GIS Mapping with the development of maps for non-RDN Crown land trails.

At Henry Morgan Community Park, the trail from Henry Morgan CP to Cordon Road was brushed and cleared of debris.

At Islewood Road Community Park, staff brushed and scrubbed out trail.

At Rose Community Park staff removed bike jumps from the park.

All Beach accesses were maintained. Some benches were refurbished over the summer months. Department of Fisheries and Oceans was contacted with regards getting new shelf awareness signs at the beach accesses.

A temporary portable toilet was delivered to Crane Road for the fishing season.

Park staff installed 2 garbage cans at the Lions Club ball fields and set up payment for collection. They were removed at the end of the ball season. They are currently stored at the Lions Club.

Community Works Projects

Area B

Staff prepared background report on past RDN Parks involvement on MoTI road allowance (development permits and licences for water accesses and undeveloped road allowance), in relation to dealings with the Ministry and the Village Way project.

Area E

Blueback

Further development occurred at Blueback including; a larger parking lot, a cedar toilet surround, change house, and a new trail.

Park Staff met with Arborist regarding hazard tree removal, delivered and spread gravel around toilet enclosure, removed silt fence, installed a bear proof refuse container and installed concrete wheel stops.

Oak Leaf

Park staff expanded the parking lot and installed wheel stops. A trail was roughed in starting at the parking lot leading to an existing trail. Trees and trails were pruned and brushed.

Regional Significant Gas Tax Project

Coombs to Parksville Rail Trail

Construction of the Rail Trail advanced at a good pace over the summer and is nearing the half-way complete mark. Weekly field inspection reports and photos provided by consulting engineer; monthly meetings held with engineer, contractor and sub-consultants. Work on construction and consulting engineer contracts concluded. Obtained revised Station Road crossing permit from MoTI. Continued to work with the City of Parksville concerning their handling of trail development within the City's Springwood Community Park. City staff unable carry out work as expected and main project contractor expected to take on the Springwood section. Met with Coldwater Strata owners to introduce the contractor and review development plans as concerns the SRW at the back of the Strata lots. Met with contractor, engineer and roadmasters from the Southern Vancouver Island Railway and the Alberni Pacific Railway to review safety procedures around the rail. Estimate for two pedestrian rail crossings to be installed by SVI received and materials ordered. Worked with residents, engineers and contractor to resolve a local drainage issue at the junction of rail trail and the private crossing serving the Coombs' property. Worked with the Manna Homeless Society and contractor on seeing some of the nonmerchantable project wood delivered to the Society as donated firewood; contracted with firewood processor with work space kindly donated by B. Carpenter of Allsbrook Road. Environmental monitoring

reports received from consulting biologist; all findings good. Media interview and photographs for web site provided to Island Radio. Test surface gravel strips assessed. Liaised with equestrians and cyclists regarding trail use, access points and fixtures such as baffles. Liaised with Coombs business owners concerning the coming need for bike parking. Station crossing location returned to west side of junction further to consultation with Alberni Pacific Railway and adjusted trail path. Safety items examined including lighting at Station and Church crossings and some fencing (cedar split-rail) beside DBL pit and by large culvert installations. Allowances identified to accommodate potential crossing and link to a Springhill Rd community park.

Regional Parks and Trails

Arboretum

Staff Cleared blackberry on the bank and along the fence as well as brushed the trail open. Garbage was removed from site on numerous occasions.

Arrowsmith CPR Regional Trail

Staff liaised with the Conservation Officer and posted a notice on the RDN web site that the trail would be closed for a week to allow time for a stalking cougar to clear the area.

Benson Creek Falls Regional Park

Park staff installed numbered trail markers for emergency locating purposes for Search and Rescue and the Coastal Wildfire Centre.

Park staff also conducted annual bridge maintenance.

Staff reviewed community correspondence, the management plan and various options for improving parking access to Benson Creek Falls Regional Park, based on community input that the Creekside Place parking lot is problematic to the community and should be closed. Staff was directed to prepare a Board Report on the matter by the Regional Parks and Trails Select Committee, which will be reviewed by the Board in September.

Coats Marsh Regional Park

Staff reviewed the *Recovery Strategy for the Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis, and Tri-colored Bat in Canada* and provided a staff report regarding how Federal and Provincial Species at Risk legislation impacts bat conservation efforts in regards to RDN park management and development – specifically in terms of the planned demolition of the cabin at CMRP.

Descanso Bay Regional Park

Staff provided Public notice of a campfire ban on June 7th. This ban will remain in effect until advised to lift it by the local fire chief.

The annual Oceans Day event was held on June 5th. Staff provided posters and buttons as well as provided event advertising assistance.

Englishman River Regional Park

Long-time volunteer park warden Marlene Harm retired following the death of her dog and partner Kodiak.

Staff Liaised with Arrowsmith Search and Rescue on their GPS and mapping plans for the park; put them in touch with the GIS Mapping Coordinator.

Staff responded to maintenance issues identified by the Volunteer Park Warden including; garbage issues, ATV trespass, vandalism, graffiti and suspect hazardous trees.

Horne Lake Regional Park

Staff Liaised with the Horne Lake Strata on member efforts to get MoTI to improve Caves Road conditions. RDN Park's long-standing interest in seeing road improvements was restated.

Staff updated the park map and started on updating the kiosk signs at the park.

Horne Lake Regional Trail

Staff prepared briefing notes on the historic regional trail initiative which dates from 2001 and the rezoning of lands around Horne Lake.

Staff provided Public notice of a campfire ban on August 17th as well as a Notice advising of the lifting of the ban on August 30th.

Lighthouse Country Regional Trail

New wheel stops were installed at the Lioness parking lot.

Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area

A representative from the BC Conservation Foundation and the Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers met with Parks staff on site to review the current research and vegetation re-establishment project underway. Additional plantings are planned for this fall and will be monitored for survival with those that went in previously.

Little Qualicum River Regional Park

Staff received an updated proposal for structural engineering services for the replacement of the bridge, and are awaiting a report from a Geotechnical Engineer assessing the conditions of the existing bridge footings.

Park staff cleaned two culverts of beaver debris on a weekly basis over the summer months, to allow for proper water flow and avoid access road damage.

Garbage was constantly being cleaned up and removed during the weekly visits.

Ongoing vandalism and willful disregard of the bridge closure is a common occurrence. Staff spoke with welder to look to solve repeated vandalism to gate and locking pins.

Moorecroft Regional Park

Park staff installed three new picnic tables in the Meadow.

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Park staff followed up with Bylaws Services and Animal Control following complaints of unleased dogs within the park.

Staff met with members of the Nanoose Fire Department and walked the property. The Fire Department gained additional familiarity with the park, and provided parks with suggestions for areas of improvement for firefighting access. Parks supplied the fire department with updated property maps and gate keys.

Staff met with the park caretakers as part of the transition and elimination of the position.

Staff attended the site with an Environmental Consultant to review and update the hazmat reports for the Caretakers house and Kennedy Hall buildings scheduled for demolition.

An Archaeologist was contacted to review the demolition sites for Kennedy Hall, and confirmed that part of the building is located within a mapped archeological area. Evidence of a midden was found under part of Kennedy Hall and an application has been made for a Site Alteration Permit.

Building Permits for the upcoming demolitions have been applied for from the RDN Building Department.

Staff began considering options for toilets and a picnic shelter in the park. Plans to meet with the Area Director and the Nanoose First Nation in September are in motion regarding the concept of a Longhouse and to discuss how all proposed facilities planned for the park will work well together into the future.

Staff have begun to explore the option of formalizing the trail access into Moorecroft from the west side. This will involve a formal agreement with the Strata who own the land adjacent to the park.

Morden Colliery Regional Trail

Staff continued to work with project consultants, the Province and the Agricultural Land Commission on planning and design initiatives related to the bridge and trail development over the Nanaimo River.

Staff removed the bike jumps that were built in the park near the Thatcher Bridges.

Mount Benson Regional Park

Staff cleared woody debris from the logging road trail to allow access for Search and Rescue and maintenance vehicles and a turnaround was created as requested by search and rescue.

Staff investigated a report of unauthorized trail construction within the park; however a site visit confirmed the constructions was not within the park boundary.

Staff reviewed community correspondence and various options for improving parking access to Mount Benson Regional Park. The current parking lot at the Witchcraft Lake trailhead does not meet demand and a long-term solution is needed. A Board Report was prepared and will be reviewed by the Board in September.

Nanaimo River Regional Park

Park staff added river rock at the outlet of a perched culvert to prevent further erosion and potential sediment.

Staff met with Ron Stone (Volunteer Warden) regarding Culturally Modified Tree issue and checked barriers due to complaint from an area user. Staff spoke to Emcon regarding moving barrier to block access and confirmed Emcon would complete ASAP.

Staff provided updated GPS information to mapping for the locations of the Fire Department well located within the Park

Staff are monitoring a complaint of uncontrolled dogs within the park. Temporary signage has been posted at the Kiosks as part of an awareness campaign.

Interpretive signage planning is underway for the research forest at Nanaimo River Regional Park. Staff will collaborate with representatives/managers of the research forest and will work with a graphic designer to produce attractive and educational signage to display in the park.

Parksville Qualicum Beach Links

Top Bridge Regional Trail

Trans Canada Trail

Temporary closure of the Extension Ridge section of the TCT extended and then terminated, further to industrial activity in the area by landowner Island Timberlands.

Obtained updated licence offer from Island Timberlands for use of their private forest lands for the TCT. Prepared report to the RPTSC and Board (September meetings).

Staff installed new posts and signs along the Extension Ridge Trail.

Witchcraft Lake Regional Trail

In June and July, permission was obtained from the City of Nanaimo and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for a proposed parking expansion at Witchcraft Lake, the trailhead for Mt Benson Regional Park. Staff mailed letters and site plans to all Benson View Rd residents for information and feedback.

In August, staff reviewed community responses to the proposed parking expansion on Benson View Rd; due to substantial opposition, the parking issue was deferred to the Regional Parks and Trails Committee and residents were informed by letter that the RDN would not proceed with the proposed works. A Board Report was prepared on the subject (see Mount Benson Regional Park above).

Miscellaneous

Staff continued work on the following:

- Park inventory spreadsheet and effective registry of the park portfolio.
- Worked with GIS Mapping on the identification and civic numbering of community parks to be included in new ARC-GIS park finder.
- Attended SMS legal seminar on contracting.
- Participated in MIA webinar on insurance requirements for construction contracts.
- Provided interview to Business in Vancouver regarding non-BC Park campgrounds as a relatively unknown but great alternative to BC Parks.

- Met with the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region and Oceanside Tourism on MABR's Amazing Places project. Reviewed process and approaches. Public input will be solicited through to the end of September, RDN Parks consulted as applicable, and first results expected to be viewable on the web by end of November.
- Liaised and met with the BC Marine Trail Network Association on their current project to create a
 Salish Sea Marine Trail as part of the Trans Canada Trail and in time for the TCT's 25th anniversary
 in 2017. Further to the Association's July presentation to the Regional Board, worked with the
 Association on a draft partnership agreement. Prepared a board report on the project for the
 September RPTSC and Board.
- Received and reviewed Tourism Vancouver Island's Phase II Hiking Experience report prepared by consultant Stantec.
- Received update from UBCM on Off-Road Vehicle legislation; conference call scheduled for mid-September to discuss interest in the Province's offer to local government to include their lands under the new legislation.
- Worked with Recreation staff to provide content and imagery for the Fall/Winter Active Living Guide.
- The new staff position of Superintendent of Parks Operations and Capital Projects was filled, and Mark Dobbs started in the early July.
- The new staff position of Parks Secretary has been posted and filled; Jenny Bannatyne has accepted the position and will start September 19th.
- Staff followed the improvements underway at Nanoose Place, including the preparation and construction of an expanded paved parking lot and new signage.
- Playground inspections were conducted throughout the region.
- Staff followed up on a request about "No Motors" signage at Spider Lake, conducted a site visit, and provided information obtained to RDN Planning Department.
- Parks Staff and Contractor provided regular watering's of unestablished trees and plantings throughout the district during the hot dry weather.

Park Use Permits and Events

Area A

Continued to work with the Nanaimo Skateboard Association on a permit for the September fundraiser in support of refurbishing Nanaimo's Hammond Bay skatepark. Site visit held with organizer to review issues arising from last year's event. Volunteer assistance with traffic management kindly being provided by JSK Traffic Services of Cedar.

Responded to a request to close the Nelson Road Boat Launch for several days in order to provide for construction access to a waterfront retaining wall site. Liaised with MFLNRO, MoTI, and Planning Services; provided brief for Area Director. Further to August 23rd Board resolution to deny closure of the Boat Launch for any significant time period, a set of conditions for Boat Launch use under a park use permit was issued to applicant.

Δrea R

Worked with non-profit Pacific Sport and the Gabriola Recreation Society on a park use permit for a three-day sports camp at Rollo McClay Community Park. In the end, the event was cancelled because of lack of enrollment.

Area C

Obtained confirmation that VIU/Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve will take ownership of the GLORIA high-alpine vegetation monitoring plots (part of an international global warming monitoring project) installed at four locations at Mount Arrowsmith Massif Regional Park prior to the Region's acquisition of the park. Park use permit issued to VIU to address the summer 2016 revisiting of the plots.

Worked with the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust on a park use permit to work with VIU on an update of vegetative plots identified in the 2006 Ursus review of then new Mount Benson Regional Park; permit approved.

Area E

Worked with Quality Foods on concluding the park use permit for their annual Teddy Bear Picnic at Jack Bagley Community Park; liaised with Corporate Services; permit issued.

Concluded work on a park use permit for use of Moorecroft Regional Park for an early August weekend wedding.

Continued to work with Chesapeake Shores film company and MoTI on use of Moorecroft Regional Park for parking of film vehicles. In the end, the firm identified a more appropriate arrangement for their vehicle parking and only one of four weeks' proposed use was made of the Regional Park.

Began work with Nanoose Elementary School Principal on start-up of 2016-17 outdoor classroom use of Moorecroft.

Area F

Continued to work with Bluegrass Festival organizers, Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department and Corporate Services on a park use permit for the July long weekend festival at Meadowood Community Park. Provided responses to concerns raised by residents in the neighbourhood. Engaged security firm for drive-by inspections of roads leading to the Festival over the holiday weekend; liaised with RCMP. Given plan approvals by all involved authorities and required insurance proof, park use permit for Festival approved. Event went off without issue, though at a financial loss for the organizers.

Received a park use permit application from the Corcan-Meadowood Residents' Association for a Canada Day Picnic at Meadowood Community Park; approved.

Worked with applicant on a park use permit for a wedding at Errington Community Park in October. Liaised with Errington Hall Board Association overseers of the Park regarding use of the Market's stage and power supply. Permit approved.

Worked with the BC Conservation Foundation regarding a permit to cover summer maintenance of their large woody debris (LWD) structures originally installed along Little Qualicum River Regional Park riverfront in 2003. BCCF obtained DFO and Provincial backing for structures over the long-term.

Area G

Concluded permit work and provided final assistance including gift bags to the Mid-Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society (MVIHES) for their 7th annual June River Run event at Englishman River Regional Park (ERRP). Worked with MVIHES and RDN WaterSmart on a second park use permit, this for

installation of water flow data loggers along the ERRP waterfront at BC Conservation Foundation large woody debris sites; permit approved. Work with MVIHES in process on another permit for the staging of a Streamkeepers workshop along the side channel at ERRP in September.

Issued a park use permit to the Nanoose Walking Club for vehicular access and a walk and hatchery visit at Englishman River Regional Park.

Area H

Concluded a park use permit with the Silver Spur Riding Club regarding use of Wildwood Community Park and the Lighthouse Country Regional Trail (North Loop) as part of a weekend-long 17th Annual Vancouver Island Memorial Trail Ride in support of Oceanside Hospice. The event was staged out of the MFLNRO compound next door to Wildwood.

Per/ Manager of Parks Services

General Manager Concurrence

STAFF REPORT



TO: Wendy Marshall DATE: August 29, 2016

Manager of Parks Services

MEETING: RPTSC – September 20, 2016

FROM: Joan Michel

Parks and Trails Coordinator

FILE:

SUBJECT: Salish Sea Marine Trail Proposal from BC Marine Trails Network Association

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Board direct staff to continue to show support for the concept of marine trails and recognize paddlers as a stakeholder group when undertaking park planning.

2. That the Board direct staff to work with the BC Marine Trails Network Association on developing for Board approval a partnership agreement that establishes Descanso Bay Regional Park as a Salish Sea Marine Trail camping site, and the Nelson Road Boat Launch (Area A) and Blueback Community Park (Area E) as Salish Sea Marine Trail access points, and provides for continuing site assessment and potential expansion of RDN park and water access sites to be included in BC marine trails.

PURPOSE

To review the BC Marine Trails Network Association's proposed Salish Sea Marine Trail and partnership proposal.

BACKGROUND

The BC Marine Trails Network Association (BCMTNA) is a registered non-profit society comprised of ten paddling clubs and numerous individuals and businesses located on Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands and the lower Mainland. The BCMTNA launched its first network of trails for paddlers, the Gulf Island Marine Trail, in 2011. At that time, the trail involved 27 existing waterfront parks, campgrounds and access sites from Island View Beach Regional Park (CRD) in the south to Newcastle Island (BC Parks) and Descanso Bay Regional Park on Gabriola (RDN).

In the following years, the BCMTNA's web page map revealed additional sites stretching up and around Vancouver Island. Additional sites within the Regional District ranged from private waterfront lands like Nanoose's Schooner Cove Marina and the Qualicum First Nation's Big Qualicum River Campground to MoTI water accesses such as the Nelson Road Boat Launch (Area A community park facility at the water access) and Buccaneer Beach (Area H). One RDN community park, Blueback (Area E), is shown on the BCMTNA map.

Participation in the Gulf Island Marine Trail and inclusion of other sites like the Nelson Road Boat Launch and Blueback on the BCMTNA map have not involved extra work on the part of the RDN. Descanso Bay Regional Park and the Nelson Road Boat Launch already serve the paddling community. Blueback is currently being improved as a paddler's access point.

Aside from the BCMTNA web site, there has until recently been no obvious promotion of the Gulf Island Marine Trail or the Marine Trail concept, at least in the mid-Island area. The Descanso Bay Regional Park brochure includes a note about the Marine Trail and provides a web address. No dedicated signage was ever developed by the Association to mark marine trail sites, and the RDN was not contacted again by the BCMTNA until the spring of 2016.

The BCMTNA is now rejuvenating and looking to develop an association with the Trans Canada Trail in order to help build recognition of existing marine trail networks and advance the overall concept. Since the TCT is focused on one linear cross-country connection, the BCMTNA has conceived the Salish Sea Marine Trail – termed a 'blueway' as opposed to a network – to complement the land-based Victoria to Nanaimo to Vancouver stretch of the TCT. At the June 26, 2016 Regional Board meeting, BCMTNA Acting Project Manager John Kimantas briefed members on marine trails and requested that the RDN partner in the Salish Sea Marine Trail initiative. Subsequently, Staff obtained further information from the Association on its status, goals and Salish Sea Marine Trail partnership proposal in particular.

At this time, the BCMTNA is actively identifying camping and access sites for the Salish Sea Marine Trail which involves Electoral Areas A, B and E. While Association members are still out scouting, no RDN regional or community sites other than existing BCMTNA identified access points Nelson Road Boat Launch and Blueback Community Park and camping site Descanso Bay Regional Park are considered suitable for inclusion in the proposed Salish Sea Marine Trail. Moorecroft Regional Park was examined but found wanting as an access point at low tide. Similarly, Beachcomber Regional Park is not particularly suitable as an access for paddlers. It is too early to determine the status of Electoral Area E's new Oak Leaf Drive Community Park. There are no additional RDN park possibilities along the Cedar waterfront at this time, and none required on Gabriola Island for the Salish Sea Marine Trail.

The current BCMTNA organization is intent on creating formal partnership agreements with those who own or manage the access and camping sites shown on its public maps. They have no agreement template developed as yet and continue to work out what might be required. The Association is also concerned with ensuring that paddlers' interests be taken into consideration by local government in general park planning. They are proposing establishment of a marine trail advisory panel. It has been made clear to the Association that inclusion of a site in a BCMTNA marine trail requires agreement by the relevant landowner or manager.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1. That the Board direct staff to recognize paddlers as stakeholders in park planning, and work with the BC Marine Trail Network Association on formalizing the inclusion of select RDN owned or managed parks and water accesses in marine trails and, specifically, in the Salish Sea Marine Trail.
- 2. That the Board direct staff not to formalize any participation in the BC marine trail network and alternate direction be provided.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The BCMTNA has been encouraged to produce some signage at their cost, similar to what the Trans Canada Trail organization provides for participating trail organizations. At present, there are no costs associated with pursuing the proposed marine trail initiative aside from staff time. To the extent that the Salish Sea Marine Trail is incorporated into the Trans Canada Trail, some minor event-related costs may arise during 2017 in order for the RDN to participate in the Canada-wide celebrations.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The Salish Sea represents a significant recreational playground for the Regional District. Kayaking is a growth sport and leisure past-time that features highly now in eco-tourism development. Formally extending trail planning work at the RDN to include marine as well as land-based trails will help the RDN maximize its tourism potential as well as clarify ocean frontage resources and development for residents.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

The BC Marine Trail Network Association wishes to engage with the Regional District in the formal planning and establishment of marine trail access and camping sites. Specifically, the Association wishes to conclude a Salish Sea Marine Trail in association with the Trans Canada Trail and in time for the national trail's 25th anniversary in 2017. Three long-standing waterfront RDN park sites, the Nelson Road Boat Launch (Area A), Descanso Bay Regional Park (Area B) and Blueback Community Park (Area E), are well situated to be formally recognized as part of a marine trail network. No additional work is required to perform as a marine trail site, though installation of Association-produced signage is recommended. Staff have provided initial feedback to the Association on a draft partnership agreement but more work will be required to achieve a useful document.

Muchif	Wendy Manshalf
Report Writer	Manager Concurrence
- Jon Oli	- Jon Oli
GM Concurrence	A/C.A.O. Concurrence

RDN Electoral Area 'E' Community Parks

5-Year Project Planning: 2017-2021

PLANNING WORKSHEET

October 2016

A suggested schedule for completion of each phase of the process is presented in the following chart.

This schedule is provided for planning purposes only and is subject to change to accommodate changing community priorities, staff resources and fundraising efforts.

Ongoing Projects			
✓ current year project completed	Park Code	Budget Notes	General Notes
Current year project			

		Code	Budget Notes	General Notes
Ongoing Projects				
	Administrative support for Electoral Area 'E' POSAC	n/a		
	Subdivision applications	n/a		

Hig	High Priority Projects					
₽	Blueback CP: construction	E-04	\$163,524	\$113,524 available in Area E reserves; \$50,000 from Community Works funding		
✓	Claudet Road CP	E-27	\$75,000	additional facilities upgrades: toilet, picnic table, gravel, fencing		
₽	Oakleaf CP: park planning / design and construction		\$45,000	\$5000 planning / design; \$40,000 construction		
	Davingham Community Trail: construction	n/a	\$30,000	order of magnitude cost estimate; cost to be determined through planning/design process		

Medium Priority Projects			
	Brickyard CP: parking strategy (agreement with Fairwinds?), trail upgrades + toilet	E-18	
	Rowland Place: beach restoration, FN interpretation, maybe picnic table, garbage, etc.	E-29	
	Teds Road Beach Access: building stairs to connect road to beach	BA-06	

I	Low Priority Projects				
	Investigate feasibility of a new trail from Northwest Bay Rd to Schirra Drive along undeveloped Nanoose Rd ROW	n/a			
	Implement the Fairwinds Community Parks Development Program as per the PDA	n/a			

CPTS Project Suggestions						
Investigate parkland expansion in Beachcomber area						
Prepare park plan for Rowland, Northwest Bay/Stone Lake, Collins Crescent						
Prepare park plan for Davenham Rd to Sea Ridge CP						
Regional Trail plan between Moorecroft and Fairwinds						
Upgrade Wall Estate CP trailhead and trails						
Install directional signs at Dolphin Lake and CP						
Roadside Trails: investigate trail development adjacent to major Nanoose Rds						

Additional Project Suggestions					
	Henley Place Park: regular grass trimming by community	E-20		suggested by POSAC sub-committee in 2015	
	Nanoose Road Park: install park sign or do not renew Lease	E-9		suggested by POSAC sub-committee in 2015	
	Area E Beach Accesses (road ends): investigate potential BAs to develop	n/a		suggested by Dir. Rogers; Ross Peterson advised staff to review old studies first	