

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO**

**MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL AREA 'H' PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY  
REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016  
10:00 AM  
(Lighthouse Community Centre, Qualicum Bay)**

**ATTENDANCE:** Bill Veenhof, Chair, Director, RDN Board  
David Wiwchar  
Nancy Robertson  
Valerie Weismiller

**STAFF:** Elaine McCulloch, Parks Planner

**REGRETS:** Barry Ellis  
Dagmar Sedel

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Veenhof called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

**ELECTION OF SECRETARY**

No secretary was elected. This item needs to appear on the next meeting's agenda. E. McCulloch will take the minutes for this meeting.

**DELEGATIONS**

**L. Bonner, Bowser Elementary School RE: Bowser Elementary Outdoor Cultural Learning Centre**

Laura Bonner, a teacher at Bowser Elementary School is working with School District Staff, teachers, students, local first nations, and community members to develop an Outdoor Cultural Learning Centre on the elementary school grounds. One of the main features of the space is a covered "longhouse-style" shelter. Volunteers are available to provide building materials and complete the construction however the group needs \$4,000 in funding to have it professionally designed and approved by a structural engineer before they can apply for a building permit.

**MINUTES**

MOVED N. Robertson, SECONDED V. Weismiller that the minutes of the regular Electoral Area 'H' Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee meeting held February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 be adopted.

CARRIED

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Phase 2 Water Access Development - discussion**

Staff to add the Crab Rd water access to the development priorities. B. Veenhof to be copied on any correspondence between staff and MoTI regarding the removal of trespass over Water Access.

MOVED V. Weismiller, SECONDED N. Robertson that staff be directed to remove the negative RDN signage from all water accesses and community parks and replace it with simple water access/community park identification signage.

CARRIED

## **CORRESPONDANCE / COMMUNICATIONS**

The Committee discussed the Lion's Park ball fields and their need for upgrading. Staff was directed to consult with the Recreation Department to discuss their involvement in this matter.

## **REPORTS**

### **Monthly Update Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects –February 2016 – April 2016**

Ms. McCulloch provided a summary of the Regional and Community Parks and Trail Projects reports and answered questions.

#### **Dunsmuir CP – Concept Plan**

Ms. McCulloch presented two alternative Concept Plans for Dunsmuir CP. An open house will be held on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-7pm to present the concept plans to the community. A preferred concept plan will be developed from the feedback that is collected through this community consultation. Advertising to be similar to last year's open house.

E. McCulloch to contact V. Weismiller and N. Robertson in July to arrange a walk through the forested portion of Dunsmuir CP with community trail builders.

MOVED D. Wiwchar, SECONDED B. Ellis that the reports be received.

CARRIED

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM DELEGATION**

### **L. Bonner, Bowser Elementary School RE: Bowser Elementary Outdoor Cultural Learning Centre**

E. McCulloch reported that unfortunately the Bowser Elementary Cultural Learning Space project does not conform to the Community Works Fund's eligibility requirements. Director Veenhof suggested that this be looked into further as it may be eligible due to its connection to First Nations Truth and Reconciliation objectives. Committee members also suggested the delegate investigate RDN Grant-in-Aid funding.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

B. Veenhof provided an update on the trail mapping project. He is looking into the possibility of the RDN taking on the map development project.

## COMMITTEE ROUND TABLE

**B. Ellis** – Question: What is happening with the possibility of widening the roads to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety?

**B. Veenhof** – Answer: The interest to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety along the highway is also coming out of the discussions with the OCP working group. Gabriola Island is currently working with MoTI to see if the RDN can create a separate function to be responsible for the development and maintenance of roadside trails. He would like to wait and see if Gabriola is successful in their roadside trail project before starting one in Electoral Area H.

**D. Wiwchar** – Perhaps we could at least improve what we already have by working with MoTI to have the road shoulders swept more frequently in order to improve what we already have?

## ADJOURNMENT

MOVED D. Wiwchar that the meeting be adjourned at 12:20 pm.

CARRIED

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Chair