

# Shawnigan Lake Parks and Recreation Commission

March 30, 2011 SLCC

**Attendees:** Margaret Symon, Betty Lord, Bill Savage, Ryan Dias, Lori Treloar, Ken Cossey

**Scribe:** Lori Treloar

**Guests:** Mike and Stephanie Walter, Brian Jackson

**Meeting called to order:** 7:05

**Minutes:** from Feb 2011. Approved

**Guest presentation:** Mike Walter (Koksilah Property)

Mike and Stephanie Walter own approx. 67 acres of property split almost evenly between the north and south sides the Koksilah River not far from the Kinsol Trestle. The current zoning is F1 and they seek to rezone so that they can establish 7 lots along the north side of the river that will be accessed from Riverside Road. They propose 6 lots of at least 5 acres with a residual lot that is smaller on the north side of Riverside Road. Care will be taken to protect the Riparian area along the 600 length of riverfront. Their proposal includes a parkland donation of 30 acres of beautiful forest on the south side of the river. The property already has established trails and would become part of a trail system from Kingburne Road to the Kinsol Trestle. While the OCP does not encourage this type of development along the Koksilah River, there would be great benefit for the community to have the trail network in place. Margaret Symon advised that the proposed parkland dedication parcel has mature mixed forest cover, and the trail is well kept, with no evidence of motorized use. Mr Walter pointed out that with seven neighbours along the riverfront, there would be added protection for the Trestle. **Motion: "The Shawnigan Lake Parks Commission is in favour of the Concept Plan presented by Mr. Walter at the Commission meeting 30Mar11 offering 30 acres of parkland along the south side of Koksilah River as part of the Walter re-zoning application, File 1-B-10RS"**. The commission is aware that CVRD Parks will do further impact investigation before a decision is reached.

**Old business:**

**Shawnigan Hills:** Ryan advised that work for the current phase is close to being finished, but a final walk through will occur to identify what still needs to be done. The field will be ready for ball season in April. So far, there are bookings from Mon-Sat for kids' ball. Ryan brought the revised washroom plan, which was discussed thoroughly. The commission has agreed, in principle, to go ahead with the change rooms and roughed-in showers, as it is understood that future use of the park will evolve over time and it will be harder to add on these amenities later. The commission has asked that a roof extension be added to the plan for shelter. Ryan will bring the "final" plans to the April meeting and the project should go to tender soon after that. It is estimated that the washroom building will be ready in two to three months from the time of tender, but will likely not be ready for the summer.

**Baldy Mountain Trail:** Margaret Symon and Ken Cossey recently visited the property owned by Mr. Pronk, located close to the Baldy Mountain Trail. Mr. Pronk has a sheep farm and is concerned about a wetland that is encroaching onto his pasture land. He believes that it is due to trees that were felled when the trail was built. Some trees were left in the wetland area and

could be clogging the flow of water which is increasing the wetland and rendering low lying portions of his land useless for the winter pasture. In addition, saturated soils have increased blowdown in the Baldy Mt. Trail corridor that abuts Mr. Pronk's property. A number of trees have fallen down on Mr. Pronk's fence. Ryan Dias advised that when the Graff Place subdivision was built in the area it also impacted the water flow but that we consider acting as good neighbours and offer help. A mini excavator could clear out some of the material during the dry summer months. Mr Pronk is willing to contribute to the project. **Motion: "The Commission recommends that CVRD Parks staff meet with Mr Pronk and set up an action plan that can be completed in the drier season."** Ryan has agreed to call Mr Pronk.

**Proposed No Smoking Regulation:** CVRD is exploring a No- smoking bylaw for parks and Community Centres but it was felt by the commission that it would be virtually impossible to enforce and should be considered a policy concept only. Smoking might be discouraged with appropriate signage in some places, and an ongoing public education program.

**Worthington Subdivision:** There has been no progress in the subdivision plan. The developer has not yet made a presentation to the APC and the Park dedication recommendation is likely to slowing the process. **Motion: "The Shawnigan Lake Parks Commission recommends that the 5% park dedication in the Worthington subdivision be located along the shoreline to create greater community access to the waterfront, and that the existing Worthington Road End not be used as an access road to the subdivision, but be dedicated as parkland. This request is supported by the recommendations in the SL Parks and Trails Master Plan."**

Bill Savage asked if anything had developed from our motion to obtain road ends, particularly Worthington Road end. Ryan Dias advised that he had submitted the request within the parks department but had not heard anything. He will follow up with Brian Farquar.

**Memory Island:** Ryan Dias advised that the outhouses on the island have been treated and there will be follow up to determine the effectiveness. Margaret Symon advised that fuel reduction on the island is long overdue and suggested that hours with supervised students (including at least one certified chainsaw operator) could be applied before fire season got underway. Ryan Dias suggested that it could be around \$3000 to hire fallers, remove debris and chip the residue. **Motion: "The commission recommends that the Parks minor capital budget be adjusted to include Memory Island fuel reduction based on Margaret's Symon's prescription."**

**Silvermine Trail:** A few weeks ago, Margaret Symon, Al Brunet, Lori Treloar, and Dan Brown walked the section of the trail connector that has not been built. **Motion: "The S.L. Commission recommends that the outstanding 500 metre (approx.) section of the Silvermine Trail be completed in 2011 for an estimated cost of \$20000."**

**Shawnigan Subaru Triathlon:** The Trestle will not be ready in time for the athletes to cross. Catherine is still looking for volunteers for the event, especially bike and water captains.

**Community Newspaper:** A copy of Shawnigan Focus was distributed for viewing and the group was advised to check their mailboxes for their copy. The Parks Commission will use the paper to report on projects and progress in the area. The commission applauded the Focus production crew for their hard work.

**Property near Mason's Store:** New owners at 1845 Renfrew Road have applied to change the zoning from R1 to Commercial in order to convert the historic house into a burger restaurant

and ice cream parlour. Although there is no requirement to do so, they have offered a small trail connector on the property. Bill Savage questioned whether the location was appropriate for this business due to its potential impact on the creek and traffic. The Parks Commission is always willing to consider trail or park dedication but the location proposed is not in the public interest. If the trail was along the creek, it might be more useful. The APC has approved, in principle, the proposal pending further information from the MOTI and Health regulations.

**Boating safety signs:** Brian Jackson showed us samples of new signs that will be posted at the West Arm Grill and the Galley docks. Ken Cossey advised that several new large signs (approx value \$2500-\$3000) will be erected at boat launches around the lake. Margaret Symon mentioned that some lakes have neighbourhood "Speedwatch" programs in place and this might be a good idea for Shawnigan.

**Cleasby Park:** Ryan provided a document from Area C Parks regarding a proposed stewardship agreement with the CVRD and the South Island Mountain Bike Society. Ryan Dias suggested that we read the document and provide comments and/or concerns about the proposal.

### **Director's Report:**

-Ken Cossey advised that there were only two OCP open houses to go - March 31 in Cobble Hill and April 2 in Shawnigan Lake. Surveys can be completed online. The OCP should be completed and in effect by Feb 2012.

-The Shawnigan Lake Community Commission held its AGM March 29<sup>th</sup>. All Commission members were returned by acclamation.

-Area B will have the lowest property tax increase in the CVRD. The increase is due to Transit, recreation facilities and general government expenses.

-The Cowichan Station project is asking for \$5000 per year through an alternate approval process to go ahead with their plans for a community centre.

-During the November election, there will be a referendum on upgrades for the Kerry Park building.

-There is a Regional Recreation Study underway and consultants are doing a location analysis among other things. This will identify whether there is crossover from areas to use recreation facilities. This report should be ready by the end of June and then there will be community discussions on the subject.

-Acquisition of the Elsie Miles School grounds, through a long term lease, will be brought forward at the April 6, 2011 School Trustees meeting.

-Bill Savage asked if disposal of park land could be part of the referendum. 5 pieces of land had been identified by the previous commission as useless/surplus. The Commission will review and make decisions on the properties in question. Ryan Dias will determine the process and report back.

-CVRD Parks has a new staff member who will look after capital projects – Mike Miller. Ken Cossey suggested that the Parks Commission meet the Parks staff. Ryan will arrange a meeting.

**Next meeting: AGM** April 28, 2011. 7pm. SLCC. A week later than a normal meeting due to Easter Weekend.