Meeting Minutes
South Cowichan Parks Commission
July 12, 2011 1830 H
Clubhouse Meeting Room, Arbutus Ridge

Present:

Brian Farquhar - CVRD
Kerrie Talbot – Area D
Graham Gidden - CVRD
Roger Burgess – Area A
Ken Cossey – Area B
Gerry Giles – Area C
John Krug – Area C
Lynn Wilson – Area C
David Gall – Area A
Margaret Symon – Area B

Meeting opened 1800H

1. Welcome – Brian Farquhar
   - Introductions.
   - Background, function of S Cow Parks Commission: Cowichan Bay Boat Launch, Cobble Hill Cenotaph, Dog Off-Leash Quarry Nature Park, Mill Bay Historic Church and Cemetery.
   - Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary appointed annually from presiding members of 4 southend park commissions
2. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary
   - Nominations and elections: Chair – Margaret Symon, Vice-Chair: Lynn Wilson, Secretary – TBA
   - 2-year appointments.
   - CVRD Parks Dept. will send note of acknowledgment to Ian Sparshu for his duties as previous Chair. Thank-you extended to members for their roles in the commission.
3. Minutes of May 2010 meeting adopted. Minutes for Oct. 2010 meeting not available.
4. Motion to enter Closed Session – Land Acquisition
   - **Motion: Recommend acquisition of subject property, minus the fettering, be forwarded for approval at special EASC meeting July 13, 2011. Approved**.
   - **Motion to exit Closed Session. Approved.**
5. Bright Angel Park
   - CVRD assumed management of Bright Angel Park (BAP) from BAP society. The Bright Angel Park Commission no longer functional. Through S End Area Directors, direction sought to add BAP into S. Cowichan Commission.
     Representative sought from Area E.
   - 2 separate budgets: S. Cowichan/BAP (app. $40-50,000). BAP not an Area E park – it's an expanded South Cowichan area park.
   - BAP classified as sub-regional function, same as S. Cowichan Parks Commission.
   - Park management plan recommended for BAP.
   - No visioning decisions into BAP over last 5-6 years; when an issue presents at BAP, 5 representative directors meet, but there is no real community input.
   - Concept? Park management planning process urgently required.
   - BAP a feature park – with high level of use. Voice of the community needed to

ensure success into the future.

- **Motion: S. Cow. Parks Commission takes on BAP with inclusion of Area E representation. Approved.**

6. Cowichan Bay Boat Launch Interpretive Centre
   - Cowichan Land Trust (CLT) has made application to Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) to establish an Environmental Interpretive Centre in Cowichan Bay
   - Interest in establishing interpretive centre at former log sort
   - Development will revitalize foreshore lands to the west of Cow Bay Village
   - Parking area within S. Cow. Parks function.
   - Environmental Interpretive Centre will focus on both the Cow. Bay estuary and other ecological features of interest/importance within the Cow Region
   - **S. Cowichan reviewed application for interpretive centre at Cow Bay (sent by CLT to ICET) and will consider concept on-site review by S. Cowichan Parks Commission.**
7. Mill Bay Historic Church and Cemetery
   - Current booking use of hall: Grandfathered groups: quilters and men's group. These groups are aware of process of evaluation of use of halls. Reasonable time frame needed by these groups in the event that the hall use be discontinued.
   - Graham Gidden outlined 2 options for facility. Option 1 limiting (app. $215,000). Option 2 extensive upgrades (approximately $30,000 more – includes washroom).
   - Ken Cossey directed us to minutes of May 2010 minutes, which contained 4 statements referring to vision statements for facility.
   - Gerry Giles pointed out that church has historic qualities, is a long-time feature marker at Mill Bay, and should be upgraded on a phased basis if financially possible. All agreed that graveyards are sacrosanct.
   - Kerry Talbot suggested a gazebo type structure in a graveyard memorial garden might be appropriate, and would require fewer funds.
   - John Krug noted that practical use of facility is currently remains questionable. All agreed that timeline is slow. Careful consideration of plans, however, is important, as is community input.
   - Graham Gidden: hall needs to be demolished, foundation to roof to exterior. Work to commence in the spring. This will allow sufficient time to present notice to current user groups.
   - **Motion: To proceed to a staged Option 2 (rehabilitation and upgrade) at Mill Bay Historic Church and Cemetery, as outlined in memorandum by CVRD staff. Approved.**
   - **Motion. That CVRD staff give notice to user groups by March 31, 2012 that hall use at Mill Bay Historic Church and Cemetery will be discontinued. Approved.**
   - Budgeting for facility to be reviewed in October.
8. Request Consideration of Funding for Cowichan Bay Navigation Markers
   - Important request, in consideration of ecology of the bay.
   - Budget needs to be reviewed. Request tabled to staff, pending budget.
   - **Motion: Motion to refer request for funding for navigation markers at Cowichan Bay to CVRD staff for budget discussion. Approved**.
9. Invasive Species.
   - Leader Pictorial to do feature article on invasive plant species in the Cowichan

Valley (specifically giant hogweed and poison hemlock).

- **Motion; Suggest Regional district establish a noxious and invasive species function for S. Cowichan area (list to include poison hemlock and hogweed**). **Approved**.
- Must ensure developers remove noxious species prior to park dedication.

10. Next South Cowichan Parks Commission Meeting (Fall Meeting Planning/Budget) Oct 5, 630. Arbutus Ridge Clubhouse.

Meeting Adjourned 2000H.