

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.
Council Chamber, Municipal Hall**

Present: Mark Atherton (meeting chair), Ryan Carter, Ellen Dewar, Karen Hoffman, Lee Johnston, Jim Nan, Councillor Jay Shukin, Gord Stodola (recorder for meeting)

Regrets: Ron Aubrey

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Agenda, Additions and Approval: add 8d) Roadside Trail Maintenance (Pears Road)

Moved by Gord that the Committee approve the agenda as presented. **Carried.**

2. Public Participation: Madelaine Hjermstad, resident of the Albert Head area, expressed an interest that any funds coming to the District from the subdivision at the end of Seaspray Drive be earmarked for local trails. She noted the volume of cars transiting along Metchosin Road to Witty's Lagoon. She would like to see a multi-use trail along Metchosin Road, from Albert Head to Witty's, if not all the way to the town centre.

Erin Ronsse, resident of the Albert Head area, spoke to her rationale for moving to Metchosin and her family's appreciation of the area they live in. She provided the committee members maps illustrating the parks and trails in her area.

Both Madelaine and Erin asked how they could promote and encourage enhancements to their trails and greenspaces, from pocket parks to bus stops. They were encouraged to mobilize a few neighbours, cultivate a few ideas, and bring these to the district for consideration. The neighbourhood-driven Pears Road roadside trail was mentioned as an example of how neighbours can influence change.

Joie Ronsse – stated that it is fun to walk the various trails in Metchosin.

Jean-Paul Ronsse– trails can be a useful means of moving about the neighbourhood.

Tamara Ballard – noted that the **6e)** motion to go in camera in minutes of PTASC meeting of April 18, 2023 was actually made by Councillor Shukin.

3. Adoption of Minutes

a) Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee, April 18, 2023

Moved by Councillor Shukin that the Committee approve the minutes of the Parks and Trails Advisory Select Committee meeting held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 with the correction to **6e)** as noted above. **Carried.**

4. Receipt of Minutes

- a) **Community Planning Committee, April 17 and May 8, 2023**
- b) **Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee, April 5 and April 25, 2023**

The highlights of the above-noted minutes as they relate to PTASC were discussed. In the May 8, 2023 Community Planning Committee minutes it was noted that the PTASC minutes of April 18, 2023 were received, but there was no written indication they were discussed. Councillor Shukin stated there was discussion around these minutes.

Action – request to staff that the Community Planning Committee minutes of May 8, 2023 be amended to reflect this discussion.

Moved by Gord that the Committee receive the above-noted minutes for information. **Carried.**

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

- a) **Optimizing Public Engagement – Buffer Land Parcel:** Councillor Shukin provided an update on this topic. Of note:

- A public engagement session was held May 9, with about 25 people in attendance. The consensus was to protect the buffer lands and manage them appropriately to retain their environmental value. There was little desire for CRD involvement.
- The Working Group will be looking at a wide range of options, even less favourable options such as CRD involvement. An evaluation tool has been developed. A report to council will be presented by October.

Action – request to staff that this agenda item be renamed **Buffer Land Working Group**.

- b) **Weir Beach Stairs** – Councillor Shukin provided an update. He penned recommendations (approved by council) that the repair of a natural trail with upgraded steps and handrails be undertaken. The plan is with the engineer. Repairs in the range of \$15,000 should proceed when the design is complete. PTASC and the William Head crew may help.

Parking – no further solutions to the parking issues have yet been documented.

- c) **Proposed 3 Lot Subdivision, 384 Seaspray Drive:** a site visit was held, and PTASC recommendations have been submitted to the district.

Action: request to staff to remove this item from the agenda, and bring forward at a later date when the Approving Officer has considered PTASC recommendations.

- d) **Proposed 7 Lot Subdivision, Section 40, Neild Road:** a site visit with the owner/developer and his representatives was held, and PTASC recommendations have been submitted to the district.

Action: request to staff to remove this item from the agenda, and bring forward at a later date when the Approving Officer has considered PTASC recommendations.

- e) **Parks and Trails Issues, Chapel Heights:** district has spoken with landowner, who claims to not have installed the gate. Issue will remain with Trails Coordinator for possible next steps.

6. Reports

a) Parks and Trails Coordinator Report Verbal Report: Ryan reported the following:

- Ryan cleared a fallen log in Metchosin Wilderness Park off Ed's Lane
- Jim Nan has done significant work in Blinkhorn Nature Park
- Discussed with Gord trail repair in Metchosin Wilderness Park on central loop trail between Clapham and Ed's Lane spurs. Working to schedule Benson Excavating to help with these repairs. Additional repair to beach at Blinkhorn will be included to replace some rocks that have moved. The rocks present a safety concern.
- Bonnie Farris has designed signage for Mt. Ash. – these will be ordered soon
- Bonnie has offered to design additional signage. Ryan will put together a list of new signs by September.
- Ryan would like to start logging volunteer hours

b) Council Liaison Verbal Report: most updates were provided in discussions in **5. Business Arising from the Minutes.** Additionally:

- An Animal Control bylaw has been drafted, with consideration to input provided by the Dogs In Metchosin Working Group. It has received second reading and is now with legal for review.

Enforcement may have some grey areas, as CRD has jurisdiction above the high tide line in CRD parks such as Devonian, the province below, with authority delegated to the municipal level.

c) Chair Verbal Report: Mark reported the following:

- Public works has erected the Montreuil Hill trail sign, but it is located behind a gate spanning the road with a 'No Trespassing' sign. A second trail sign, installed on the road right-of-way on Rocky Point Road, would better indicate that this is indeed a public trail.
- Mt. Ash – this is an enforcement issue, so no further update.
- William Head crew – working on Ron Weir trail pulling daphne and blackberries.

Moved by Ellen that the Committee receive the above reports for information. **Carried.**

7. Correspondence:

a) Jill Peterson, Metchosin Community Day 2023. Local groups are invited to have a presence. PTASC plans to have a booth, perhaps with Metchosin Invasive Species Cooperative as per 2019.

Action - Mark to inform Metchosin Community Day organizers that PTASC will have a presence.

Action – Mark to contact MISC inviting their group to share a booth.

8. Other Business

a) Proposed Rezoning Application Referral, 4696 Beckingham Road – Councillor Shukin spoke to the deliberations Council were having on this application. The committee discussed the different proposal in the documentation provided, and our need to focus specifically on the Parks and Trails opportunities on this property.

A PTASC site visit with the developer's representative(s) is scheduled for June 25.

- b) **Parks Donation Program Discussion; current costs due to inflation** – the district’s donation document was last updated in 2017, and costs and content needs to be reviewed.

Action - Ryan to contact Classic Cedar to get updated costs, including installation.

Action – request to staff – would the district like PTASC to prepare draft updates to the Park Donation Program application form?

- c) **Review of recent Memorial Bench Application:** a request for a memorial bench at a bus stop on Duke Road was received. The proposed honoree was a proponent of trails at a provincial level, and an advocate for public transit.

Recommendation – PTASC believes this would be an appropriate memorial bench dedication. Fire Chief Dunlop and Public Works are to be informed as per instructions on the application form. Clarity is required as to who follows up on this request – Public Works, as it’s a roadside location, or PTASC. Does BC Transit need to be consulted?

Action - Ryan to follow up with the district.

- d) **Roadside Trail Maintenance (Pears Road)** – members of the public have stated the trail needs tending. Thistles are growing on the trail, blackberries are encroaching. PTASC has been reminded that roadside trails are Public Works’ responsibility.

Action – request to staff that this be referred to Public Works for action.

9. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

Moved by Jim to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. **Carried.**

The next meeting will be held on September 19, 2023, or at the call of the Chair.