

MINUTES
NATURAL AREAS, PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room 2 and via MS Teams
770 Vernon Avenue
Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 4:01 p.m.

Present: Councillor Judy Brownoff, Julian Anderson (via Teams), Jane Cameron, David Little, Evan Papps, Darrell Wick (via Teams) and Kathleen Woodruff

Regrets: Catherine du Bois and Wendy Trotter

Staff: Lesley Hatch, Senior Manager of Water Resources; Paul de Greef, Manager, Park Plan and Development; Helene Roberge, Manager, Engineering Strategic Projects (via Teams); Scott Sexton, Manager, Stormwater and Environmental Engineering Program; Alex Browne, Stormwater and Environmental Management Specialist, and Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk

Guests: Anna Skurikhina, Cats and Birds Project Lead, Stewardship Centre for BC (via Teams)

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

MOVED by E. Papps and Seconded K. Woodruff by : “That the Minutes of the Natural Areas, Parks and Trails Advisory Committee meeting held September 12, 2024, be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

CHAIRS REMARKS

- The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board adopted the new Interim Management Guidelines (IMG) for the former Royal Oak Golf Course on September 11, 2024. The Park Management Plan is projected to be completed over the next two years.
- The CRD will consider a pilot project aimed at increasing water safety at Thetis Lake and Hamsterly Beach (Elk Lake) by providing personal flotation devices and life rings. An update on the project from Vancouver Island Health could be proposed.
- In November, new Chairs will be elected for the Advisory Committees. The deadline to apply to volunteer on a committee is October 25, 2024.

UPDATE ON INTEGRATED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The Senior Manager of Water Resources gave an Update on Integrated Stormwater Management Planning (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Staff will have the ability to assess the impact of developments on the drainage network; criteria will be established for future development applications. This may inform future policy and processes including Council reports, if beneficial in decision making.
- The Integrated Stormwater Management Plan will undergo ongoing revisions and updates as living documents.
- The modeling work will inform floodplains or flood-prone areas.
- A concern was raised about the stormwater system discharging in the Douglas Creek. This can now be assessed with the model and built into future work plans. Continuing to

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- develop regulations that balance risks is the objective.
- The data and clarity of the work enables the municipality to make decisions effectively.
 - Over time, the Geographic Information System (GIS) content will provide more current information for the public.
 - Flow monitoring and flow gauges were utilized in stormwater systems around the city to collect data. Specific and valuable rainfall gauge data was observed and incorporated.
 - The Provincial Government is in the process of establishing better practices for protecting floodplains. We look to build off of provincial and regional work and collaborate. This ensures consistency and avoids contradictions.
 - Ground-truthing is crucial for collecting and refining data and model results.
 - Densifying and constructing hard surfaces without allowing areas for water to penetrate the ground increases runoff, accelerates flow and could cause future erosion and damage.
 - Reinforcement work is underway on the banks of the Colquitz River. This will help guide the designs for the project and ensure proper water flow is maintained.
 - Downstream capacity is assessed to ensure that water doesn't back up into the stormwater system.
 - Data received can predict the need for backflow preventers which can then determine which neighborhoods could benefit from this type of facility. This identification process is complex.
 - The Panama Concept Plan is under revision. Grants could be explored for funding opportunities.

The Senior Manager of Water Resources, Engineering Strategic Projects Manager, Stormwater and Environmental Engineering Program Manager and the Stormwater and Environmental Management Specialist left the meeting at 4:49 p.m.

CATS AND BIRDS PROJECT

The Representative for the Stewardship Centre for BC gave a presentation on the Cats and Birds Project (PowerPoint on file). The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- An educational component about cats and birds could be integrated into different strategies, such as the People, Pets and Parks Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy.
- Different window type glass could be explored to deter birds from flying into them.
- Animal bylaws are challenging to enforce; education and engagement campaigns yield better results.
- Rodent issues can escalate in the absence of cats, particularly on farms.

**The representative from the Stewardship Centre for BC left the meeting at 5:13 p.m. **

PARKS CONSTRUCTION AND PLANNING PROJECTS UPDATE

The Manager of Park Plan and Development provided an update on Parks Construction and Planning Projects. The following was noted in response to questions and during committee discussion:

- Repairs to the east bridge trail in PKOLS could be combined with the PKOLS Beach Stair Replacement Project, which involves demolishing the old concrete stairs. The project has been delayed due to changes in archaeological permitting requirements, as there is a known archaeological site near the mouth of Douglas Creek. The lower half of the stairs and the concrete on the beach will be broken up and removed. The upper stairs will either be removed or buried, depending on which option is safer and less disruptive to the landscape.
- Removing the boardwalk trails at PKOLS involves a planning and design element that may require further discussions with staff and consultation with various departments.
- The prefabricated washroom for parks is being reconsidered due to cost concerns and permit issues. The CRD could provide insight into their facilities and costs.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion from D. Little the meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Councillor Judy Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Angela Hawkshaw, Committee Clerk