



## **Draft MINUTES**

Pearkes Recreation Centre, **7:00 P.M.**, Thursday, Mar. 1, 2018

**In Attendance:** Rob, Vera, Gabe, Russ, Chris B., Scott, Chris K., Irena & Ed

**Regrets:** Pam, Katherine & Ray

**Guests:** Dorothy Chambers

### **1. Approval of Minutes from February 2018**

Moved CB/ Seconded GE –Approved

### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

Moved RG/GE that the agenda be adopted - Approved

### **3. Reports**

#### **a. Finance – Chris K.**

- There was \$305 in revenue from membership
- There was also \$1500 in revenue from the GPCG
- Chris would look into annuities from the Victoria Foundation. This would provide ongoing income for the GTCA. He would report back to the board at the next meeting.

#### **b. Membership - Irena**

Irena clarified that since the beginning of the year there were 49 membership renewals, 3 new memberships and \$132 was received in the form of donations.

#### **c. SCAN/Council – Rob**

##### **SCAN:**

- Maddock and Austin developments were both approved.
- Saanich was hosting a free event that anyone was welcome to attend

Saanich Talks: Building Neighbourhoods for the Future  
Speaker: Gordon Price  
March 21, 2018 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
David Lam Auditorium, University of Victoria

##### **Council:**

- John Roe made a presentation to Council about encroachment on public waterfront

#### **d. Land Use/Developments**

- **Qu'Appelle** – Katherine, Gabe and Rob met with developer Chuck Bell. Rob is in the process of drafting a letter about the project.

#### **e. Transportation**

- **BC Transit** – BC transit is hosting meetings. They are looking at improving cross town routes and using Uptown as transit hub. Vera noted that many people in the community are still looking for a direct bus route travelling along Admirals/McKenzie as BC Transit had promised it in the past but put it off because of the bridge construction projects.
- **Gorge Road** – A letter still needs to be sent to Council re: community concerns about speeding on Gorge Road. It was agreed to first invite Saanich Director of Engineering Harley Machielse to the next meeting.

### **4. Parks**

#### **a. Cuthbert Holmes**

##### **Campers in the Park**

- Rob noted that while meeting with the SNP daycare they observed that one of the neighbours had installed a gate and was now storing scaffolding in the park.
- Dorothy reported that when she and Julian went for a walk in the park they found 12 sites including tents and dump sites and the situation is just getting worse.
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) met with Andy Stuart (Saanich Police Bike Squad) and Eva Riccus (Saanich Parks) about safety concerns in the park and they made it seem that concerns had been overstated by Dorothy.
- Rob noted that there would be another tour of the park with Saanich officials on the upcoming Saturday.
- After some discussion, there were multiple issues the board agreed on:
  - The GTCA, the community shared Dorothy's concerns about the park
  - Saanich Parks need to step and cleanup the park so that it was safe for the community to use because it was their fiduciary duty
  - It was not OK for staff to tell people to not use the park
  - The issue was worsening
  - Saanich continued to do little about Homelessness in Saanich and seemed to be OK with camps in the park as they were hidden from public view
  - CHP as a P4 Natural Area Park should have camping fully banned
  - It was decided that the board present to Saanich Council in order to increase pressure – Vera agreed to book a presentation time and prepare a power point presentation – Dorothy would forward all communications that she has had with Saanich Council, staff and police to Vera.

## **MOTI**

- Dorothy reported that MOTI is constantly leaking over the silt fence
- Scott Murdoch and Ian Bruce have expressed concerns about the berm plan which they feel is too steep and will not have enough top soil to sustain trees.
- MOTI is not meeting their commitment to conduct ongoing environmental monitoring of their site
- The contractors had huge piles of rock by the berm and the campers have taken some of the rocks into the park

### **▪ Tb. Gorge Park Community Gardens – Gabe**

- When the GPCG was established there was a five-year understanding which ends in 2019 so the GTCA board needs to decide whether they will continue to be involved moving forward
- The GTCA's involvement is mostly financial, with the GTCA managing the finances for the GPCG – Chris noted that this involved about 10-12 cheques per year so the workload was not onerous
- A question about the GTCA's liability with respects to activities in the gardens
- Chris K. agreed to look into liability issues and report back to the board

### **c. Sequoia Tree – Austin Ave**

- The Sequoia tree, which was hurt by the washroom construction, is recovering and Saanich will repave the surrounding parking to give it more room.

### **d. Music in the Park**

- Music in the park will be held on Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. This will be the final concert of the summer.

## **5. Communications**

### **a. Newsletter – Vera**

- The newsletter was complete and was being distributed
- A membership flyer had been produced and was being distributed with the newsletter
- Black Tie Wines had come on as an advertiser replacing Pearkes on the back page. Vera noted that the GTCA was receiving the same revenue but now had editorial room on the back page

### **b. Websites/Social Media**

- No report

## **6. Canada Day – Chris K**

- Chris noted that planning was well underway and that there was strong support from sponsors, vendors and non-profits
- The Canada Day Committee decided that in recognition of the 20<sup>th</sup> Gorge Canada Day Picnic they wanted to do an art project. They came up with the idea of painting a mural on the washrooms in Koapsum Park utilizing the

\$5,000 previously allocated to the art fund. It was also suggested that it may be possible to secure partners for this project if it exceeded \$5,000.

- It was also noted that Chris Kask had advised the board, by email, in advance of the board meeting that he would be making this motion.

**MOTION: That the GTCA spend up to \$5000 of the appropriated surplus fund on an art project in Koapsum Park. Moved CK/Second GE - MOTION CARRIED.**

## **7. SNP Daycare – Rob**

Rob reported that SNP Daycare was proceeding with their plans. They were hoping to hire a summer student to help with planning. They were also looking for volunteers to help them with clearing up the natural space that will be behind the daycare.

## **8. GTCA AGM**

- The AGM was set for Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> in the Lam Room at Pearkes
- Rob and Ray were leaving the board after 20 years but would continue with the Gorge Canada Day committee
- Trevor was also stepping down as a board member
- Evan Leeson, Arden Little, Phil Lancaster and Elise Côté have agreed to join the board.

**Next Meeting Board Meeting**

**Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm**

**Date: Thursday, April 5, 2018**

**Place: Pearkes**