



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF RECREATION LEISURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

Via Zoom

PRESENT:

Councillor, R. Forsyth
Member at Large, Chair, J. Chuback
Member at Large, A. Ross
Member at Large, K. Paterson
Member at Large, B. Calladine
Member at Large, C. Kaipio
Member at Large, C. MacKenzie
Member at Large, L. Harnish
Member at Large, D. Clark
Member at Large, T. Nepomuceno
Whistler Sports Legacies representative, Co-Chair, R. Soane
Manager, Resort Parks Planning, RMOW, M. Pardoe
Parks Planning Technician, Resort Parks Planning, RMOW, C. Eccles
RMOW Recreation Staff representative, Pam Deane
Recording Secretary, O. Carroll

REGRETS:

Tourism Whistler representative, M. Kunza
Recreation Manager, RMOW, R. Weetman
Sea to Sky School District 48 representative, I. Currie
Parks Planner, Resort Parks Planning, RMOW, A. Oja

Meeting called to order at 3:05 pm.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by L. Harnish
Seconded by R. Forsyth

That Recreation Leisure Advisory Committee adopt the regular Recreation Leisure Advisory Committee Agenda of October 15, 2020 as amended with the addition of items related to Alta Lake petition, recreation group contacts and valley trail maintenance updates.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by B. Calladine
Seconded by R. Soane

That Recreation Leisure Advisory Committee adopt the amended Regular Recreation Leisure Advisory Committee Minutes of July 12, 2020.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Draft Park Master Plan Review and Update

An overview of the secondary draft of Parks Master Plan was presented by Manager of Parks Planning, Martin Pardoe. This draft includes the latest notes/edits by the hired Consultant. Staff believe the document could use more editing before being presented to Council. Revisions would include more structure to the document; editing of the graphics; changing map format for more consistency throughout the document; adding a conclusion or recommendation to summarize the document. Staff suggest the possibility of removing the methodology and public engagement output, and creating a second document outlining this information for reference to consolidate and clarify the main Parks Master Plan document.

Committee comments on document overview:

- Clarify the number of major parks as there is inconsistency throughout the document.
- Document is currently not tied together well with many disjointed pieces. Important to have a good flow to make sense to the public.
- Important to tie in Whistler Vision and OCP (Official Community Plan). People are proud of Whistler parks and the document should reflect that notion.
- Concerns with how projects are prioritized and how this is illustrated in the document.
- Excited about the potential for our parks. The challenge will be selling the idea of putting more resources into developing parks that already exist (i.e. Rainbow Park and Meadow Park) versus something completely new.
- Committee members agreed with staff recommendations for edits to the draft report.

Committee questions:

- In the costing and prioritization of funds to certain projects, is recreational density taken into effect?
- Are there other ways we can determine the stress of the priority items other than just the community engagement survey?
- School District 48 is listed as one of the top three priorities (Page 7), but there is nothing else in the document that mentions plans including School District 48. Is there reason for this? And if so can this be portrayed better in the document?
- Alongside priority, would it be helpful to outline a visual timeline for each project?

Staff comments:

- Overcapacity in certain parks do become higher priority. Things that are considered when prioritizing is higher recreation use, population density, and likely number of users on a particular amenity.

- Priorities of projects are weighed by the results of the Parks Asset Inventory Conditions Assessment and of the Community Engagement Summary.
- The results from the Parks Asset Inventory Conditions Assessment found the Whistler Secondary School Field to be among the top three priorities. However, this view is seen through only one lens. May not in fact be the highest priority. Staff will work on portraying this better in the document for better transparency to reader.
- The challenge with adding a timeline for each project is that it commits us to action without consideration of additional factors. The parks master plan is intended to guide decisions & directions for the future at a broad level.

D. Clark joined meeting at 3:49pm.

Rainbow Park – Discussion and Questions:

Committee Question:

- Rainbow Park had huge volume and usage this year. What is the stance on future parking in this area, particularly along the road? What does RMOW want to do and is there a way to use this to increase road access or parking?

Staff Comment:

- Prior to this summer, plans included developing a valley trail connection from behind the washrooms to Alta Lake Road to take bike/pedestrian traffic out of the parking lot; creating suitable shuttle bus/transit drop off on road and designated parallel parking spots; and forming a drop-off area where parking lot is currently paved. Received a variety of feedback in Master Plan process: get rid of parking, make more parking, charge for parking; none of which are very practical; the solution is somewhere in between.
- The response to the increase in usage this summer due to Covid was a last minute reaction and the Rainbow Park shuttle turned out to be costly. However, it was noted that the Lost Lake Shuttle took several years to become successful.
- Following the volume this summer, the priorities are to relocate bike/pedestrian traffic out of the parking lot; improve vehicle flow throughout the parking lot; and create more outreach/communication to encourage users not to bring cars to the park.

Committee Question:

- Can we expand the beach space more?

Staff Comment:

- Explored this option early on, but received negative feedback from the community about expanding the beach. As such, haven't developed beach front areas in quite some time. The approach is to add docks, which are low cost and low environmental impact.

Meadow Park – Discussion and Questions:

Committee Question:

- Why would we give up a baseball diamond for dogs? Could we move the dog park up further by the treed area between the parking lot and Meadow Park? This would also have the effect of 'firesmarting' the area

around Meadow Park arena as well as get dogs away from small children.

Staff Comment:

- Up until recently, the baseball diamonds were under-utilized for sport, and used heavily as a dog off-leash area. Dogs off-leash is a contentious subject and a challenging concept for many. People in Whistler are very passionate about their dogs, so it is important to find the right balance.

Committee Comment:

- Having coached baseball and camps for many years, hate to see the amenity go away, but have to appreciate what is currently the best use of the land. There is a higher demand for off leash areas than there is for baseball. Relatively speaking, numbers are fairly minimal and not many tournaments occur so the need for two diamonds is not essential. Expanding one diamond to full size would be quite beneficial to the youth teams that are finding they are 'out-hitting' the current smaller diamonds.

Staff Comment:

- When it comes time to advancing Meadow Park, will do further community engagement.

Parkhurst – Discussion & Questions:

Committee Question:

- Is there potential to access Parkhurst via Whistler Paintball access road and extending this to Parkhurst?

Staff Comment:

- Access to Parkhurst is challenging. Would also have to make sense to the public so that it is utilized, otherwise the most convenient option will be to park on the highway, which we want to avoid.
- Perhaps there is an opportunity for parking, off the highway, for both Parkhurst and other trail users of Cougar Mountain area. The challenge would then be how people would safely cross the highway.

Committee Question:

- Has there been any discussion by the RMOW to develop Parkhurst for employee housing?

Committee Comment:

- At this time, this has not been discussed by Council.

Committee Recommendations:

Following review of document with staff, the Committee is not at a point to make a decision and agree that the document is not yet ready to present to Council. Committee hope to be able to review another draft of Parks Master Plan at a future meeting. Staff plan to address the Committee's comments and concerns and incorporate these notes into the document for further review by the Committee.

Motion to receive progress report on the Parks Master Plan and to update noted changes as reviewed and discussed.

Moved by B. Calladine
Seconded by C. MacKenzie

CARRIED

One Duck Lake Access

An update was given by Parks Planning Manager, Martin Pardoe, regarding One Duck Lake Access. RMOW purchased 9561 Emerald Drive which is now being rented out through WHA by the Home Run Program. The intent is to provide public access to the lands west of Emerald Estates including One Duck Lake through this property. The plan is to build a small, non- motorized, formal recreational trail that will connect with other trail systems. This will also deter people from using the private access opposite Deer Horn Place. There will not be any other amenities, such as washrooms.

Emerald residents raised some concerns. A neighborhood meeting was held in September over Zoom by Parks Planning Manager, Martin Pardoe, and Emerald residents. Concerns were raised by residents over privacy and parking which RMOW recognize and wish to address during implementation. Parking plan/solution is likely to have similar elements to other areas in the community. Good feedback highlighted in addressing community concerns.

Beedie Group Development

An update was given by Parks Planning Manager, Martin Pardoe, regarding the Beedie Group Development. To date, the RMOW has not received any formal applications for rezoning.

A Strategic Planning Committee has recently been initiated by the RMOW. This is a high level committee concentrating on community needs, resort needs, land use issues, etc. which are guided by the OCP vision and objectives. It is through this process that we would be forwarding land use recommendations and decisions/feedback for any development proposal. This would be part of the community process for evaluating future possible rezoning of this land, or other lands.

Committee Question:

- Has there been any discussion about a potential tennis facility concept from the tennis community?

Committee Comment:

- The Tennis Association board is in the middle of being restructured. The AGM is being held next week, and priorities have changed. May be good to reach out to the association in a month once they get their new board and priorities in order.

Committee Question:

- Pre-Covid we talked about having a representative of the Whistler Racquet Club come to RLAC to provide an overview of their operations and the facility, Can we still do that?

Staff Comment:

- Yes. Will reach out again.

OTHER BUSINESS

HVAC Noise:

Meadow Park Staff representative, Pam Deane, provided an update on HVAC Noise at Meadow Park.

- HVAC unit was installed on the exterior of Meadow Park before Covid. The previous unit was old and needed replacing; the new unit should greatly improve pool air quality.

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- There were concerns raised by residents of adjacent housing on Cypress Place. In response, Facility Construction Maintenance arranged for a structure to be erected around the HVAC unit to help mitigate noise. This structure was recently installed and seems to have resolved the issue.

Meadow Park Re-Opening:

Meadow Park Staff representative, Pam Deane, provided an update on Meadow Park Re-Opening outlining original projected dates for re-opening different facilities and the status of these timelines. Full overview was presented to the Committee of the Whole by Recreation Manager, Roger Weetman.

Alta Lake Petition:

Committee members discussed the petition launched by local resident to stop commercial use of Alta Lake. RMOW is aware of circulating petition. At this time, no further action is required by the Committee.

Contact List for Community Clubs:

Committee members would like an updated list of clubs and groups that use the community's recreational facilities. Address this list on future agenda and decide how the Committee would like to communicate with these groups.

Valley Trail Updates:

Committee addressed concerns regarding paving issues for small wheel users on Valley Trail. Staff will forward comments on to Resort Operations team regarding repairs and will follow up in subsequent meeting.

NEXT MEETINGS

November 12, 2020

December 10, 2020

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by C. Kaipio

Seconded by R. Forsyth

That the Recreation Leisure Advisory Committee Meeting of October 15, 2020 be terminated at 5:05 p.m.

CARRIED



Chair, J. Chuback



Recording Secretary, O. Carroll