

City of Chilliwack
CHILLIWACK PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021 – 7:30 am
VIA ZOOM

Council Members: Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair
Councillor Jason Lum, Vice Chair

CPTAC Members: Karen Bridge, Back Country Horsemen
Bob Audet, Rotary Club of Chilliwack Trails Committee
Mike Woods, Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association
Marc Greidanus, Chilliwack Park Society
Daris LaPointe, Community Representative
Brent Purves, Community Representative
Gary Baker, Chilliwack Outdoors Club
Jim Ryan, Accessibility and Inclusiveness Representative

Guests: Allison Colthorp, Tourism Chilliwack, ex officio
Debora Soutar, Community Member, ex officio
David Urban, FVRD, ex officio

Regrets : Carrielynn Victor, Stó:lō Nation
Vanessa McRae, Community Youth Representative

City Staff: Glen MacPherson, Director of Operations
Rhianna Millman, Recording Secretary
Richard Fortin, Manager of Parks Planning
Chris Crosman, Deputy CAO
Glen White, Manager of Land Development
Glen Savard, Director of Finance

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mercer called the meeting to order at 7:32 am.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved /) That the Agenda for the Chilliwack Parks and Trails Advisory Committee
Seconded) meeting of Thursday, April 8, 2021, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved /) That the Minutes taken at the Chilliwack Parks and Trails Advisory
Seconded) Committee meeting of Thursday, November 26, 2020, be adopted as
presented.

Carried

4. PRESENTATIONS

• **Parkland DCC Land Acquisition**

At the last CPTAC meeting held November 26, 2020, questions were raised as to whether the City could increase Development Cost Charges (DCC’s) that are collected from Developers, so the City can buy more parkland to develop more trails. When a Developer develops a large parcel of land, the City is able to obtain 5% of that land to be used as parkland, or alternatively, 5% cash in lieu. Is there the opportunity for the City of increase the requirement from Developers?

Glen White, Manager of Land Development for the City of Chilliwack was asked to discuss the land development process and the requirements for parkland dedication with the committee. The Local Government Act Legislation dictates the amount of land which a Municipality can require to be dedicated, which is up to 5% of the developable land area and the City of Chilliwack always takes 5%. The land dedication of 5% only applies when three or more lots are created. The Official Community Plan (OCP) and Greenspace Plan (GSP) identify parks and trails within a specific area, if the development is within an area that’s been identified as being deficient in parkland, then the City has the option to require the dedication of the land or take the 5% cash in lieu. If there isn’t a park need identified in the OCP/GSP, then it is up to the Developer whether they want to give the City land or cash in lieu. The land has to be developable land and not land that the developer cannot develop.

Glen Savard, Director of Finance for the City of Chilliwack, explained to the committee how the collection of Park DCC’s is allocated, specifically with respect to future parkland acquisition and development. There are restrictions on what DCC’s can be used for, this is laid out by the Provincial Best Practices Guide; the charges have to go into expansion projects, not operating costs. The City’s Greenspace Plan (GSP) and Trail Network Plan (TNP) are the documents that help guide the projects that are included in the Park DCC bylaw. Once the bylaw is drafted the City then submits the list of projects to the Province for approval before submission to Council for final approval. On average the City collects \$1.5million annually in DCC’s, this is dependent on development, if development is slow, we collect less and vice versa. The GSP and TNP help guide the 10-year plan and the budget for the use of Park DCC’s.

• **First Nations Development and Greenspace Partnership Opportunities**

At the last CPTAC meeting, there was a question as to whether development on First Nations land is required to have a certain amount of greenspace/parkland dedication within new developments, similar to City of Chilliwack process?

Glen White is the point of contact for First Nation community representatives with respect to development questions and/or needs. The City is here to service both First Nations and private developments with water, sewer and drainage. Maintaining the Government to Government

relationship is very important and we are here to support and help where we can but not to overstep. The City provides planning advice and guidance to help First Nations Communities plan sustainable new developments.

Chris Crosman and Glen White retired from the meeting at 8:12 am

- **Accessibility Guidelines / Requirements for new Parks, Trails and Playgrounds**

Park and trail planning is guided by a few principals and goals to ensure that every major park and trail is designed to meet all users’ needs, regardless of age, ability and economic standing. Those needs are considered and/or incorporated in the design process. Our goal is for the community to be involved in the design process of new parks and trails and to ensure that we are supporting diversity and accessibility with modern amenities.

The City is currently focusing on Inclusiveness, Diversity and Accessibility in community and sub community parks and regional trail systems. Items such as hard surfaces under foot or wheel will be added around community and sub community playgrounds to allow for access to play structures and transfer stations. Where possible, rubber surfacing will be added instead of “accessible” woodchips to improve accessibility to play equipment. Other items such as sensory play, inclusive swings, ramps, ground level play and ground surface play will be incorporated with the ultimate goal of universal play.

A recommendation was put forward from the Mayor’s Task Force on Inclusiveness, Diversity and Accessibility to inventory accessible parks and trails and provide a park matrix on the City website with a search option for accessible parks; this work has already begun.

David Urban joined the meeting at 8:25 am

5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- **Pump Track Update**

Glen MacPherson updated the CPTAC on the new Pump Track facility. There has been a tremendous amount of interest and excitement from the community since it’s opening two months ago. The use of the track has been in very high demand and with the high level of usage there have been a number of safety concerns identified. Staff have worked closely with risk management to ensure appropriate signage is in place to clearly indicate the risk to users, the track layout, and that there are two tracks for different skill levels.

Some of the challenges are that track rules are not being followed, riders are going in the wrong direction, lack of physical distancing, too many users on the track at one time, bullying, and toddlers wandering onto the track from the adjacent playground. Staff have also had to establish a time in which young riders can utilize the track as there have been complaints that the track is unsafe for little kids to use. Children under the age of 10 years old are permitted to use the blue track from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, Monday – Friday.

The proposed changes would be to install a perimeter fence around the track, develop user group times, lock gates to the track to prevent after hours use, develop protocols to limit riders on the track, provide staffed/volunteer supervision of the track, work with Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association (FVMBA) to expedite track custodian program.

- **Discussion on Alcohol Permitted within Parks**

In August 2020 Council approved the consumption of alcohol in designated areas within Vedder Park and Crossing Park for a trial period until October 31, 2020. The times were restricted from 12:00pm to 9:00pm daily with security patrols randomly three times per day. There were no Bylaw complaints received, no incidents reported, and all security patrols were positive. Vedder Park was well used and Crossing Park saw minimal use. A public survey was conducted using multiple platforms, online, in person, local radio stations and e-newsletters. From the survey 733 responses were received, the overall summary from the response:

- Only 26% of respondents had used the designated spaces for responsible alcohol consumption but they were park users;
- 81% of respondents said they would like to see a similar project return;
- 73% of respondents thought the 12pm – 9pm time frame worked okay or very well;
- Other parks suggested for pilot projects included Townsend, all City parks and other points along the Vedder Rotary Trail.

The committee was unanimously in favour of Council permitting the consumption of alcohol in Vedder Park for 2021. The committee also asked for an area to be identified on the north side of Chilliwack for the same use and to look for the possibility of there being food truck opportunities as well.

*Moved /) Recommendation that Council allow the opening of alcohol permitted
Seconded) areas in Vedder Park for the 2021 spring/summer/fall season and that
Council direct staff to identify a suitable location on the north side of
Chilliwack for alcohol to be consumed within a city park and where food
trucks can also vend.*

Carried

6. BUSINESS ARISING

A round table check in of the CPTAC was done.

Councillor Mercer retired from the meeting at 9:20am.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Chilliwack Parks and Trails Advisory Committee will be held at the call of the Chair.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:26 am.

Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair