

City of Chilliwack
CHILLIWACK PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022 – 7:30 am
VIA ZOOM

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

CPTAC Members: Bob Audet, Rotary Club of Chilliwack Trails Committee
Marc Greidanus, Chilliwack Park Society
Gary Baker, Chilliwack Outdoors Club
Jim Ryan, Accessibility and Inclusiveness Representative
Daris LaPointe, Community Representative

Guests: Allison Colthorp, Tourism Chilliwack, ex officio
Colleen Christensen, Chair, Chilliwack Centre of Excellence
Leah Christensen, Vice President, Chilliwack Centre of Excellence
Debora Soutar, Community Member, ex officio
David Urban, FVRD, ex officio
Marissa Klassen, ex officio

Regrets : Karen Bridge, Back Country Horsemen
Mike Woods, Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association
Brent Purves, Community Representative

City Staff: Glen MacPherson, Director of Operations
Rhianna Millman, Recording Secretary
Richard Fortin, Manager of Parks Planning

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mercer called the meeting to order at 7:31 am and gave a Territorial Acknowledgment.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved /) That the Agenda for the Chilliwack Parks and Trails Advisory Committee
Seconded) meeting of Thursday, February 24, 2022, be adopted as presented.

Carried

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved /) That the Minutes taken at the Chilliwack Parks and Trails Advisory
Seconded) Committee meeting of Thursday, April 8, 2021, be adopted as presented.

Carried

4. PRESENTATIONS

• **Water Sports Centre**

Colleen Christensen presented the concept of having a Water Sports Centre built in Chilliwack to the committee. The centre would be the first of its kind in Canada and North America, this training centre would provide paddlers with a safer environment versus navigating the over used and ever changing Chilliwack River waters. The centre would bring tourism to the community, becoming a venue that hosts international level events and would keep paddlers at home in Canada, versus traveling overseas for training. The centre would promote community engagement, develop partnerships and improve community health and inclusiveness. The vision for the water centre would have a white-water component and then a very large flat water, open pool for the rest of the community to access for swimming recreation opportunities.

This plan has the support of Tourism Ch’illiwack and they can support with grant writing for potential funding. The CPTAC is receiving this item for information only at this time. Councillor Mercer commented that the project may be brought forward at the next annual Council Objectives and Measures Planning session for Mayor and Council to have discussions about the potential of a water sports centre and funding for a project of its magnitude.

Colleen & Leah Christensen retired from the meeting at 7:55 am

• **Protecting this Gift**

Allison Colthorp of Tourism Ch’illiwack updated the committee that they represent not only the City of Chilliwack boundaries, they now represent Areas E&H (FVRD) and the Cultus Lake Park Board area. Tourism Ch’illiwack has shifted from destination marketing to destination management and is grounded in partnerships, First Nations consultation, diversity, equity and inclusion. Supporting the protection of our natural attractions is part of responsible tourism, as a result, tourism Chilliwack commits to launching a “Protect this Gift” campaign highlighting ways so increase awareness of Chilliwack attractions, encouraging visitors and locals to participate responsibly. Funding for projects is granted through, hotel tax, the power of partnerships, working with a grant writer from Destination BC, tourism relief, and transportation funds. They work directly with the various local authorities (City of Chilliwack, FVRD, FLNRO, DBC) on their tourism priorities to see if they can align with and support them. They fund marketing, events, signage, research and other tourism projects. The projects need to be directly related to local authorities wants and needs, they do not work in silos and work as a collective to support everyone’s vision.

- **Little Mountain Greenspace**

Marc Greidanus presented the Chilliwack Park Society's Little Mountain Greenspace planning strategy to the committee. The Chilliwack Parks Society has been advocating for preserving natural greenspace on Little Mountain for some time. As development progresses the Society is encouraging the City to maximize areas that can be designated as non-developable greenspace which can then be transferred into City ownership in order to protect these areas for the enjoyment of future generations. The Park Society has a vision to build off, and improve upon, the trail network that already exists within the area, both on private and City owned properties, adding multiple accessible interconnecting trails as more land comes into City ownership. The Official Community Plan (OCP) is a guiding document, within the OCP, there is an allocation for additional residential lots to be developed on Little Mountain, adding to the existing number of homes. The OCP calls for environmental, wildlife and forest protection, as well as creating healthy and attractive communities, and parks and greenspace preservation. The Parks Society is looking for an official commitment of support from the City to protect as much natural greenspace as possible in order to form a continuous belt of public greenspace which could be named "Little Mountain Nature Park". This request is made in addition to the letter already provided by the City which outlines support for fundraising efforts. Marc explained that the Parks Society wish to fundraise to potentially purchase land for the purpose of creating additional trail access points and for buffer zones between developed land and the trail network.

*Moved /) Recommendation to refer the Little Mountain Nature Park concept to
Seconded) Council for information.*

Carried

David Urban joined the meeting at 8:30 am
Allison Colthorp retired from the meeting at 8:42 am
Debora Soutar retired from the meeting at 9:00 am

- **2022 Parks & Trails Projects**

Richard Fortin provided a review of the completed 2021 projects to the committee.

Planned Parks and Trails Projects for 2022 are as follows:

- Downtown streetscape improvements,
- Community play structures for multiple parks,
- Pickleball court updates/upgrades,
- Meadowbrook Park parking lot to be paved,
- Mini pump track construction at The Landing,
- Vedder Greenway Masterplan implementation,
- Vedder Mountain Park Trail,
- Vedder Rotary Trail – Blueway upgrades and additions to access points,
- Hope River Trail and Boardwalk planning,
- Pebble Park and Westview Park development,
- Continued clean up from 2021 Atmospheric River flooding damage.

Daris LaPointe retired from the meeting at 9:08 am
Bob Audet retired from the meeting at 9:20 am

5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

6. BUSINESS ARISING

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 9:25 am.

Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair