

**City of Chilliwack**  
**CHILLIWACK PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024 – 7:30 AM**  
**BOARDROOM – OPERATIONS CENTRE / ZOOM**

---

**Council Members:** Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair  
Councillor Harv Westeringh, Vice Chair

**CPTAC Members:** Bob Audet, Rotary Club of Chilliwack Trails Committee  
Marc Greidanus, Chilliwack Park Society  
Daris LaPointe, Community Representative  
Mike Woods, Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association  
Gary Baker, Chilliwack Outdoors Club  
Kelly Hawes, Equestrian Representative  
David Hanson, Accessibility and Inclusiveness Representative  
Victor Froese, Community Representative

**Guests:** Jennifer Hahn, COC, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Allison Colthorp, Tourism Chilliwack, ex officio  
Christina Vugteveen, FVRD, ex-officio  
Eryne Croquet, Community Forest Association

**Regrets:** Karen Brady, Stó:lō Service Agency, SRRMC Land Stewardship Unit  
Nick Bello, SSA Mémiyelhtel Youth Mentorship Program  
Marissa Klassen, Youth Representative

**City Staff:** Joe Koczur, Director of Public Works and Parks  
Brendan Kurtz, Parks Operations Manager  
Ashley Hunter, Recording Secretary  
Richard Fortin, Manager of Parks Planning

---

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mercer called the meeting to order at 7:33 am and gave an Indigenous Territorial Acknowledgement.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved / ) That the Agenda for the Chilliwack Parks and Trails Advisory Committee  
Seconded ) meeting of Tuesday, May 14, 2024, be adopted as presented.

Carried

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved /        )    That the Minutes taken at the Chilliwack Parks and Trails Advisory Committee  
Seconded    )    meeting of Thursday, Wednesday, February 7, 2024, be adopted as presented.

Carried

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

Allison Colthorp joined the meeting at 7:35 am  
Christina Vugteveen joined the meeting at 7:38 am

**2024 Parks Update**

Richard Fortin provided a 2024 parks update

- Experience the Fraser received node improvements
- The Yale Road parking concept will see 48 parking stalls for Experience the Fraser
- Salish Park received an accessible playground and rubber surfacing
- New basketball and hockey courts were added to Kinsmen Park on Portage
- The No. 3 Road parking lot had 102 parking stalls and horse trailer parking, the parking lot entrance was relocated, and an accessible 100' long ramp at a 5% slope was added
- Multi Use Game area was upgraded at Jinkerson Park
- An accessible playground and rubber surfacing was installed at Sardis Park
- McSwan park received a CSA 2-5 year old play area, 2 guardian areas and upgrades to the existing area
- Webb Avenue Park will be opening in August
- The turf field at Townsend Park is being replaced, while also re-using the crumb rubber
- To open in October, Townsend Park will have a CSA 2-5 year old play area installed, accessible play, rubber surfacing and 2 guardian areas
- The development of Crestwood Park in 2024 or 2025

**Community Forest Program - Community Forest Agreement (CFA)**

Eryne Croquet gave a presentation on the benefits of CFA's and how they can provide beneficial revenue opportunities to communities. A CFA is an area-based forest license managed by a local government, community group, First Nation, or combination, for the benefit of the entire community. CFA's support opportunities in areas such as recreation, wildlife, and watershed management for communities, providing local control of the monetary and non-monetary benefits offered by forest resources.

With this program, communities practice sustainable forestry which can provide local forest employment. It also generates economic, social, cultural, and environmental benefits.

## 5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

### **Development Cost Charges**

Discussion on Development Cost Charges (DCC) has been tabled for the next meeting. City staff to provide detailed information on this topic.

### **Little Mountain Update**

Development on the First National Properties (9910 Quarry Road and 47125 Latimer Road) on Little Mountain has not occurred, as such, there is no update regarding land acquisition of remainder property to the City from the developer at this time.

### **Community Forest – Concrete Pad Request**

A request was made for a concrete pad to be installed at the Community Forest to provide accessible parking. City staff have relayed that a portion of this parking lot will be paved and will be added to the paving program this summer. Other accessible spots along the Vedder Greenway will also be paved, regardless if more grants are received or not.

Roundtable check-in amongst CPTAC committee members ensued;

### **Roy Park**

It was noted that the rounded curb at the entrance to Roy Park is not accessibly user-friendly for everyone who enters the park and it is difficult for powered wheelchairs to maneuver this curb letdown. City staff will conduct an assessment at this park and at all other parks to rectify this issue.

### **Trans Canada Trail**

Kelly shared that volunteers have been completing a lot of work on the Trans Canada Trail to make it safer for users, this includes lots of new bridge work that has been completed.

### **Valley Rail Trail**

The brush that was cleared at this intersection on the Valley Rail Trail at Knight Road has improved the sightlines immensely, however the stop sign still causes an issue with vehicles and cyclists. The Engineering department is currently working to find a solution for this.

The area of this trail at Hocking Avenue also needed the vegetation to be cleared for sightline issues; It was noted that the portion of land causing the problem is owned by BC Hydro who has looked after this task to remedy the issue.

### **Firearms Use on Vedder Mountain**

City staff provided an update that they are working with the Ministry of Forests, however are still waiting for a definitive answer. Staff are confident that the bylaw can be amended once a response is received from the Ministry.

### **Vedder Trail Footbridge**

There are no new updates from the Engineering Department at this time, the City is still waiting for a response from the Province.

### **Vedder Mountain – Adaptive Trail**

Mike shared that the adaptive trail on Vedder Mountain that starts at the top of the Qoqó:lem Trail to the end of Parmenter Road has been approved by the Province. Work has started on this trail, but it is not near completion and ready for users yet.

### **Pickleball**

As pickleball has become a highly popular sport requiring more spaces to play, it was noted that some larger cities have started pilot programs where entire roads or half of the road has been closed for pickleball users. This has been done in underused locations such as under overpasses or areas that have been typically higher in crime with a potential slowdown due to a more positive presence in the area.

### **Chilliwack Park Society**

The Chilliwack Park Society has welcomed Pollaris Raymond as their new president and she will be alternating attendance with Marc Greidanus at future CPTAC meetings.

Marc had a few updates from the Chilliwack Park Society starting with, unfortunately, not receiving grant money this year, and therefore reaching out to community organizations for monetary donations in order to complete projects throughout Chilliwack. He shared that the Parks Society has been awarded a contract from Skowkale First Nation to maintain a new trail on Chilliwack River Road.

### **Indigenous Names Pronunciations**

Some users of new parks and trails with Indigenous names have found it difficult to pronounce the names correctly, and with not wanting to say the names incorrectly, have been hoping for phonetics to be added to signage or other places with written wording. The City has been in talks with Ty'selxweyeqw on this topic. Allison added that Tourism Ch'illiwack is also working with Ty'selxweyeqw on phonetics of certain words through QR codes and will reach out to enquire if additional Indigenous names can be included with this.

### **Tourism Ch'illiwack**

Allison shared with the committee that Tourism Ch'illiwack will be working on messaging for the summer pertaining to safety and responsible travels. They are putting together a content plan to be sent out to the committee and other entities looking for ideas on what types of information to share with the public. For example, some electoral areas would like information on fire safety information to be provided while others are asking for information on water safety to be shared. Additionally, more money is being put towards destination development, hopefully meaning more hotels and trails for Chilliwack, as well as money to support things like trail maintenance and signage.

**6. BUSINESS ARISING**

- Discussion regarding development cost charges (DCC)
- Park improvement update regarding curb letdowns

**7. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Chilliwack Parks and Trails Advisory Committee is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 7, 2024.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:33 am.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair