

City of Chilliwack
CHILLIWACK PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025 – 7:30 AM
BOARDROOM – OPERATIONS CENTRE / ZOOM

Council Members: Councillor Harv Westeringh, Chair
Councillor Jeff Shields, Vice-Chair

CPTAC Members: Marissa Klassen, Youth Representative
Pollaris Raymond, Chilliwack Park Society
Daris LaPointe, Community Representative
Gary Baker, Chilliwack Outdoors Club
Victor Froese, Community Representative
Bob Audet, Rotary Club of Chilliwack Trails Committee
Mike Woods, Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association
Kelly Hawes, Equestrian Representative

Guests : Christina Vugteveen, FVRD, ex-officio
Chrystal Gillingham, Chilliwack Parks Society

Regrets: Nick Bello, SSA Mémiyelhtel Youth Mentorship Program
David Hanson, Accessibility and Inclusiveness Representative

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Westeringh called the meeting to order at 7:32 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 Thursday, May 15th, 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, February 13, 2025 be adopted as presented.

Carried

4. PRESENTATIONS

5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Tree Protection

Joe provided an overview of tree protection on private property in the context of land development, outlining the City's requirements and the Parks department's role in the process. The City has a Tree Management bylaw, which has a goal of increasing the urban canopy, requiring trees to remain or be added to private land when being developed. Depending on the scope of the work, sometimes urban frontage improvements are necessary, meaning the developer is required to plant trees that will become city-inventoried 'street trees', maintained by the arborists of the Parks department.

Recently, the provincial government mandated densification for municipalities for housing. This means that up to four homes can be added to a developing property instead of one, also making it difficult to implement tree protection bylaws. At this time, there are no further bylaws in Chilliwack that are in place regarding tree protection, however, it is being asked that this topic be brought to council's attention and considered.

School Playground Upgrades

When possible, the City partners with the school district to upgrade school playgrounds in the community. It was added by Mike that local Rotary clubs also partner with PAC's at schools to upgrade or bring new playgrounds to schools.

Roundtable check-in amongst CPTAC committee members ensued;

Browne Creek Wetlands

Victor shared a book about the development of the wetlands, "Browne Creek Wetlands and Trails", and that it was recently the 10th anniversary of the official opening of the Browne Creek Wetlands. These wetlands are a fish spawning channel with a network of walking trails just over 2km long throughout it.

Trans Canada Trail

Gary advised that the Chilliwack Outdoor Club and other volunteers are working to rebuild the trail throughout the Coquihalla, which will, unfortunately, take years to repair after the atmospheric flooding.

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 8:28 am.



Councillor Harv Westeringh, Chair