

West Sechelt Community Association

Minutes of the Directors' Meeting, January 10th, 2012

Present: Gail Riddell (President), Donna Perry (Treasurer), Candyce Sayer, David Thomson, Paddy Blenkinsop (Secretary)

Regrets: Charlotte Mallory

1. The Agenda was approved
2. The minutes of the meeting of Nov.9th, 2011 were approved
3. Treasurer's report. Donna reported that there was a balance of \$846.44.
4. SCAF. Paddy reported that at the latest meeting he had proposed that the SCAF members should establish a roster to attend all the Sechelt Council and Committee of the Whole meetings. The secretary, Val Morris, offered to coordinate the attendances. She did so, and a roster in is now in place. Meetings allocated to WSCA will be attended as follows:

January 25 th	COW	Candyce Sayer
March 7 th	Council	David Thomson
April 11 th	COW	Gail Riddell
May 16 th	Council	Donna Perry & Candyce Sayer
June 27 th	COW	Paddy Blenkinsop

Candyce undertook to remind us when it was our turn.

5. District of Sechelt: Budget submission

The DofS invited us to present a list of recommendations to them as it prepares its annual budget. The members of WSCA were invited to submit proposals. Following is the list of recommendations.

SHORT-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

Parks and beach accesses: parks and beach accesses in West Sechelt are under-used. Our priorities reflect our concern to increase the usage and enjoyment of these public spaces.

- Priority 1. Signage for parks and beach accesses. There should be signs not only at parks but also to parks from major roads and to those beach accesses that are not on the

highway. Beach access signs should be much more visible, and there should be signs to access paths on the beach.

- Priority 2. Benches and picnic tables. All parks and many beach accesses should have benches and/or picnic tables. The following is the order of priority we propose: i. Beach access at the bottom of Wakefield Rd: a picnic table. ii. Wakefield Park: 2 picnic tables. iii. Beach access, Laverne: a bench with back support. iv. Sea Fiddler: bench with back support. v. Hill and Dale: bench with back support
- Playgrounds. There should be playgrounds for kids in all the neighbourhood parks. Again we propose the following priority order. i. Picadilly Park. For some years now the upgrading of the playground has been proposed, and we even learned two years ago, that it had been included in the town's plans. It has never happened. ii. Tyler Heights: an extension of the existing facility. iii. Walter Burntuck Park: a playground needed.
- Boat ramps. There are no boat ramps in West Sechelt. We recommend the installation of a boat ramp at the bottom of Mason Rd. and, as second priority, at Sea Fiddler.

Concern was also expressed about lack of lighting in all the parks, and the limited accessibility to parks and especially to beach accessed for those with disabilities or restricted mobility.

Finally, we recommend that a review be made of all beach accesses to ensure their integrity against encroachment by neighbouring properties. Most of the beach accesses are 20m wide (Neighbourhood Plan, 2003). Few of them seem to be that width today.

Sidewalks at the corner of Mason and Norwest Bay Rd.

This is a safety issue. The West Sechelt Elementary School is at this corner, and many children walk to and from school. It is also a busy traffic corner. Sidewalks are needed to protect the children.

LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS

In a recent survey of parks and open spaces conducted by WSCA a clear majority indicated that their major recreational interests were hiking and walking, and the facilities they would like to see are larger parks and connecting trails. We therefore recommend the following:

- The acquisition of large natural parks in West Sechelt.
- The development of connecting trails, preferably greenway trails such as the Crowston Trails, together with the provision of good signage.
- The development of Wakefield Ravine. This ravine is a wonderful natural asset that needs to be made accessible to people by the building of paths, bridges, rest areas, etc. A start could be made at Creekside Park with paths leading to Norwest Bay Rd. and Gowland Rd. (Note that the Master Plan (July, 2006) stated that there were trails here. They are no longer visible.)

SUPPORT FOR PROPOSALS RECEIVED

Two local groups requested WSCA's support for their submissions to DofS.

- The Botanical Society is requesting permission to erect directional signs. No funding is attached to this request.
- The ?????????????? is requesting financial support for the first stage of its development of an accessible playground.

We agreed to support both these requests.

Gail will prepare the background rationale for our submission. Paddy will prepare the list of priorities.

6. Further issues

- The allocation by developers of poor land for parks and public spaces. It was decided to refer this issue to SCAF.
- The need for covered bus shelters. Donna will find out who is responsible for providing shelters.
- Two further issues, the need for a community centre and for local shopping areas were deferred for further discussion.

7. New development at the corner of Tyler and Tower.

This proposed strata development is for 50 small lots (400 ft') at the NW corner of Tyler and Tower. There is a large green space included. It appears to be a successor to the seniors' residence proposed some years ago. Comments made were: lots very small; lack of parking for visitors.

Gail will prepare a response to DofS.

2012.01.12

Paddy Blenkinsop