

City of Chilliwack
CHILLIWACK PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024 – 7:30 am
OPERATIONS BOARDROOM / ZOOM

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

CPTAC Members: Bob Audet, Rotary Club of Chilliwack Trails Committee
Daris LaPointe, Community Representative
Marissa Klassen, Youth Representative
Mike Woods, Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association
Kelly Hawes, Equestrian Representative
David Hanson, Accessibility and Mobility Representative
Victor Froese, Community Representative
Gary Baker, Chilliwack Outdoors Club

Guests: Allison Colthorp, Tourism Chilliwack, ex officio
David Urban, FVRD, ex officio
Christina Vugteveen, FVRD, ex-officio

Regrets : Karen Brady, Stó:lō Service Agency, SRRMC Land Stewardship Unit
Nick Bello, SSA Mémiyelhtel Youth Mentorship Program
Marc Greidanus, Chilliwack Park Society

City Staff: Joe Koczukur, Director of Parks Operations
Richard Fortin, Manager of Parks Planning
Brendan Kurtz, Parks Operations Manager
Ashley Hunter, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mercer called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 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, September 14, 2023, be adopted as
) presented.

Carried

4. PRESENTATIONS

- **2024 Parks Projects & Information**

Richard Fortin gave a presentation on a year in review and 2024 parks projects and information

- Fairfield Park received a new scoreboard, a dog-off-leash area, and parking lot upgrades
- Crimson Ridge Park, Jinkerson Park, and Townsend Park all received drinking fountains
- The wooden staircase at Weeden Park was replaced with a metal staircase
- Mr. Scoops was added to the Bill Kelly Park at The Landing
- Yarrow Pioneer Park had 6 new pieces of equipment added to the outdoor gym space
- An additional playground added to Westview Park
- Phase 1 of a playground addition to Uplands Park has been completed
- Jinkerson Park received a Dog-Off-Leash park and pump track
- Trail development was completed connecting pedestrian traffic and looping Little Mountain
- Development of Crimson Ridge Park/trail node
- Development of Qoqó;lem Park
- The Yarrow Park playground and Weeden Park playground was completed in October 2023
- Yarrow Community Park received parking lot upgrades which were completed in October 2023
- Parking lot realignment was completed at Townsend Park, Hope River Park, and the Community Forest
- Vedder Park received a new pump track in November 2023
- A multi-user gaming area (MUGA) is being installed in Jinkerson Park, finishing in April 2024
- A new playground is being installed at Sardis Park
- Trail development is happening for Experience the Fraser, including node improvements
- Multiple map and sign review updates, including new signage along the Vedder Greenway and at Little Mountain
- Townsend Park will be having the artificial turf replaced and will receive a 2-5 year old playground
- Development of Webb Avenue Park, McSwan Park, Crestwood Park, and Quarry Park in 2024
- 2024 trail development is scheduled for the Promontory West trail connections, Forest Gate Park trail and amenities, No. 3 Rd parking area, as well as the Yale Rd west parking concept with possible ETF funding
- Historical signs to be added at The Landing, Townsend Park, Vedder Park, Sardis Park, Fairfield Park, Webster Park, and others
- Splash pads and cooling stations to be added at Sardis Park, Yarrow Pioneer Park, Fairfield Park, Rosedale Park, and Townsend Park (mister only)
- Development of a Dog-Off-Leash park at Nixon Road
- Shade structure to be added at Sardis Park play area

Richard also provided trail counter data info, advising that there are 43 locations total in Chilliwack with 14 in total in the Greenway and 12 focused on the main trail. Over the last 10 years trail usage has continuously gone up, seeing some of the highest usage during Covid with approximately 200,000 people visiting the trail.

David Urban joined the meeting at 8:06 am

5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Contact information for Park Prescriptions, a provincial initiative, can be found at www.parkprescriptions.ca

Firearms use on Vedder Mountain

It was previously discussed that Vedder Mountain has become increasingly dangerous to users over the years due to permission of hunting and gun use in the area. Unfortunately, there is a large parcel of crown land on Vedder Mountain that is outside of the firearms prohibition area. However, there is a very large interest in seeing the area be restricted, especially considering the high trail usage and more plans to expand the trail network in this area. The City of Chilliwack is currently working with the FVRD to have this area become restricted and is looking to receive support from the Province as well. Christina shared that the FVRD receives a document annually which has an overview of map of what is happening in parks and trails, advising that it could be collaboratively shared with the City of Chilliwack in order to have a discussion extending to Vedder Mountain. It was noted that it would be beneficial for the Cultus Lake Parks Board to also join in on this discussion.

*Moved /) Recommendation that Council move forward to prohibit firearms use on
Seconded) Vedder Mountain*

Carried

Roundtable check-in amongst CPTAC committee members ensued;

Community Forest - Potential Revenue

Daris shared that the City of Mission has a community forest area in their municipality bringing in revenue, through sustainable forestry action, with most or all of that money being able to be used towards different community-based programs. This is something that could be of interest to Chilliwack, with Daris offering to organize a presentation at the next CPTAC meeting to learn more about potential possibilities.

Valley Rail Trail

It was noted by Gary that there are significant sightline issues on the Valley Rail Trail when heading south on the trail and crossing at Knight Road. This issue is being addressed by the Engineering Department as the rail crossings all need to be upgraded from a rail safety standpoint. In the meantime, the vegetation at this location can be cut back to help alleviate further sightline issues.

Vedder River Campground

The FVRD has been working on upgrades at the Vedder River Campground which shares space along the Vedder Rotary Trail network. Christina shared they are currently working to upgrade the electrical, water, and sewer, and to also have these services placed underground. This will eliminate any holes previously in the ground and will be complete and ready for when the campground opens again in March, with sites being fully serviced. Future upgrades of the campground will extend to the onsite facilities.

FVRD Active Transportation Network Plan

David shared that the FVRD is undertaking an Active Transportation Network Plan, an electoral area region-wide plan that also pertains to the trail networks. They've completed their first round of engagement, receiving feedback from survey results, and will use these results to create priorities for consideration to go back out to the public. There have been discussions around the connections into the Cultus Lake area, referencing the great work done at the Vedder roundabout by the City. Anyone is welcome to participate by visiting: haveyoursay.fvrd.ca.

Experience the Fraser

After the completion of the funding that was received from the Targeted Regional Tourism Development Initiative for the Experience the Fraser trail, and once there have been a few promotions and marketing for visitor dispersion, the idea of adding trail counters to the trail would be beneficial to see if there is an uptake of use on that part of the trail.

Vedder Interpretive Signage

Allison shared an update on the Vedder Interpretive Signage project, advising that the Ts'elxweyeqw Tribe approved the architect's design just a few days ago and it will be presented to the City for review. There is funding for this project that needs to be used this year which includes the Tourism Relief Fund, as well as the Active Transportation Fund.

Hiking and Biking Guides

As the hiking and biking guides are due to be updated, Allison advised that Tourism Ch'illiwack will be reaching out to different groups related to the committee, and others, regarding providing input. Anyone is welcome to reach out to Allison if there is anything specific that may need to be changed or edited.

Tourism Growth Grant

There is a new grant that can be applied for called the Tourism Growth Grant, to hopefully provide new opportunities, which will see an application from the Fraser Valley Mountain Bike Association along with support from Tourism Ch'illiwack; this application is due by February 23, 2024.

Data Reporting

Allison with Tourism Ch'illiwack and David Urban with the FVRD are looking into companies that conduct research regarding stats and data reporting. The purpose of this is to determine the visitor span on trail networks and the trail usage, such as where visitors are within the community. The first meeting is to be held with Zartaco who states that this data can additionally be collected outside of cell range through the use of certain apps. This data will also be very beneficial for future grant applications. Richard added that 4-6 trail counters in kiosks will be rolled out by the end of March to start collecting data by April 2024.

Chilliwack Outdoor Club

Gary shared that the Chilliwack Outdoor Club is now registered as a non-profit society that will also be looking into future grants now that they can do so.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

- Discussion regarding development cost charges (DCC)
- Presentation on revenue collection through community forest usage

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Chilliwack Parks and Trails Advisory Committee is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 14th, 2024.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 am.



Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair