

City of Chilliwack
CHILLIWACK PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES OF MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2024 – 7:30 AM
BOARDROOM – OPERATIONS CENTRE / ZOOM

Council Members: Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair

CPTAC Members: Bob Audet, Rotary Club of Chilliwack Trails Committee
Pollaris Raymond, 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
Marissa Klassen, Youth Representative

Guests: Gillian Villeneuve, Director of Planning
Reuben Koole, Manager of Long Range Planning
Kara Jefford, Director of Engineering
Christina Vugteveen, FVRD, ex-officio

Regrets: Councillor Harv Westeringh, Vice Chair
Nick Bello, SSA Mémiyelhtel Youth Mentorship Program

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 7:32 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 Tuesday, November 26, 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 Tuesday, May 14, be adopted as presented.

Carried

4. PRESENTATIONS

Official Community Plan (OCP) Project

Reuben Koole, Manager of Long Range Planning with the City of Chilliwack, presented the Official Community Plan (OCP) Project to the committee. The OCP is outlined by the Province’s Local Government Act and describes the long-term vision for a community, including objectives and policies to guide decisions on planning and land use management. This often supports positive economic, social and cultural, and environmental outcomes. Typically, the OCP is integrated with community plans and strategies that address transportation, housing, sustainability, and parks and recreation.

The City of Chilliwack has begun an update of the Official Community Plan through a project called Chilliwack 2050. As the current OCP was approved in 2014, there have been changes throughout the last 10 years requiring amendments to topics such as climate-related risks, shifts in housing, pressure on agricultural land, strained infrastructure, and new legislation. Updating the OCP helps to establish a long-term vision to help shape Chilliwack’s growth and evolution into the future.

The OCP project is being implemented in 3 phases, starting with Phase 1 and taking place in late 2024, the objective is to listen and learn by engaging with different community entities. This will be followed by Phase 2 which will take place in early 2025 and consists of exploring concepts uncovered in the previous phase. Finally, Phase 3 is to create the Official Community Plan. With this OCP in place, it will help guide how we live, work, play, and move in the future.

Vedder Greenway Pedestrian Crossing Bridge Update

A presentation update on the Vedder River Trail Bridge was given by Kara Jefford, Director of Engineering. Designed for pedestrians and cyclists, the concept of the Vedder Greenway Pedestrian Crossing Bridge first originated in 2018. The stand-alone bridge is intended to be a 67m Single Span Steel Arch bridge with a concrete bridge deck and a 3m wide bridge deck surface. The preferred location of this trail bridge is the Browne Creek Crossing near Bergman Rd and Hooge Rd, as this is where the river is the narrowest.

Although money was received from Trans Mountain for the completion of the project, there have been multiple setbacks in acquiring the approval to build the bridge, including determining the best location for the bridge. The notion to begin the construction of the Vedder River Trail bridge was first completed in June 2018 with a technical evaluation. The next task of a Geotechnical Report was not accomplished until March 2021, consisting of a Load Evaluation on Bergman Bridge (for drill rig

access) and a Heritage Investigation Permit, which was granted in February 2021. In March 2023 staff began the preliminary design, which included determining the recommended structural built form, recommendations for environmental and other approvals, as well as, constructability advice from a bridge contractor and an updated cost estimate.

In 2024, with a budget of \$4.75 million, a Provincial Land Tenure Application was submitted in October. This application has a timeline of 2 – 3 years and includes a Crown Land Management Plan, hydraulic assessment, preliminary design and any supporting documentation. Consultation with First Nations through Stó:lō was submitted in October. Water Sustainability Act authorizations can be submitted once the Crown Land Application process is completed and Tenure is approved. Unfortunately, this means no other applications may move forward until Crown Land Tenure is granted, meaning that something like environmental approvals cannot be completed in advance.

Once Tenure is approved the next steps will be Water Sustainability Act authorization, DFO Letter of Advice, Submission to Transport Canada under the Navigable Waters Act, an updated cost estimate, and grant applications for active transportation and recreation for a design-build tentative in 2028-29.

In 2018 the City also engaged with a consultant to review the feasibility of a cantilevered bridge on the Southern Railway train bridge, including a structural review. The consultant recommended a new independent pedestrian bridge be built due to the extensive work required as the current bridge does not have the proper loading capacity and would cause impacts to trail traffic. Alternatively, in 2024 the City began preliminary talks with Southern Railway regarding the cost and timeline of building an independent bridge that could work while waiting for a response on the Crown Land Tenure.

Development Cost Charges (DCC's)

Richard Fortin, Manager of Parks Planning, presented an overview on Development Cost Charges (DCC's). Development Cost Charges are fees collected and used to fund major capital improvements to the sewer, water, drainage, and road infrastructure and the acquisition of parkland/open spaces. Essentially, these fees are collected to accommodate the newly added services. The DCC's are payable upon final approval of a subdivision plan, where the building construction exceeds \$50k for a commercial, institutional, or industrial building, and multi-family residential developments. How much they are depends on the classification of the subdivision or building development (ie., single family, residential, multi-family, commercial, institutional, or industrial).

DCC's for parks require Land Acquisition DCC's and Park Development DCC's. Land Acquisition DCC's are 5% in lieu of land dedication or 5% of developable land when identified in planning documents and Parks DCC's are cost per additional front door. To use the DCC funds, staff create Park Priority Acquisition Area maps to identify where park space can be added in existing neighbourhoods with densification, filling in any deficiencies.

More in depth information regarding DCC's can also be found on the City's website, in the City's 2020 Greenspace Plan, and in the Province's Development Cost Charge Best Practice Guide.

5. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Roundtable check-in amongst CPTAC committee members ensued;

Parks Accessibility Update

Roy Park, Westview Park and Sardis Sportsfield have already been completed, and staff are still actively going through additional city parks to identify which ones have areas where accessibility is an issue. This has started to see positive feedback from the community.

Firearms Use on Vedder Mountain Update

The committee was updated that they have the support of City staff to bring forward a motion to Council to amend the firearm bylaw on Vedder Mountain. The amendment is to include any remaining crown land in the firearms prohibition within the city boundary.

Moved /) Recommendation that Council amend Firearms Regulation Bylaw 2001,
Seconded) No. 2740 to include any remaining land on Vedder Mountain in the firearms
prohibition within the city boundary.

Carried

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 8:49 am.

Councillor Bud Mercer, Chair