

**Parks and Natural Environment Advisory Committee**

**7:00pm Oct 16, 2024**

**DNV Operation Centre, 1370 Crown St**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Amy Tsang, Chair (Virtual)  
Karin Jensen, Vice-Chair  
Adele Wilson  
Glen Parker  
Mike Cliff  
Katrina Laube  
Johanna Moretto  
Charlene Seward (Virtual)  
Steffanie Warriner, DNV  
Sandra Corbeil, DNV  
Shane Devine, DNV  
Kim Malo, DNV

**Absent:** Cllr Lisa Muri

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Adele  
Seconded by Mike  
THAT the Oct 16, 2024 agenda is approved.

CARRIED

**2. Adoption of Minutes**

**2.1. Sept 25, 2024 Parks and Natural Environment Advisory Committee meeting**

Moved by Adele  
Seconded by Glen  
THAT the minutes of the Sept 25, 2024 Parks and Natural Environment Advisory Committee are adopted.

CARRIED

**3. Spirit Trail**

**3.1. Project Introduction**

District Staff provided an update on the Spirit Trail Eastern Extension, highlighting the development of the 2008 route planning report, the implementation of the Welch Strip in 2011, improvements in the Lower Lynn area, and the recent connection of Bridgeman Park and Seylynn Park through the construction of the Lynn Creek Spirit Trail bridge.

### **3.2. Project Summary**

In 2023, the completion of the Spirit Trail project was added to the capital plan following public feedback during financial deliberations. The Eastern Extension will be divided into multiple segments, each with varying complexity and timelines ranging from 2024 to 2027.

### **3.3. Discussion**

Received multiple opinions and utilized multi-criteria decision analysis. Key criteria considered were cost, tree removal, accessibility, grades, separation from vehicle traffic, and minimizing driveway crossings. An online public survey was recently completed, with initial feedback indicating a preference for improving current natural trails over using local roads.

### **3.4. Next Steps**

The next phase involves connecting the Seymour River area near Superstore to Windridge.

## **4. Parks Budget & Asset Management**

### **4.1. Introduction**

Parks staff provided presentation overview of current operational and capital budget, parks asset management, operations and maintenance, capital projects and funding and revenues.

### **4.2. Summary**

Provided by presentation edoc# 6394937.

### **4.3. Discussion**

Park fees and leases directing revenues to support park maintenance and operations, Parks does not have a defined tax funding base. Develop fiscally efficient strategies to address declining public resources. Explore sponsorship and advertising opportunities. Explore user fees, pay parking and other cost recovery options.

### **4.4. Next steps**

Continue efforts to catalogue assets that are not currently recognized in the plan but are being maintained by Parks.

Sustainable financing & funding mechanisms:

- **Park User Perks Card:** Introduce a perks card for park users with a small annual fee. Vendor participants receive free advertising and new customers, while DNV Parks benefits from the funds raised.
- **Sponsorship and Advertising:** Expand sponsorship or advertising opportunities from trails to other park assets.
- **Volunteer Support and Adopt-a-Park Program:** Increase volunteer support by creating an adopt-a-park program. This would allow individuals to become stewards for parks, such as watering street trees, which are otherwise a low priority for parks staff. Engage schools (K-Grade 7) to provide educational experiences in return. People are eager to help and seek guidance.

- **QR Codes for Donations:** Place QR codes on trails or in parks to allow users to donate to their local park.
- **Park Registry and Online Catalogue:** Develop an online catalogue where donors can sponsor specific assets or furniture. This allows donors to see where their money is going, such as contributing to the Parkland development budget for specific design elements. Donations can also support other community-desired projects within the plan.
- **Plant sales from nursery or on-site educational programs** at nursery around plants to bring revenue.
- **Tax Receipts for Donations:** Investigate whether donations to a municipal entity can provide tax receipts. Charities typically offer tax receipts, whereas municipalities may not. This information should be communicated to the public.

## **5. Roundtable**

The committee expressed a strong desire for more direct involvement in specific project design considerations and options during the design phase of Spirit Trail. They emphasized the importance of addressing environmental impacts and wildlife concerns related to new projects.

Members expressed interest in dedicating more time to brainstorming revenue ideas to suggest to Parks staff.

Committee requests future topics: fundraising for parks and invite someone from the DNV to speak about the future proposed development north of Hogans Pools, which interfaces with the green space.

## **6. Next meeting:** Nov 20, 2024 @ 1370 Crown St.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17pm.