

COWICHAN STATION AREA ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
JUNE 19, 2009

Called to order at 7:25 pm

Approval of agenda with addition of President's Report. Carried.

Approval of previous committee minutes – Guy Laflam. Carried.

President's Report by Sue Wells:

Happy birthday! Lots to brag about over the last year. Thanks to all who worked so diligently. Touched on highlights of committee reports.

Treasurer's Report by Angela Davies (copy attached)

\$529.00 left as our balance to cover addition to village sign, hall rental cost, and outstanding cheques. Guy moved to accept report. CARRIED.

Committee Reports: (summaries attached as presented on reverse of agenda)

1. School site: summary and visioning ideas presented. Sarah moved "That the draft visioning proposal be accepted, and we move forward with a business plan". Discussion: Madelaine noted that the proposal was succinctly put. Victor says thanks for the effort. Guy recognizes that the heritage notation is an important aspect vs tourism makes its use clear. CARRIED.
2. Village Centre: Thanks to all involved on sign installation. Still looking for signs on the Trans Canada Highway. Overview on meeting with BC Rail. Still looking for grants for the Station. Angela scored some paint for the trestle.
3. Parks and Environment: Hope for next session of StreamKeepers to be held at Koksilah. Anyone else qualified invited to join. The Island Corridor Foundation acknowledges CSAA. Would like to talk to CVRD regarding renew and revitalization of Bright Angel. Needs a facelift.

Old Business and other updates.

1. Still working on the website with Kwan as webmaster. To include business and crime watch information.
2. BC Aquifer. Information returned to David Wright. Zane also interested in having well tested.
3. Sarah reported that the trails mapping will be at every meeting to build on.

Elections: Chaired by Rodger Hunter.

Positions held over (Two year terms):

Sue Wells – President

Kevin Logan– Vice President

Sarah Davies-Long – Director at Large

Alison Nickelson – Director at Large

Kim Tournier – Director at Large (have had no contact for 6 months – letter to be written to determine his intention to continue)

Positions of one year terms that conclude and to elections to be held for:

Madelaine MacLeod – Secretary

Angela Davies – Treasurer

Jeannie McIntosh – Director at Large

Patty John – Director at Large

Anthea Archer – Director at Large

Gwen Siciliano – Director at Large

Gwen has asked for her name to not stand for re-election. Sarah nominates community member Rick Juliusson for position as Director at Large. All other names stand for reelection. Motions carried.

Positions filled and election concluded.

Community Voice:

Zane introduces community Pocket Market to be held every Wed. from 3 – 6 pm through the summer.

Adjournment: 8:45 pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JUNE 19, 2009

SCHOOL SITE

This committee received a few requests to use the school site and have provided contact info to CVRD. In May, CVRD Director Loren Duncan called a community meeting to get feedback on proposal for Parkside Academy to run child care facility in the annex. He was disappointed in low turnout from the community. CSAA directors felt that the community's initial discussions and ideas had been disregarded in favour of a single user. A few weeks ago, several directors met with Bob Harper (Sec-Treas.) of SD79 who subsequently indicated we would be invited to make a proposal to the Board for community use of the site. CVRD administration and director indicate they will support discussions between CSAA and SD79.

There have been visioning discussions and meetings with other groups with schools being used in and by their communities (eg: Metchosin, Queen Charlotte). There are numerous grants available to support a variety of opportunities. We will continue to pursue options and develop a business plan upon directive from the community.

VILLAGE CENTRE

Materials for new sign donated by Dogwood lumber and Gravel Hill supplies. Thanks to Jan and Ben for putting together it all together. We are currently working on a second sign, "Hub of the Universe", to be mounted below. Also got a CVRD grant for a church sign which to be put up ASAP. Working with Ministry of Highways for additional signs on the TCH (at Bench, and north and south ends of Koksilah).

Had a very positive meeting with Southern Railway regarding concerns about spraying. The Vegetation Control Plan is approved by the Ministry of Environment. Alternatives to pesticides are under study but not economically feasible at this time. We will run a pilot "adopt a railway" to keep a section weed free. If Southern Railway is happy with the job we do, the proposal is we would do all of Cowichan Station (from Hillbank to the end of Bright Angel Park) next year ourselves, which means no more spraying (they will continue to mow). Also discussed was the possibility of a trail/bicycle lane next to the train tracks, similar to those in other VI communities. They are open to the idea and are studying on how to make this work. A letter will be sent thank them for the meeting and for being so helpful.

PARKS AND ENVIRONMENT

The Stream Keepers course was held in Chemainus on June 6-7 and used Askew Creek for the training exercises. Sue Wells attended at her own expense. We now have two directors with this training. Sarah and Sue would like to hear from individuals interested in setting up a test site on the Koksilah River for monitoring throughout the year. Any smaller tributaries are as important and we would welcome the chance to observe and measure the upstream action as well. Please let us know, as the summer is the time to measure the low and baseline readings.

The Island Corridor Foundation has returned our correspondence with acknowledgment of the CSAA and support in principle for our efforts to improve the train station and area. Unfortunately, they currently have no funding, but will forward written support for any other funding suggestions that we have.