

**BOWEN ISLAND MUNICIPALITY**

Minutes of the National Park Community Advisory Committee meeting held Tuesday February 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Municipal Hall, 981 Artisan Lane, Bowen Island, B.C.

**COMMITTEE IN ATTENDANCE**

Rob Cairns, Chair  
Murray Atherton  
James Barton  
DG Blair  
Anne Chollat  
Doug Elliot  
Stephen Foster  
Sally Freeman  
Kat Kelly Hayduk  
Bruce Howlett  
Ron Kato  
Brenda McLuhan  
Maureen Nicholson  
Caroline Parker  
Paul Rickett  
Claudia Schaefer  
Eric Sherlock  
Adam Taylor  
Barbara Wahler  
Katherine Wolters  
Donald Youngson  
Sylvaine Zimmerman

**REGRETS**

Tim Bekhuys  
Susanna Braund  
John Dumbrille  
Wolfgang Duntz  
Hugh Freeman  
Jacqueline Massey  
Colleen O'Neil  
Tim Wake

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Casey Grundy, Administrative Assistant

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Nerys Poole  
Mel Turner, Parks Consultant  
Bill Henwood, Senior Planner Parks Canada  
The Public\*  
Gayle Ferguson, Minute Taker  
(\* denotes partial attendance)

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:06p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA****It was Moved and Seconded**

That the agenda for the February 1, 2011 National Park Community Advisory Committee be approved as amended. CARRIED

**NEW BUSINESS****Frequently Asked Questions  
Group Update**

Paul provided the following update:

- Current spreadsheet, subject to Committee approval, is ready to go and can put posted
- Future document release process - How amenable is the Committee to releasing new questions between meetings? General consensus that if the question could be referred it would be easy to do this, however if the questions or answer required clarification it should come back to the committee before releasing to public.
- Identifying the ten most frequently asked questions - will wait until the survey closes before identifying these to the Bowen Park Information website

Discussion followed regarding adding of new information. Paul noted that there is a separate updated column with a date and will show the edit. Any change to the baseline will be dated. Also there is a 'Read Me First' tab which explains the process of updating

The Committee agreed to:

1. releasing first draft ;
2. changing the name "*Frequently Asked Questions*" to "*Questions and Answers*"
3. Moving the info on the read me first tab to a more prominent location on the website.

***Face to Face Group Update***

Barb provided the following Face to Face Group update:

- Have 12 members who have volunteered to hold meetings;
- Sent an article to the *Undercurrent*, asking for volunteers;
- Booklets:
  1. Based on the projected numbers of sessions anticipated this means that 300 of the 500 booklets are spoken for and want to keep the remainder for these sessions;
  2. Booklets are specifically designed for the Face to Face meetings
  3. Booklet to be put on the Info Website – want to hold off until we see how they work in the group sessions
- Face to Face tables at BICS - Claudia and Rob volunteered to be in charge of the BICS tables without the actual booklets;
- Use of maps – waiting until Feb 7 for a specific map from Parks Canada. Several neighbourhoods not covered so looking for

suggestions

Discussion followed regarding the desirability of providing people with maps they could draw on to indicate an area not to be included or to add an area

Several members were in favour of having maps available to address different learning styles and the great interest people have in seeing what lands are or are not included.

Barb noted that due to time available for presentation and the fact that the process was about people's hopes and fears, the Face to Face group want to use the map of the land as presented by Parks Canada. Drawing on maps is not what we intended the process to be.

### **Survey Group Update**

Maureen provided the following Survey Group Update:

- Are at day 12 of 16 and now have 440 respondents;
- Responses continue to range from "awesome" to "awful";
- Completion date - could extend 12:15 am until noon on February 5, 2011. Can get results out later on Saturday to the Committee
- Document is presently at 82 pages;
- Lot of interest to have information tables at the General Store, Artisan Square. People are looking for concise documentation.

### **Other Outreach Efforts**

Anne reviewed the document' *Evolution of Some Natural Areas on Bowen Island Table*. Copies were provided to Committee members.

Stephen noted if there was interest by other members he would like to create an evening of images with music, a non verbal evening. He reported that 50 kids had shown up for the info session and their key question was "*what is different than what we are doing now?*"

Sally commented from her conversations with community members that there were a number of people who now feel someone will listen to them.

DG Blair noted her interest in putting together an evening event to discuss Crown lands and implications as to whether we protect them as a park or not. The evening would include speakers and green infrastructure i.e. purifying the water, as 80% of our water comes through these Crown lands. She requested members to advise her if they were interested in working with her on this project.

Bruce reported that the Governance Committee included Hugh,

John Dumbrille, and Brenda. There is an outline of issues to discuss but as of yet the Group has not met.

Carol noted that Wayne Bourque, GINPR Superintendent had agreed to come on February 16, 2011 for an informal Pub night and also said he would stay at the Pub after the meeting on February 5.

Key comments from Committee members included:

- Crown Lands – the question I hear most frequently is what is wrong with the level of protection we currently have for Crown Lands so I support the proposed session on Crown Lands;
- Suggestion to have a speaker from Saturna or Pender Island for a speaker event. Stephen agreed;
- Information Tables – Claudia and Stephen agreed to man one table as a pilot project using the Parks Canada Questions and Answer sheet, which had received positive feedback.

### **Report Writing**

Rob reported that the Parks Consultant, Mel Turner had prepared a draft structure of the report to discuss at the Committee's next meeting.

### **Discussion re Advocacy**

Committee members discussed issues related to their role:

Key comments included:

- Neutrality versus advocacy:
  1. We are not at the decision-making phase. We are investigating and trying to answer questions;
  2. It is essential we settle the issue and send a definitive message to the Public;
  3. a communiqué on our opinion is a defensive position.
  4. I do not intend to give my opinion during those meetings but a question such as, are Crown Lands adequately protected, I believe they are not. In private conversations will be explicit to say this is my personal opinion;
  5. If anything our job is to empathize with people's concerns. We are not all in agreement as to having an opinion or not
- Affiliations of members :
  1. There is a way to do both. It is how you handle different roles;
  2. Focus should be on distributing accurate information and to make sure we understand the facts, which is a good way to avoid being accused of bias;
- Vision - is seen as a form of advocacy Nothing wrong with advocating a vision which may not be a Parks Canada vision as it is a way of thinking about things and that is what we are tasked to do help people think about things. Support having a vision;
- Proactiveness versus reactiveness -we don't see a lot of proactive thinking about issues on Bowen.

1. Having 100 negative questions does not add up to a vision. Bowen needs to define what we want not as a reaction to what someone else is telling us and in this a vision is really important
2. The Sustainability Report please look at the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph is proactive in my view

Regarding affiliations of members, the Chair suggested the following:

- o When people are hostile related to affiliations of members, members could emphasize the inclusive and representative nature of the committee rather than its neutrality.
- o If subjected to disrespectful behaviour, members should feel comfortable in asking to be treated with respect, and if necessary, walking away.

### **The Public**

Members of the Public commented on the following issues:

- Public meetings - information from Parks Canada - how many public meetings with Council present are scheduled and when?  
*Councillor Poole: February 7 presentation to Council by Parks Canada and every Council night there are Public Comments.*
- Public Forum is essential that the Public has the opportunity to get up and go to the microphone and say what they think. This is a crucial part of the process. There should be a public debate for and against and go through the issues.

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

#### **It was Moved and Seconded**

That the minutes of the January 13, 2011 National Park Community Advisory Committee be adopted. CARRIED

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**By unanimous consent**, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

### **Certified Correct:**

(Original signed)  
Rob Cairns, Chair