**Denman Island Residents Association Public Meeting April 17, 2023**

Present: Ron Shepherd; chair, Chris Danks, Frieda Werden, Andrew Pringle and 26 other residents

**PART A - Public Meeting to Nominate Recreational Grant Committee**

1. Public meeting called to order at 7:30 P.M.

2. DIRA recommends Jack Forsyth chair the 2023 recreation grant committee with Jennifer Villard and Georgette Hollingsworth. The committee will review the applications and provide recommendations for DIRA to approve. It was later verified by the CVRD the amount available this year is $23,000 ($20,000 new grant plus $3,000 prior year surplus).

Applications are available at Abraxas and on the DIRA website.

A call was made, 3 times, for the nomination of other residents to participate in the Recreation Grant Committee. No additional residents were nominated.

A motion was made to approve Jack Forsyth, Jennifer Villard and Georgette Hollingsworth to administer the recreation grant.

The motion was seconded and approved. MOTION PASSED

There was a motion to adjourn this portion of the public meeting, which was seconded, and all were in favour. MOTION PASSED

Part A adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

**PART B**

1. Annual General Meeting called to order at 7:55 P.M.

2 Motion to adopt the agenda was moved, seconded and all in favour - MOTION PASSED

Executive Report:

3. Committee challenges during 2023 included:

* major repairs and fundraising by the Graham Lake Swim Dock Committee,
* increased items now accepted at the Recycling Depot, and
* funding issues with the Old School Committee, due to insurance increases.

There were 6 public meetings in 2023 and the board met most months to discuss current issues.

4. Election of DIRA Executive Board:

The current board is;

President - Ron Shepherd,

Treasurer - Andrew Pringle

Secretary - Chris Danks

Member-at-Large - Frieda Werden

3 calls were made for board nominations from the floor. Jennifer Balke was nominated and accepted the nomination.

There was a motion to accept the following board, Ron Shepherd, Andrew Pringle, Chris Danks and Jennifer Balke. The motion was seconded, there was no further discussion and everyone voted in favour. MOTION PASSED.

5. Annual DIRA Consolidated Financial Report:

All DIRA committee financial statements have been consolidated and the consolidated report was reviewed, line-by-line, for residents. The consolidated financial statement was independently reviewed and approved by a professional accountant. The committee balance sheets and income statements will be posted on the DIRA website and forwarded to the CVRD.

There was a motion to accept the consolidated financial statement for 2023 as presented. The motion was seconded, no further questions were asked and everyone voted in favour. MOTION PASSED

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

6. Graham Lake Swim Dock Committee:

At peak times during the summer over 100 people per day have been observed using the dock. Social media is contributing to the influx of people from on and off Denman.

During 2022 over $13,000 was spent on major dock repairs, a new changing platform with a bench and steps cut into the bank to prevent further erosion. More work is planned, for completion prior to swim season and a fundraiser “English Tea and Sale” is scheduled for Saturday at the Activity Centre.

7. Parks Committee:

A new bench has been installed in Maple Park, a pocket park at McFarlane and East Rd. Carved native animals and narratives have been installed in Stanehill Park, another pocket park located at Stanehill and Greenhill Roads. Pircey Park, the newest pocket park, located on Pirecy Road has two new picnic tables and a new gravel path. Denman Provincial Park does not have an official management plan but that doesn’t hinder improvements such as recent upgrades to the Pickles Trail.

The volunteer work in the parks is done in conjunction with the DIRA Trails Committee.

8. Climate Action Committee:

Ron Wilson started the “Joy of Walking” initiative several years ago. In the first year kilometers walked were accumulated with a goal of walking across the country. This goal was easily surpassed. The second year goal was to walk around the world, again successfully achieved. The third year goal was to “shoot for the moon” and then COVID started and the walking initiative stopped.

Ron Wilson is updating the “Joy of Walking” web article which is available on the CVRD and DCA websites. A link will also be made available on the DIRA website.

The monthly walking group will start again on May 7th at the Railway Connector Trail. In addition, “Shoot for the Moon” will start again with the goal of accumulating 340,000 km.

9. Trails Committee:

On the west side of Boyle Point Park the dangerous part of the trail next to the cliff will no longer be maintained and a new trail, slightly inland, has been established.

Also in Boyle Point Park, near Betty's Beach, 5 volunteers were able to remove 2 huge fallen branches. Steps have been installed to improve access to Betty's Beach.

A new loop trail was created in the Denman Island Provincial Park which connects several other trails.

10 volunteers enjoyed the last trail clearing experience.

The Cross Island Trail is maintained monthly.

The next extension from Owl Cres. to Gravelly Bay has been approved and work will start soon.

Some concern was discussed regarding the stop and start portions of the trail or the hardest parts with no trail, such as the big hill.

10. Waste Management Committee:

Veronica Sanchez is the new manager at the Recycling Depot and she has 2 new staff. There is also a new bookkeeper.

There is also a new scrap metal provider and larger container which allows the depot to accept large appliances (except refrigerators due to the ozone requirements). Allowable metal recycling items must contain at least 50% metal. Propane tanks (less than 100 litres) are now accepted. There is also an increased ability to accept more batteries such as solar and marine batteries.Any automotive oil can now be dropped off at the depot but it is important not to mix with other chemicals.

The CVRD paid for the removal of 1,100 tires from Denman, which is about one quarter of the number of tires ready to go. It’s important to remove tires from the environment so they don’t leach into the groundwater.

A cigarette recycling program has started. There is a container in the depot for buts and 6 canisters have been installed around the island. Last year there was a grass fire as a result of a cigarette but. The goals for this program are to stop litter, help wildlife and stop wildfires. Pocket ashtrays will be available at the depot in the summer.

Recycling BC has recently changed requirements to accept more items at the depot such as plastic cutlery, saran wrap, squishy foam and more.

The recycling depot is running out of space which limits future initiatives. The roof leaks and the CVRD has indicated they may be able to expand or build a new depot.

**LIAISON REPORTS:**

11. BC Ferries:

New members on the Ferry Advisory Committee are: Chris Danks, Sam Borthwick, Jack Forsyth, Kevin Hutton and Laura Mercicate. The chair is Karen Ross from Hornby. There has been 1 meeting so far, to get to know each other.

The expansion of the Gravelly Bay terminal is on hold and the first resident/BC Ferries meeting to discuss ideas will be on May 26th. Residents were encouraged to attend and provide feedback or concerns.

This summer, the Quinitsa will be used on the Hornby run and the Kaloke will help out, as required, with the Baynes Sound Connector.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05, seconded and passed.