**Denman Island Residents Association Public Meeting April 8, 2024**

Present: Ron Shepherd; chair, Frieda Werden, Andrew Pringle and 23 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 Georgette Hollingsworth chair the 2024 recreation grant committee with Jennifer Villard and Juan Jansen. The committee will review the applications and provide recommendations for CVRD approval. The amount available this year is $21,000. Final recreation grant allocations will be reported at the DIRA meeting on June 10th.

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 Georgette Hollingsworth, Jennifer Villard and Juan Jansen 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 voted in favour. MOTION PASSED

Part A adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

**PART B**

1. Annual General Meeting called to order at 7:45 P.M.

2. One item was added to the published agenda, to approve minutes from the last general meeting on Feb 12, 2024.

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

4. Motion to adopt the minutes from the DIRA general meeting on Feb 12, 2024 was moved, seconded and all voted in favour - MOTION PASSED

Executive Report:

5. The chair thanked 2023 board members and committees for all the volunteer hours provided.

DIRA is looking for a bookkeeper and the waste management/bottle depot bookkeeper plans to retire at the end of this year however our advertising has failed to provide any applicants.

Committee funding challenges included:

* lack of stable funding for the Dock Committee, the dock relies on fees (not government funding) to make expensive repairs,
* the Old School Committee has no government funding and has raised rent to pay for increased insurance costs and building repairs,
* after a lot of fundraising the Graham Lake Swim Dock Committee completed the new dock in 2023 however more money needed to be raised.

A resident suggested placing a donation box at the Graham Lake Swim Dock, which the chair will pass along to the committee.

A resident suggested the Recreation Grant should be increased, which the chair will discuss with the CVRD.

6. Election of DIRA Executive Board:

The current board is;

President - Ron Shepherd,

Vice-President - Jennifer Balke

Treasurer - Andrew Pringle

Secretary - Chris Danks

Member-at-Large - Frieda Werden

Frieda Werden is retiring from the board.

Chris Danks involvement will be limited in 2024.

3 calls were made for board members from the floor.

Claudia Kroll-Grey and Stirling Fraser volunteered to serve a term on the board.

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

7. 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**

8. DIRA Parks Committee:

The Parks Committee worked with the Hornby Island Economic Enhancement Group to create a trails map for Denman for this year's brochure. The map was not intended to be perfect but it shows all the major trails in Boyle point, the adjoining Islands Trust area of Morrison Marsh, the Denman Provincial Park, protected areas, the current sections of the Cross Island Trail and CVRD parks. A QR code was developed to link to more information such as The Joy of Walking.

The Parks Committee will be responding to complaints from property owners at the south end of Lacon (past McFarlane) regarding walkers using private property to access the beach or the road. In the past, the Parks Committee has obtained a License of Occupation from the MOTI to allow undeveloped road easements to be used as parks where a walking trail can be developed to access the beach. This process was used to create Morning Beach Park and Piercy Park. The CVRD applies for the permit and then holds the license for use of the right-of-way.

Work on the Cross Island Trail was halted due to archeological finds (a midden) however work will recommence on those sections not impacted by the finds.

Three proposals have gone to the CVRD for a trail on Graffiti Hill; however, all have been rejected due to the steep grade and tight corners at the top and bottom.

9. DIRA Wildlife Advisory Committee:

The Wildlife Advisory Committee published an article in the Flagstone regarding the danger of fishnet fencing. Repurposed fishnets are cheap and easy to install but can cause suffering to ensnared animals such as deer and eagles. If the animal can’t be released safely, it will be shot. This can only be done by a Conservation Officer or an authorized member of the Wildlife Advisory Committee.

If fishnets are used for fencing the Conservation Officer recommends tying long lengths of surveyors ribbon onto the net every metre. That’s not pretty but it may save a life. Other outdoor items such as hammocks and sports nets are equally hazardous.

10. DIRA Pesticide Free Committee:

The Pesticide Free Committee needs new members. The annual broom pull may be expanded to include daphne this year. The CVRD provides funding for broom removal. In addition, 10 volunteers are lined up for scheduled 2 hour broom pulls or cuts in identified areas. April 17th will be the first broom pull and 3 or 4 more work bees will be scheduled. A sign-up sheet was circulated.

The Pesticide Free Committee is also working with Denman Conservancy to provide a workshop and staff a stall at the market to reach more people.

11. DIRA Climate Action Committee:

The Climate Action Committee does 3 things:

1. Share Information: involved in a provincial program of over 200 organizations and provide information to residents, identify climate heros, participate in parade and staff a table at the market
2. Project Based Actions: organize various Writing Cafes, next one will be May 4th, organize Repair Cafes, next one will be April 21st at the depot focusing on garden tools repair, sharpening and diagnosis
3. Advocacy: organize letter writing to politicians and the CVRD

12. DIRA Community Dock and Denman West Boat Launch Committee:

The community dock and boat launch committees amalgamated in 2023.

New members are needed for this committee.

An annual decal is now available for the boat launch or users can pay per use. New signs were posted and soon after they were vandalized. These will be replaced.

The south end of the dock requires floatation repair.

A 4 page document was provided to residents detailing dock history from 1980 to the present which will be posted on the DIRA website.

The committee is currently investigating the possibility of the CVRD taking over the tenure site, as it is currently unable to generate enough revenue to repair or manage the site. The surplus funds originally set aside in 2011 have almost been depleted and there is no source of annual funding at this time, other than moorage and boat launch fees or yearly grants.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25, seconded and passed.