

Denman Island Residents Association
Public Meeting February 12, 2024

Present: Ron Shepherd (chair), Andrew Pringle, Jenny Balke, Frieda Werden, plus 31 residents

1. The public meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

2. There was a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of the response from MOTI regarding a direct Hornby sailing - moved, seconded and all in favour - MOTION PASSED.

3. There was a motion to approve the minutes from the last public meetings on November 13'th - moved, seconded and all in favour - MOTION PASSED.

4. **DIRA Executive Report**

Update Regarding 2024 Meeting Schedule:

The schedule for 2024 will consist of 6 public meetings as follows:

February 12, April 8, June 10, September 9, October 21 and November 18.

Update Regarding Min of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to DIRAs request for a direct sailing to Hornby Island:

MOTI will not implement a direct sailing to Hornby due to resulting decreased service to Hornby and longer sail times to Hornby. In addition, BC Ferries is experiencing challenges finding staff and BC Ferries does not have the required investment currently in their capital plan.

The MOTI reply has been posted on the DIRA website.

5. **Merger of Community Dock and Denman West Boat Launch Committees:**

The new chair for the Community Dock is John Johnston.

Members from the Community Dock and Denman West Boat Launch agreed to amalgamate the two committees.

The dock and boat launch have 3 purposes: emergency, economic and recreation.

The boat launch has new pricing, \$25 for the season or \$5 per launch (which included kayaks and canoes).

The dock requires ongoing repairs and maintenance. The following are recent initiatives, a new breakwater was installed costing about \$25,000, a site safety inspection was recently done by a knowledgeable resident, steel pilings were installed, repairs were made to the camera and electrical box, fresh gravel and concrete blocks were added to the parking area and new signage has been installed.

As of Jan 24 some of the new signs have already been vandalized.

A resident referred to minutes from Oct 18, 2021 which discussed DIRA's lease tenure for the dock and asked who owns the dock?

The chair stated that the dock is owned by DIRA.

There was a question regarding whether or not it's ok to sunbathe on the dock or jump into the water from the dock. The chair said there's no problem with either activity.

A resident asked for terms of reference for the dock committee, which the chair will look into.

A resident asked, how does DIRA ensure committees are functioning ok and how does DIRA address community concerns?

Community concerns can be discussed at public meetings and the DIRA chair will discuss issues with committees as necessary.

With the camera operating, a resident asked what is the expectation of privacy at the dock?

The issue of privacy was raised in 2016 when the camera was installed and the issue was referred to the Privacy Commissioner in Victoria, who determined that the camera at the dock is ok. There have been numerous cases in law challenging cameras and where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy, such as at the dock, cameras are ok.

The purpose of the camera is to help the wharfinger to keep track of boats, protect users and deter vandalism. DIRA relies on those using cameras to do so appropriately.

A suggestion was made to install a container for dog poop at the dock but DIRA doesn't have the resources for garbage collection.

No overnight parking is allowed at the dock in order to keep the access clear for emergency evacuation.

Some users feel there is a lot of hostility towards people gathering on the dock property and insufficient reasons are given for actions.

6. Need for New Board Members:

One board member will be resigning and the chair asked residents if anyone was interested in being on the DIRA board.

Claudia Kroll-Gray stepped forward and will stand for board election at the AGM in April.

7. Parks Committee Initiative - Purple Martin Preservation Project:

In 2012, six Purple Martin houses were installed at the dock and every house was occupied in the first year. The initiative was so successful more houses were installed. This was all done by Peter Karsten but in order to ensure the long term success of this project it will now fall under the DIRA Parks Committee. 18 volunteers will be connected with this project, organized into 2 groups: administration and construction.

Administration responsibilities include achieving project's objectives, communicating with organizations on Denman and beyond, establishing and monitoring budgets, pursuing financial support, recruiting volunteers and liaising with relevant DIRA committees.

Construction responsibilities include repair and maintenance of the nest box infrastructure as required.

Project roles include:

construct, mount and maintain suitable nest boxes, inspect boxes annually, maintain a viable team, coordinate work and activities with the Dock Committee, appoint a liason to the dock committee, liaise with other conservation organizations, generate secure funding for construction and maintenance of the nesting boxes, operate under the Parks Committee to allow insurance coverage for volunteers, hold a minimum of one team meeting per year with minutes, reports and performance review.

The project mandate is to sustain a viable breeding colony of Western Purple Martins on Denman Island for its preservation into the future.

There was a motion to approve the Purple Martin Preservation Project under the DIRA Parks Committee.

There was no opposition and everyone voted in favour.

MOTION PASSED.

Motion to adjourn meeting, all in favour.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.