

## **November 9, 2009 DIRA Regular General Meeting Denman Island Community Hall**

**Attendance: 31**

**Executive Present:** Andrew Scruton, Liz Johnston, Moira Webster, Doug Wright, Derek Hood, Max Campill-Wedges; Perri Gorrara, Patti Willis

**Executive Regrets:**

**Call to Order: 7:30 p.m.**

**Motion to Approval Agenda** of November 9, 2009: with additions under New Business: Health Networking Announcement and John Johnston added Dock Funding. M/S/Carried

**Approval of Minutes:** October 19, 2009 Regular General Meeting Read by Perri Gorrara

**Motion:** M/S/carried

**Approval of Minutes:** September 14, 2009 & October 19, 2009 Special Election Meeting Read by Andrew Scruton

**Motion:** M/S/*carried*

**Executive Report:** Liz Johnston welcomed Perri Gorrara and Doug Wright to the Executive Board and announced the Executive Board election results: Liz Johnston – Chair; Andrew Scruton – Vice-Chair; Moira Webster – Secretary; and Derek Hood – Treasurer. She thanked all Executive Board Members for all their hard work over the past few months. It was also announced that the Executive would present a Monthly Executive Report in order to provide the membership with information as to what discussions take place during Executive Meetings.

### **DIRA Budget Report (Treasurer)**

Mid-year budget to bring you up to date details are available. As of 2nd November of Chequing account balance \$9,438. The following is set aside for committees as follows: Community Dock - \$1,900; Website \$1,000; DICEEC \$2,946; Trails \$1,500; Bugs R Us \$350; for a total of \$7,775. Available budget \$1,663. On balance pretty close to last year. In addition term deposits totalling \$2,260 and shares at \$2,898 for a total worth of \$6,823. Recurring expenses as follows: Grapevine \$338; Flagstone \$100; hall rentals \$180; Abraxas \$21; for a total of \$639. Broom pullers have brought in \$140 for funds from the rental of broom pullers. (The Denman Island Hardware store generously returns \$4 for each \$5 rental of a broom puller)

Derek clarified for Dock Committee and Membership that the \$1,900 is excluding the \$500 holdback for Telus and that the balance is actually \$2,400 .

## **Follow-up of Special Meeting October 26, 2009** (Liz Johnston)

Summary by Tony Law ( Liz noted the summary is on the board, was in the Grapevine

Communication Workshop – organizing a workshop (communication) Ron Setter – looking at some dates in early Spring. Also looking at writing a mission statement and other recommendations outlined in Tony Law’s summary

### **Proposed creation of a “tax working group”- Doug Wright –**

§ New executive is trying very hard to address some of the concerns – interest in moving forward in getting proposed budgets to membership. Meeting planned with Regional District in December to discuss fiduciary responsibilities for tax funded committees. What does the membership want to know – we could have a tax committee if the membership wishes. Goal to meet with Regional District and get real clarity where our responsibility begins and ends with each committee. We would like to have an accounting of how much tax dollars is collected and how much comes back to us. There may be other questions we can take to that meeting. This will be a precursor to developing a committee policy for DIRA. The Membership was asked if there is an interest to create a tax working group to bring recommendations (information gathering). Suggest it’s a finance committee looking at the monies DIRA has responsibility for in one way or another. A committee should also consider off-island tax payers and some effort should be made to include them perhaps by proxy voting. Should discuss with Regional District about this issue as well. It was decided that following the meeting of the Executive with the Regional District it will be brought back to the membership at a future meeting.

**Website Launch:** website address is [www.denmanresidents.com](http://www.denmanresidents.com) Contact Executive e-mail address is [dira@denmanresidence.com](mailto:dira@denmanresidence.com) Thanks for all the excellent photos (so many photos submitted that we added a photo page to the site) that everyone sent in. You can go to the site later this week. It is a “work in progress” but is officially launched.

### **Incoming Correspondence:**

1. Letter and Document from First Insurance Services to be provided to ILMB Re: Proof of Liability Re: Lot 257 until October 27, 2009
2. First Insurance Services Re: Concerns Policy Renewal October 21, 2009
3. Letter from First Insurance confirming Renewal of Insurance Policy to October 27, 2010, with invoice and updated document for ILMB from Representative Diane Larson, October 27, 2009.
4. Tenure lease for Lot 257 from ILMB with receipt of \$2,000. October 31, 2009
5. Letter from DIRA member Edi Johnston Re: Concerns regarding Ambulance Lease. November 5, 2009
6. Letter from Tony Law re: RCMP Crime Stats/Denman. October 6, 2009

## **Outgoing Correspondence:**

1. Letter to B. Rees CVRD from Parks Committee Re: Adopt-a-Park. October 24, 2009
2. Acceptance of Tenure Offer and required documents with security cheque of \$2,000. Re: Lot 257 ILMB contact Ms. B. Biss. October 23, 2009
3. Updated proof of liability insurance to ILMB. B. Biss. October 27, 2009
4. Follow-up re: Recreation Grants to CVRD. October 30, 2009
5. Response to Edi Johnston November 6, 2009
6. To CVRD informing of changes to DIRA Executive Board and request for meeting to discuss fiduciary responsibilities of DIRA. November 4, 2009

## **Business Arising from Minutes of October 19, 2009:**

Motion by Harlene Holm

I move that the Denman Island Residents Association create an ample block of time which is entirely separate from the business of DIRA

1. For the year-end financial reports (usually in April) of tax supported groups such as Denman Is. Volunteer Fire Department, Waste Management, Bill Mee Park and the Denman Works Committee and
2. For the September presentation and ratification of the budgets for the upcoming year; and that these blocks of time be scheduled prior to a regular DIRA meeting or at a separate time.

*Whereas* DIRA hopes both year- end financial reports and the presentation of the coming years' budgets of tax based committees and the Denman Island Volunteer Fire Department which presently count for roughly half a million dollars collected from property taxes and managed by the CVRD and where the opportunity to hear, discuss and accept or ratify these budgets is open to all residents of Denman Island regardless of membership in DIRA and

*Whereas* all members of Denman Island should have an opportunity to solely attend budget meetings, and that the budgets should have a distinct forum in order to receive the necessary attention warranted by the cost of the services and the work represented by Islanders whose efforts make these services possible.

M/S

**Discussion:** There was ample discussion with thoughtful remarks both in favour of the motion and others who saw little difference in the way things are being done currently. One member suggested that in fairness to all tax payers that off island tax payers should then be notified of the meeting and perhaps amend the Constitution to allow for proxy voting. An amendment to the motion would include tax payers as well as residents. Concern that there would be accountability issues if this meeting were not a DIRA meeting but sponsored by DIRA. Other suggestions included using the website as a tool to allow the membership to view the budgets prior to the budget meeting and the idea of a tax working group was raised with a function of

reporting to the community – not just DIRA. Sharon Clarke asked for an amendment to the motion to read all tax payers not just residents.

**Motion:** John Johnston moved to table the motion until the Executive has the meeting with the Regional District and reports back with information. *M/S/carried*

### **Committee Reports:**

1. Denman Island Volunteer Fire Department (DIVFD) (John Ralston) report attached
  - a. John Ralston read his report which included the following: No major incidents throughout a very dry summer but asks everyone to continue to keep an eye on any recent burn piles. Chimney fires are the current main concern – fortunately none to date. Reminders to all residents to have routine chimney cleaning, use well seasoned firewood and not burn household garbage. Please call the fire department if you experience a chimney fire as the heat sensing cameras can detect any potential problems. Ambulance station status – the temporary arrangement to house the ambulance and crew continues. Fire Chief Luckett continues to have dialogue with the Province’s various agencies and that communication is still active. The DIVFD has agreed to extend the lease on the current ambulance facilities, if that becomes necessary. The \$25,000 for servicing the land is still available (in the 2010 budget) until the end of February. It was suggested that DIRA could send a letter of support to the Minister of Health and the DIVFD regarded that as a positive step but cautioned against a letter writing campaign.
2. Denman Island Community Economic Enhancement Committee (DICEEC) Karl Goodwin
  - a. Event coordinator Mary Hicks has been hired.
  - b. Update on the Upcoming workshops scheduled on the Island (Arts, Culture and Recreation, November 10th, 2 on the 16th Agriculture, and, Small Business, and one on the 17th Low impact tourism)
  - c. Focus group come together to discuss where they’d like to go in terms of their interests.
  - d. Handouts regarding the various focus groups
3. Bill Mee Park (Glen Snook)
  - a. Breakwater - deadline is December 22, 2009 and the Committee reported that a contractor has been secured and construction will begin shortly.
4. Waste Management Committee: Bob French
  - a. No report
5. Bugs R Us Committee: Harlene Holm – no report
6. Dock Committee: John Johnston
  - a. Insurance is shared with Old School Committee, Bill Mee Park, and Waste Management. Share on equal basis for liability portion of insurance (3 years)
  - b. The DC met on November 4th and made a motion: to have 3 signs created to secure the site from an insurance perspective and to fulfill one portion of DIRA’s obligation to protect the Telus cable where it crosses over water lot 257 constructed for that site. A sub-committee was formed to continue researching

additional funding sources for the project and preliminary talks took place in regards to beginning construction of phase I next June. Sizing of signs is quite small 13"x16" metal signs one on the N boundary and one on the S boundary and one in red – Telus – rest in sensitive green 40/30 inches access at your risk DIRA. Created today and will be on site as soon as possible.

- c. June date for phase one – retaining wall and infill
  - d. Initiating talks for construction in June
  - e. Expect an update in the paper in about 2 weeks from now
  - f. A member asked about the traditional use of that site by the people who camp there – and whether thought had been given regarding a possible conflict with those that camp there. First step is to put signage up that it is a tenure site as opposed to most of the beach tenures. Another question arose with regard to the recent difficulty with the insurance policy and whether that difficulty arose as a result of the Dock being added to the policy. It was explained that the problem had actually been due to the Waste Management recycling portion and that this is a situation with insurance throughout Canada with regard to Waste Management.
7. Old School Committee: no report
8. Parks Committee: Peter Karsten
- a. A letter of interest was submitted to the Regional District to get the Stanehill Park underway. It will be discussed to go into budget lineup.
  - b. No funding requested by us for capital work but staff time has to be allocated as well as an insurance component for liability.
  - c. CVRD requested information regarding beach access at Gladstone and Rundle way was clearly to get an awareness of what beach accesses are at the north end of the Island in preparation of their assessment of the “Point” park.
  - d. Courtenay Campbell on behalf of the Island Trustees asked the Parks Committee to comment on the “Point” rezoning application and the Parks Committee will clarify this request with Denman Trustees.
9. Trails Committee: no report
10. Wild Life Advisory Committee: Peter Karsten
- a. Mike Nestor is the Chair
  - b. Reported on activities of injured deer
  - c. Reported that they are searching for a female black lab “boots” in Komas Ranch area. Should you see a 14 yr old lab black with silver specks, white tip on tail and crest on front - the dog has deficient hearing. Call Chris Danks if you see this animal.
  - d. Trespassing complaint on the property on Lacon Road
  - e. Attempting to get signage done of otters and beavers crossing the road at Morrison Marsh and also Central Park. Need proof of dead otter or dead beaver before signs will be erected.
  - f. Cougar – Dennis Forsyth – we should assume 365 days a year that there is a cougar on the island. Reports that are not confirmed but are compelling from reliable sources. It is shy and avoids people and so far not a problem.

## Liaison Reports:

1. Island Trustee Report: (David Graham)
  - a. Notice: November 16 there will be an Open house at 7:00 on Greenhouse Gas. At 7:30 – 9:30 will break into small groups for discussion of proposed regulations and policies for the official community plan. May of 2010 will have in place to ensure we meet Provincial Government mandate.
  - b. November 17th – meeting of regular Trust committee at the Old School
  - c. November 23rd – at the Old School 3:00 open house sensitive eco system mapping and terrestrial system mapping. Hosted by Trust Fund Board mapping specialists
  - d. Islands Trust looking for volunteers for farm plan steering committee and the direction of this plan will be steered by this group. (Agricultural group)
  - e. It was noted that DICEEC is having a focus group on agriculture and wondered about duplication and could be opportunity to work together. (\$15,000 in Island Trust budget)
2. Ferry Advisory Report: (Dennis Forsyth)
  - a. Attended Fall Ferry Advisory Committee Mtg. On Hornby
  - b. BC Ferries has created a new operations and security centre (a state of the art command centre) at Fleet House in Victoria that is designed to deal with emergencies and situational issues. It's a 24 hours a day 7 days a week operation.
  - c. Ridership information for up to Sept. Of this year and rider ship has gone up from June to Sept. Considerably down though over 2007.
  - d. BC Ferries is opening a new travel centre in Vancouver at Pacific Rim Centre
  - e. Work currently going on at Buckley Bay and Denman West is routine maintenance. Buying 3 or 4 more years by continuing to maintain docks
  - f. Fare rationalization is still on-going – some things will affect us. New bicycle fare \$2 fee on all minor route ferries. However, if you are a holder of experience card you get a \$2 refund. Residents get to take your bikes for free but visitors don't.
  - g. Overheight rates will disappear on minor routes completely
  - h. Experience card buy-in rates will be going up; currently \$40 and \$75 going up to \$45 and \$85 in April ; Three possibilities: keep as is, get rid of altogether or grandfather in at that rate (you may wish to purchase one if you want to use that rate in future)
  - i. Likely will get rid of Circle pack and sail pass
  - j. BCF commissioned a study of demographics on the Island comparing DI to HI
  - k. Most of our properties are owned by residents – exact reverse on Hornby
  - l. Trips per residence on both Islands are declining except for working age residents.
  - m. Cable ferry open house much the same as the first meeting designed to accommodate working people. Question put to BCF regarding accompanying a child off the Island (or a disabled person) would BCF waive the fair to return. Answer is no.
  - n. Last sailing off the Island is cancelled Nov 10th and first sailing on Wednesday Nov. 11th .

3. Vancouver Island Regional Library Report: (Bill Engleson) no report

**New Business:**

Land Title Alert regarding Mineral Rights (Carol and David Freeman) – David Freeman reported that Islander's should check their land titles to ensure that the mineral rights have not been purchased. Check with Surveyor General.

Announcement: Executive attends Health Network Meetings by Denman Hornby Health Society. H1N1 vaccinations will be on Denman November 12th .

**Adjourned: 9:42**