

DIRA Minutes November 9, General Meeting

Present : Frank Frketich, Denise MacKean, Doug Wright, Laurie Montemurro, Ron Shepherd

Attendance 12

Meeting. Called to order at 7:35 pm.

1. Motion to adopt agenda, Approved.
2. Motion to approve minutes of October General meeting, Accepted.
3. Doug deMarzo of Parks, CRVD presented information regarding the splitting of Hornby/Denman Parks into two separate services. The benefit is each Island has their own funds to draw upon. The drawback is there will be less of a tax base to access.

In order to create the new bylaw the CRVD needs electoral approval or alternate approval. So 10% of the 786 voter base would need to write in disagreeing with the split for it to not go ahead. The process will proceed if there are no disagreements by the deadline of Dec. 11th. This has been advertised in the Record and Echo and will be advertised in the Grapevine. A new bylaw will be adopted for Denman and the existing bylaw for Hornby will be amended.

The question of people being able to camp in the existing parks was brought forward. Doug's response was that the Regional Parks Bylaw states parks are closed to the public 11pm – 7 am.

4. Executive Report

a) Boat Ramp update : The Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations is prepared to give a 30 year lease on the Community Dock as well as a temporary tenure on the boat ramp providing it is surveyed. After the ramp is built both facilities can have a 30 year lease. An application would have to be completed for the boat ramp for this to occur. We are now waiting for the official letter from the Ministry to give to BC Ferries so that construction can begin. The DIRA Executive would like to see the ramp managed by the dock committee. The committee is considering this.

b) Waste Management Update : the Executive hopes to have heard from the 5 major participants by the beginning of January. They will start designing a course of action at that time.

5. Old Business

a) Old Swim Dock at Graham Lake : Frank, Margie and Ralph will canoe out to take a look to ascertain it's condition.

b) The Chair of the Graham Lake Dock committee is tendering his resignation at the end of March. Looking for a replacement.

6. No New Business to report.

7. Committee Reports ;

- a. Trails : Trail clearing in the Provincial Park in the Northlands Tues. Morning.
- b. Parks : Sign vandalism is high on Denman. Laura Pope will write a letter addressing this issue to the Grapevine.

8. Other Reports

Islands Trust : Laura Bushiken reported. The next meeting is December 1st. The Public meeting will re-visit the proposed Visitor Bylaw amendment allowing B&B's to have basic cooking facilities for guests.

Also, the committee has almost confirmed a meeting with the K'omoks First Nation to receive an update on the K'omoks treaty.

The Regulation of legal marijuana growing on Denman is also being considered. Currently growing medical marijuana with a licence is legal anywhere but needs to be addressed as a light industry – zoning issues, concern over water, smells, run off need to be looked at.

The Local Trust met with the Regional District (annual meeting.)

Regional District is putting money towards housing initiatives for the homeless which Denman might be able to access.

The Ferry Advisory Committee : Laura Bushiken has volunteered to be the summary recorder at meetings.

a) 2 lanes of traffic will be set aside on the 8 am ferry specifically for those coming from Hornby. This will start when the cable ferry is in service.

b) Regarding the delays at the cable ferry, it is normal for new vessels to do sea trials then go back for adjustments before being put into service. Since the cable ferry is on a cable this cannot be done, all adjustments must be done on site.

c) We are still hopeful of making schedule changes, especially to the middle of the day gap. We would also like to extend the peak season to take in the May long weekend and Thanksgiving. BC Ferries expressed the need to make a business case for changes as well as talking to the government.

Motion to Adjourn. Approved.