

Denman Island Residents Association Public Meeting March 11, 2019

Present: Ron Shepherd; chair, Doug Wright, Robert French, Andrew Pringle, and 12 members

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

2. Additions to the agenda - 1. request from DIRA Internet Committee to apply for grants, and 2. request from a resident for a moment of silence for the lives lost in the tragic plane crash in Ethiopia.

Motion to approve the revised agenda, moved, seconded and all in favour - PASSED

3. At the request of a resident, a moment of silence was observed for the loss of life (including one young man from Courtenay) in the plane crash in Ethiopia.

4. Motion to approve minutes from February 18, 2019- moved, seconded and all in favour - PASSED

5. **Recreation Grant Committee:**

The Recreation Grant Committee is independent from DIRA and meets annually to distribute approximately \$20,000 CVRD grant money for recreation purposes on Denman. Jack Forsyth has agreed to chair the Recreation Grants for 2019 and Charlie Tait and Dr. Ron Wilson have been nominated by the board to assist.

The chair called for nominees from the floor and there were none.

The chair made a second call for nominees from the floor with no response.

The chair then made a third call for nominees from the floor with no response.

6. **Roads:**

Edi Johnston, the chair of the Denman Isl. Roads Community Action Group (DIRCAG) has organized a stakeholder meeting for March 27'th with MOTI Area Manager Tallina McRae and a spokesperson from Mainroad to ask questions or voice your concerns about Denman Isl. roads. This group is independent from DIRA but has invited DIRA representatives to attend and participate.

One resident, complimented the 2 man Denman road crew for the hard work and long hours they worked during the recent series of snow storms.

A suggestion was made to break the issues down into winter and non-winter conditions. For example, in summer some of the concerns are: dust control, potholes and clearing at the side of the roads. In winter, some of the concerns are potholes and snow removal.

One resident asked what is Mainroads winter deployment plan? Denman shares one grader with Hornby which is not always sufficient and maybe some of the Vancouver

Island contractors can provide back-up assistance earlier.

Concern from the Denman/Hornby Health Care Network was expressed due to the difficulty getting access to elderly residents.

A resident suggested that Mainroad should be asked about their 5 year plan for spring and summer rehabilitation verses maintenance issues.

The Mainroad contract specifications can be reviewed on their website in Schedule 21.

7. **2019 DIRA Board Nominees:**

New board nominees are required because Doug will be finishing his term as treasurer this year and Ron Shepherd and Bob French are going into their second year (of a 2 year term). Andrew Pringle has agreed to be nominated for another term.

Ron called for nominees from the floor but there were no volunteers. Another call for nominees will be made at the AGM in April.

8. **DIRA Community Dock Committee:**

A representative explained that the Community Dock Committee has a preliminary plan for enhancing and protecting the existing dock with a concrete breakwater on the outside (for wave attenuation) with inside fingers which will be good for additional moorage. The Dock Committee would like to hire McElhanney Engineering to advise on the appropriate size for the breakwater, the effect of how current wave conditions are contributing to the deterioration of the dock and other technical information related to moving forward.

There was a motion to approve the DIRA Dock Committee applying to Denman Works for a \$2,000 grant to hire McElhanney Engineering for initial engineering services relating to the dock and concrete breakwater.

The motion was moved, seconded and everyone voted in favour.

MOTION PASSED

9. **DIRA Internet Committee:**

The DIRA Internet Committee has been working with Hornby Island Internet Committee to examine options for improved internet access. They have identified 3 potential options including advantages and disadvantages to each. Those options are: enhanced satellite coverage, wireless towers, and connect to the Telus fiber optic cable being installed for northern and remote Vancouver Island communities. Now the committee requires funding to go further and has identified 2 sources of grant money which they would like to apply for. There was some discussion and it was felt that applying for these grants would not impact any other groups on Denman.

There was a motion to approve in principle (subject to DIRA board approval) the DIRA Internet Committee proceeding with applications for a \$10,000 grant from Northern Development Initiative Trust and a \$15,000 grant from Island Coastal Economic Trust to

analyse and advise on the best option.

The motion was moved, seconded and all voted in favour - PASSED

10. **DIRA Committee Reports:**

Wildlife Advisory Committee:

In an effort to help reduce deer killed or injured on the roads, this committee has designed a new sign (showing 2 deer and a car) which they would like to produce. They are anticipating 8 to 10 signs put up in various locations on a temporary basis as required.

There have been 2 recent reports of a cougar on the island. The first report could not be verified. The second sighting was last night and a picture (slightly blurry) was taken in addition paw prints leading to the conclusion that there most likely is a cougar on the island. The committee will place a notification in the Grapevine and post on Facebook.

Everyone was reminded to take precautions outdoors. Make noise and keep dogs and children close.

Marine Guardians:

BCIT ecological students will be spending the afternoon of March 29th with Marine Guardians listening to presentations and visiting the beach.

11. **Liaison Reports:**

BC Ferry Advisory:

There was no ferry advisory report however, one resident spoke about improvements to some of the minor routes which our Ferry Advisor was not aware of until after BC Ferries announced these schedule improvements. The concern was regarding the apparent lack of communication.

This will likely be discussed further in a future public meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.