

Denman Island Residents Association Public Meeting April 14, 2025

Present: Ron Shepherd; chair, Jenny Balke, Stirling Fraser, Chris Danks, Andrew Pringle plus 32 other residents

PART A - Public Meeting to Nominate Recreational Grant Committee

1. Public meeting called to order at 7:35 P.M.
2. The grant amount available in 2025 is \$23, 682 (\$21,000 current CVRD funding plus \$2,682 final prior year surplus). Final recreation grant allocations will be announced at the DIRA public meeting on June 9'th.

DIRA recommends Georgette Hollingsworth chair the 2025 recreation grant committee with Jennifer Villard and James Bartram. The committee will review the applications and provide recommendations for CVRD approval.

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. Sharon Clarke was nominated from the floor.

A motion was made to approve Georgette Hollingsworth, Jennifer Villard, James Bartram and Sharon Clarke to administer the 2025 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. Motion to adopt the agenda was moved, seconded and all in favour - MOTION PASSED
3. Motion to adopt the minutes from the DIRA general meeting on March 10, 2025 was moved, seconded and all voted in favour - MOTION PASSED

Executive Report:

4. DIRA is a registered non-profit umbrella organization to support and help committees as required. The volunteers on each committee provide the real work supporting community initiatives and each committee is self sufficient. For example, the Bill Mee Swim Dock Committee raised money, built a new dock and moved it with very little DIRA involvement.

The Bill Mee committee is currently working with the CVRD regarding a new price for using the boat launch. The CVRD funds the boat launch and wants to charge \$75 per year. The CVRD is renovating the boat launch on Hornby Island and is looking at similar pricing for the use of each facility. The Bill Mee Committee feels this is too high and is working on a lower annual fee.

A new garbage pickup contract was signed with Strathcona Waste Management for their second 3 year term. The driver is currently picking up garbage which animals have scattered around. DIRA is recommending the driver should stop doing that. Residents can take more responsibility to prevent this.

A new (Denman Islander) bookkeeper has taken over the Waste Management and the Bottle Depot financial duties and DIRA administration will soon transition bookkeeping duties also. Several bookkeeping/accounting firms in Courtenay were consulted but too busy to take on new work.

The chair presented consolidated DIRA year-end financial statements. Due to timing, the professional accounting review of these statements has not happened yet. Committee and consolidated financial reports will be posted on the DIRA website, once they have been reviewed.

DIRA Consolidated Balance Sheet and Income Statement comparisons between 2023 and 2024 with percentage change was presented on the projector and the chair highlighted some of the accounts with significant change between years.

In conclusion, the Net Loss for 2024 is \$19,274; which includes depreciation of \$26,000, in other words it could be said there was an operating profit of about \$7,000 (excluding depreciation).

The committee balance sheets and income statements will be posted on the DIRA website and consolidated financial statements will be forwarded to the CVRD, once reviewed.

There was a motion to accept the consolidated financial statement for 2024 as presented, subject to independent professional review. The motion was seconded, no further questions were asked and everyone voted in favour. MOTION PASSED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

5. DIRA Wildlife Advisory Committee, Dog Issues:

There have been ongoing and serious problems with dogs running free. Dogs have been chasing farm animals and wild animals causing fatal harm. A dog was trapped on a cliff

which put first responders at risk of injury in the rescue. It's important to keep dogs under control.

A resident commented that there appears to be a lack of signage in parks requiring dogs to be leashed. Policing is a big problem, even with signage.

Islands Trust will follow-up regarding dogs barking incessantly.

A resident brought up the subject of cats and their part in the "decimation of the bird population". Several other residents voiced their agreement that this is a very serious concern. This is the first time this issue was raised with the Wildlife Advisory Committee. It seems some education needs to happen regarding cats and birds. Maybe bird friendly cat collars could be made available locally.

6. DIRA Community Dock and Boat Launch Committee:

There are now 9 members on the committee. Ongoing maintenance is happening. New collars are being fabricated on Denman by Wicked Fabrication.

Changes to policy:

- no off season rate, \$1/foot year round, and
- 6 hour free time has been reduced to 3 hours, still allowing visitors time to visit the shops downtown.

Annual boat ramp decals are \$25. These decals are for the Boat Ramp only, not for dock moorage.

A free lifejackets (use at own risk) program may start soon.

7. Election of DIRA Executive Board:

Background - DIRA is an umbrella organization facilitating committees in the delivery of services to the community. DIRA allows for community input into spending, the CVRD annually asks DIRA how much tax money is required to fund operations, in parks and trails, the Bill Mee boat launch and the recycling depot. There are also critical services not funded by the CVRD, such as the community dock and denman west boat launch, the old school and the bottle depot.

More community involvement on the board is critical for the community.

The current board and status is;

President - Ron Shepherd - resigning

Vice-President - Jennifer Balke - renewing

Treasurer - Stirling Fraser - renewing for 1 year

Secretary - Andrew Pringle - renewing for 6 months

Member-at-Large - Chris Danks - renewing for 1 year

Member-at-Large - Claudia Kroll-Gray - resigning

3 calls were made for board member nominations from the floor.

Rosa Telegus, Graham Isbister, Anthony Gregson, Sam Borthwick, Ron Wilson and Stirling Fraser were nominated from the floor and accepted the nomination to serve a term on the board.

There was a motion to accept the following DIRA 2025 board members, Jenny Balke, Chris Danks, Rosa Telegus, Graham Isbister, Anthony Gregson, Sam Borthwick, Ron Wilson and Sterling Fraser. The motion was seconded, there was no further discussion and everyone voted in favour. MOTION PASSED.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00, seconded and passed.