

DISTRICT OF SOOKE

Committee of the Whole Minutes
Meeting held March 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 2225 Otter Point Road

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Janet Evans
Councillor Sheila Beech
Councillor Maja Tait
Councillor Herb Haldane
Councillor Ron Dumont

STAFF PRESENT

Sue-Lin Tarnowski, Deputy Director of Finance
Bonnie Sprinkling, Corporate Officer
Elisabeth Nelson, Municipal Engineer
Al Fontes, Manager of Operations
Lisa Urlacher, Council Clerk

ABSENT:

Councillor David Bennett
Councillor Bev Berger

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED to approve the agenda with the addition of NB-1 Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public immediately following item number five.

CARRIED

3. Sooke Bike Club

Tyler Newman, secretary of the Sooke Bike Club, introduced and provided information as to the mission statement and purpose of the club:

- build a friendly and organized local mountain bike community through events to engage youth and encourage them to take up mountain biking
- assist land managers/owners in their efforts to include mountain biking on trail systems in their lands
- provide volunteerism in the building and maintenance of mountain bike trail systems
- promote Sooke and its trail systems to the global mountain bike community

Mr. Newman explained the goals and activities the club intends to carry out:

- Promote a mountain biking destination to capitalize on the growing sport
- Promote an exciting healthy activity
- Educate users
- New dirt jump park
- Establish Sooke as a race destination
- Create a venue for a long distance race
- International Bike Festival (June)
- BC Cup race
- Annual Bike Festival

Mr. Newman announced the Mountain Bike Tourism website which features two film premiers filmed in Sooke (Harbourview and Broom Hill)

<http://mountainbikingbc.ca/community/sooke>

Council discussed mountain biking in the Sea to Sea Green Blue Belt. It was explained that the Sooke Bike Club is currently working on a trail plan identifying issues as to repair and maintenance as well as emergency plans.

It was noted that the Timber West lands connect with boneyard which includes a trail to Leech Town as a complete circuit for a long race.

Mr. Newman explained that they are investigating existing trail opportunities with landowners, the municipality and crown land. Once all options are exhausted the Club will come forward with a proposal. It was noted that the Club has a multitude of experience with building trails and they welcome the opportunity to partner in developing multi-use trails.

Public Input:

Moonfist, resident expressed concern with future trails within the Broom Hill area as there is a Garry Oak reserve within.

Stephen Hindrich, resident, expressed support for the Sooke Bike Club initiatives as it interconnects with the JDF Bike Coalitions directives. Mr. Hindrich stated that mountain biking is a positive sport for youth.

Mayor Evans asked Mr. Newman to work with staff to identify locations for the jump park.

4. Bicycle marking including bike lanes and sharrows

Al Fontes provided an overview of the staff report.

A discussion ensued as to sharrows and the following is a summary of the discussion:

- Creating a trail or sidewalk using the 4m frontage on south side of Rhodonite
- Connector will increase traffic demands on Rhodonite
- Creating a friendly bike aware road by using sharrows

Mr Fontes notes that a \$3,000 increase to the line painting budget could be considered in the 2011 budget. The sharrows would be installed during May/June, weather permitting.

Public Input:

Stephen Hindrich, resident, expressed support regarding the implementation of sharrows and commented on the speed of traffic on Rhodonite. Mr. Hindrich stated that educating the community is needed in making the sharrows a success.

MOVED to receive the bicycle markings including bike lanes and sharrows report.
CARRIED

5. **CRD Arts Development Program**

Sue-Lin Tarnowski provided an overview of the report as to the costs and requirements to join the CRD Arts Development Program.

Council discussed the group one and two options and agreed to not participate in the CRD Arts Program. It was noted to consider alternatives during budget discussions.

Public Input:

Marion DesRochers, member of the Sooke Program of the Arts Committee expressed concern as to the amount and that Sooke may not get enough out of the program. Ms. DesRochers recommended that Sooke not Join the CRD Arts Program.

Moonfist, resident, commented that Sooke should join the program and opt out if it is not suiting the needs of the Arts community. It was explained that there is no option, once committed the municipality has to become a fully funded member within five years at the estimated rate of \$94,800 annually.

MOVED to receive the CRD Arts Development Program report.
CARRIED

The open portion of the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

6. **Motion to Close the Meeting to the Public:**

MOVED to close the meeting to the public under section 90(1) of the Community Charter to discuss the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality.

CARRIED

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Certified Correct:

Janet Evans
Mayor

Bonnie Sprinkling
Corporate Officer