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THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH

Minutes of the **PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORTATION
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** Meeting
Monday, March 22, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.
Central Saanich Municipal Council Chamber

PRESENT: Councillor Susan Mason, Chair
Mayor Allison Habkirk
Councillors: Graham, King, Korol and Thompson
Gary C. Nason, Administrator
Trish Flanders, Municipal Clerk
Ed Sykora, Director of Financial Services
Roland Rocheleau, Senior Engineering Technologist

ABSENT: Councillor Haddon

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Habkirk advised that Report Bob Covey of the Peninsula News Review, will soon be relocating to Alberta. She thanked him for his professionalism and wished him every success in his new endeavours.

Mayor Habkirk requested that Councillor King chair the Parks & Facilities Committee Meeting to be held later this evening, due to Councillor Haddon's absence.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The Administrator, Mr. Gary C. Nason, noted the addition to the agenda of the following late items:

- Staff Memorandum dated March 18, 2004 from the Administrator which includes previous correspondence from Kryn Zedel and Eleanor Richardson pertaining to Bicycle Routes, to be included as Item 1(c);
- Memorandum dated March 18, 2004 from the Advisory Planning Commission Re: Interurban Rail Trail Signage, to be included as Item 1(d);

408.04 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR KOROL
NO SECONDER
That the Agenda for the Public Works, Transportation & Economic Development Committee Meeting held on March 22, 2004 be approved as amended.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Interurban Rail Trail Signage

- a) Correspondence dated January 2004 from Ms. Jenny Hyndman, 8320 Alec Road;
- b) Staff Memorandum dated March 18, 2004 from Gary C. Nason, Administrator which includes previous correspondence from Kryn Zedel and Eleanor Richardson pertaining to Bicycle Routes;
- c) Memorandum dated March 18, 2004 from Peter Parsons, Chair – Advisory Planning Commission;
- d) Email correspondence dated March 11, 2004 from Kryn Zedel, Advisory Planning Commission.

The Administrator briefly introduced the topic and advised that Ms. Jenny Hyndman, Ms. Eleanor Richardson and Mr. Kryn Zedel were unable to attend this evening's meeting to speak to this issue.

Mr. Darrell Wick gave a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation on the Interurban Rail Trail Signage proposal, during which time the following points of interest were noted:

What is Required

- Designated Route
- Sign Route
- Market
 - Connections with other trails
 - Circle trips
 - Brentwood Bay - Mill Bay Ferry
 - Butchart Gardens
 - Wineries
 - Central Saanich businesses – points of interest

The Route

- Old Interurban Rail Line
 - Interurban Road
 - Wallace Drive
- Galloping Goose at the southern end
- Amity at the northern end.
 - Future – Follow existing rail bed through Experimental Farm

Saanich Route Improvements

- New trail by Red Barn
 - Trail will not cross West Saanich Road
- Trail paving
 - Goward to Red Barn
 - Bypasses West Saanich
- New Bike Lanes
 - On Interurban near Galloping Goose
- New trail connection
 - Between Interurban & Galloping Goose

Interurban Rail Trail in Central Saanich

- No on-street improvements required initially
- Route direction signs are required
- Route Maps

Project Benefits

- Significant cycle tourism potential
 - Cycle touring from Seattle and beyond
 - Cycle touring from Vancouver
 - Cycle touring from Victoria
- Pro Bike Conference - Thunderhead retreat will use route to Mill Bay Ferry
- Linear “park”
 - higher usage than park playfields
- Contribution to transportation mode shift

Project Characteristics

- Project costs (for Central Saanich)
 - No road work initially.
 - Primary cost is signs
- High Yield
 - Connections (and circle trips)
 - Galloping Goose
 - Lochside Trail
 - Brentwood – Mill Bay Ferry
 - Trails traverse “heart” of Central Saanich

Success of Similar Routes (i.e. Seaside Touring Route)

- Co-operative effort
 - Victoria
 - Oak Bay
 - Saanich
- No on-street work
- Route Signs Only
- Tourism Marketing
 - Marketing Success

Lochside Trail

- Exponential Increase in trail users after route direction signing
- 10% increase in bicycle Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay ferry traffic in 2003
- 17.5% of air travelers to Victoria include cycling in their itineraries

Interurban Rail Trail in Central Saanich

- Existing route condition generally good
- Requires route direction signs
 - For Interurban Rail Trail
 - To / From Brentwood Bay - Mill Bay Ferry
 - Indicate side trips (e.g. Butchart Gardens)
- Requires route maps
 - Regional map
 - Local map

Regional Map

- Needs to show
 - Peninsula Overview
 - Major cycling routes
 - Major destinations

Local Map

- Needs to show
 - Central Saanich detail
 - Local business areas
 - Tourist points of interest

Goals

- Sign trail by early summer 2004
 - In advance of Pro Walk / Pro Bike Conference
 - Consistent route direction signs are imperative
- Marketing – Joint Effort
 - Market connectivity and circle trips
 - Existing Tourism Organizations
 - Existing Tourism Information Kiosks
 - Several Cycling Victoria tourism web sites
 - Pro Walk / Pro Bike literature

Mr. Wick then displayed a series of various signs that are currently used on the Interurban Rail Trail and responded to several questions from members of the Committee.

The Administrator confirmed that there is no requirement for any on-street improvements at this time. He advised that the total estimated cost of the proposed signage is \$3,500 and recommended that the source of funding for this project be appropriated from the unexpended funds which have been carried over from 2003 for “Unspecified Public Awareness, Speed Control, Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Awareness Initiatives and Measures”.

Mr. Peter Parsons, Chair of the Advisory Planning Commission, advised that the Commission strongly supports this initiative.

409.04 MOVED BY MAYOR HABKIRK
 NO SECONDER
 That It Be Recommended to Council:

That the presentation from Mr. Darrell Wick, the Memoranda dated March 18, 2004 from the Administrator and from the Advisory Planning Commission, and the various previously received items of correspondence pertaining to the Interurban Rail Trail Signage issue be received, and Staff be authorized to proceed with the installation of approximately 20 - 25 Interurban Rail Trail directional signs and 3 map signs at a total estimated cost of \$3,500., with the source of funding to be appropriated from the unexpended funds which have been carried over from 2003 for “Unspecified Public Awareness, Speed Control, Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Awareness Initiatives and Measures”.

CARRIED
OPPOSED: COUNCILLOR MASON

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion, the Public Works, Transportation & Economic Development Committee Meeting held on March 22, 2004 adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Recorded By: Trish Flanders
Municipal Clerk