

Agenda
Kimberley Nature Park Society
Monthly Meeting October 1, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm by President Naomi Humenny.

Present: Naomi Humenny, Chris Ferguson, Mitch Tom, Heather van der Hoop, Sandra Roberts, Ingrid Musser, Gary Hicks, Laura Duncan, Kent Goodwin, Dave Hale, Brad Carrier

Regrets: Frank O'Grady, John Henly, Matt Thompson, Cliff Erven, Liz Royer, Ryan McKenzie, Susanne Baldwin

1. Introductions and confirm agenda

Motion to approve: carried

2. Minutes of last meeting

Motion to approve: carried

3. Delegations: none

4. Correspondence/Communications: none

5. Financial report:

The report was sent to the board via email for review prior to the meeting. Ingrid Musser reported on the major points.

- Revenue: \$1,087.96
- Expenditures: \$247.22
- Revenue over expenditures: \$840.74

Motion to approve: carried

The board also discussed removing a few older items from the list of expenditures, such as Newsletter (since we don't send a hard copy anymore), but no firm decision was made.

6. Unfinished Business

-Potential re-naming of The Suicide Trail

The board discussed whether to change the name, and what to change it to.

Motion to change the name: carried

Motion to present 4 alternate trail names to the board via email and then vote to choose a winner: carried

The board will vote on the following 4 options:

- Figure 11
- **Fall Line**
- Romantic Connector
- Blind Date

After a winner is chosen, the name will be changed electronically via Trailforks, Facebook, etc. Signage will be updated as part of the upgrades discussed next.

-Discussion on park signage inventory, refurbishment and upgrades

Mitch inventoried the signage in the park over the summer. Our previous sign-maker has retired from this post, so John is planning to take over. The inventory shows that a substantial number of posts need to be replaced (e.g., junction of Army Road and Front Boulevard). It would be good to start replacing signs during a low-use time, such as late fall, to prevent confusion in the park. Kent

suggested that Kimberley and District Community Fund will have funding soon, which might be an option to help pay for cedar posts. Also more recent posts have only lasted 10 years, whereas older posts lasted 30-40 years.

Action item: Chris will check in with John for an estimate for the grant, and communicate with Kent, who will write an application

-Reclamation project: The trail committee planted a test plot, but the August heat definitely affected the growth. Dave has priced out junipers (\$10-\$11), and other shrubbery will help the reclaimed trail look more natural. However, the metal posts that were driven into the ground to explain the trail closure have been pulled out and removed from the area. Some discussion about why people might be so committed to the original, unsustainable route, and what we should do. We'd like to get good results to know we're reclaiming trails well before attempting any more reroutes. The committee will keep an eye on the reclamation to see how it does in the cooler weather.

-Communications and public outreach: tabled for next meeting
Brad has been reposting photos tagged with KNP to our Instagram.

7. Committee Reports

Trail Guide: no update; will have one next meeting. Susanne has officially taken over this post.

Membership: Gary reported that KNPS has 315 members (+13 from June), including 213 life members (+5 from June).

Natural History: Laura Duncan reported that they've been hosting small gatherings, with a focus on ferns: where to find them and how to identify different species. They're not as easy as you might think! The committee has identified three new species in the park, and are documenting locations. They've also identified additional species for the inventory of plants and animals. In addition, water temperature monitors have now been in Eimer's Lake for four years, as part of an ongoing project.

Firewood Collection: Kent took over this project when its founder moved away, but would like to hand off its management. Kayla Gilroy has taken over emailing. Some limited collection began Saturday, Oct. 3, with a focus on getting wood for previous volunteers who can no longer get their own wood. At this point there are no plans to increase the amount of firewood collection, but would like a new volunteer to manage the program.

Invasive Weeds: Dave Hale reported on September 10th weed pull with East Kootenay Invasive Species Council in the gravel pit area near the Swan Avenue trailhead. Kendal (EKISC) brought tools and garbage bags, and offered guidance as we pulled. KNPS volunteers pulled spotted knapweed and clipprd blueweed to create a buffer zone at this entrance to the park, but we'll need a long-term plan and coordination with the city to make a lasting difference.

Laura mentioned the app Report a Weed from BC Invasive Species Council, which lets users report weeds they spot in the park and their locations. Gary will look into whether we could then get that data to know what we have in the KNP and plan further actions.

Trails: Ryan was unable to attend, so most discussion tabled for next meeting. There was some discussion regarding a budget request for Skid Road boardwalk, an 80-foot structure to help users get past the worst of the wet spots and protect the trail. Life expectancy of this boardwalk is 12-15 years, and costs depend on whether we use all treated wood or cedar for the deck with treated "undercarriage." Kent suggested writing a KCDF grant application to fund this project and the signage discussed above, but the goal is to get the work done soon (before the wet weather begins) and most

grants stipulate that the work cannot have begun.

Motion to allocate \$1,500 to the construction of this structure: carried

Blog:

June 26: The Making of a Trail Reroute

September 24: Keeping an eye out for the North American Pika

Horse Barn Valley: Naomi presented a general update from John.

-MOU from East Kootenay Climbing Association

Action item: Naomi will talk with John to ensure corrections before she will sign the MOU: need to change lichen to "red-listed" and "criteria above" to "criteria below"

Motion to sign MOU after revisions above: carried

-HBV partnership agreement: John talked with Lisa Cox, who will take care of renewing it for us

-Discussion regarding bikes on Talus Trail: Chris suggested that we put up a sign to minimize bike traffic on Talus as well as Eimer's Lake Loop and connector trail to Eimer's Ridge. Sign will read: "Ecologically sensitive area. Please walk your bike." Chris will mock up a sign and research costs, then email the board. We will need four: one at each end of Talus, one for the top of Eimer's connector, one for Eimer's Lake.

Motion to create and post signs: carried

-Update regarding signage from handmade to official for Tora Bora

Action item: Naomi will chat with John to see if this discussion was closed or whether we need to discuss at next meeting.

Events: Naomi reported that the Black Spur Ultra did not proceed this year.

-Mainstreams Water Walk (Sept. 26): Laura Duncan reported that the guided walk had 9 participants (3 kids, 6 adults) and lots of fun. The leaders learned that it can be tough to keep people 6ft apart during walks. The conversation focused on past, present, and future developments as part of a series of three water walks (others are at Lois Creek and Mark Creek).

-Larch Walk: Struan Robertson will organize a self-guided but advertised hike on October 18th. The idea is to let people stick to their own small bubble groups and guide themselves, instead of leading a group hike, since this hike tends to draw a large group. There may be a small expense for printing maps but Naomi will follow up once we get an amount.

-Chasing the Colours hike: Dennis Bathory will follow the same guidelines for this hike on Oct. 11.

Grant Writing:

-CBT trail enhancement grant was due October 8 at 3pm. Chris wrote it for funding for a larger reclamation project, with assistance from Kent

Interface Fire/Pine Beetle/Restoration: Chris emailed an updated map that shows Canfor's latest plans for roads and logging areas. The nature of the archeology survey means that Canfor will not be including the area at the top of and south of Jimmy Russell Rd. Kent, Laura and John met the Fire

Chief and Bob Gray in August to discuss Canfor's plans, with a concern that logging access roads might stay open (not decommissioned) longer into the future than we were hoping. Work will include, if conditions permit:

- burning above Army Road between Myrtle Junction and Higgins, with some road improvements to be done to allow a water tender to access the area
- hand-thinning on Myrtle Mountain, on the south aspect of Myrtle Mountain, and along Romantic Ridge

The City has applied to the Province for grant money to do further treatments close to the Canfor logging areas; it is not clear if these will all be hand treatments, if they may include machine work. Colin Roy (the head planner for the project) has left Canfor, and his replacement, Shawna Girard, is fully aware of all the agreements/commitments made and is a frequent KNP user.

We will be given at least one week's notice before road building operations commence, likely in late October. The committee has created a news release and will publish a blog post to advise the public. The commitment is still that logging should not commence until the ground is frozen and hopefully covered with some snow.

8. New Business

AGM 2020: We will need to meet a quorum, but for safety reasons we will keep this AGM as small as possible. It must happen within six months of our year-end on Oct. 31.

Action item: In lieu of a traditional AGM, Naomi will write up some highlights for the year, Heather will edit, and Gary will send them out to the membership

9. Interesting Sightings: Quite a few more trail users, and several directors noted no uptick in garbage, which is encouraging.

10. Next Meeting: Date to be determined when we have sufficient agenda items. In the meantime, we'll deal with smaller items via email.