

Minutes
Kimberley Nature Park Society
Monthly Meeting June 2, 2020

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

Present: Naomi Humenny, Ryan McKenzie, Rand Davis, Liz Royer, Matt Thompson, Frank O'Grady, Cliff Erven, John Henly, Mitch Tom, Chris Ferguson, Heather van der Hoop, Laura Duncan, Susanne Baldwin

Regrets: Ingrid Musser, Brad Carrier, Gary Hicks, Dave Hale

1. Introductions and confirm agenda

Motion to approve: carried

2. Minutes of last meeting

Motion to approve: carried

3. Delegations

None

4. Correspondence/ Communications

-Aaron from Transrockies/Singletrack 6 is requesting approval for an updated MOU with likely dates of September 7–12, 2021 (not yet confirmed which days in Kimberley).

Motion to approve: carried

-Memorial bench request. Discussion of potential location off Romantic Ridge with views of the larches at KNC, might wind up being a dead-end viewpoint after RR reroute. Location still to be finalized. Requester will pay for and place the bench.

-email from Mayor Don McCormick regarding trying to get KNP included on lists of the largest municipal parks in Canada. After discussion, the Board decided to focus on the park itself and not to devote resources to this kind of promotion.

5. Financial report

Ingrid emailed the Board as she was unable to attend the meeting. Naomi presented details as of May 31, 2020:

- Revenue: \$3,812.09
- Expenditures: \$3,062.53
- Revenue over expenditures: \$749.56

Chris asked about rolling archive and trail guide funds into the Unrestricted account as approved in February 2020. Naomi will follow-up with Ingrid.

6. Unfinished Business

-Trail etiquette document: Chris sent around a guide to trail etiquette and a number of directors offered suggestions and comments. Chris will finalize the document and add it to the KNPS website under the Trails tab. He'll also make a short version to go on Facebook/Instagram, with links to the long version.

-Nature hikes for summer/fall: to support current guidelines around group gatherings, the Board decided not to plan formal hikes for summer/fall 2020. Informal hikes may be suggested at a later date if conditions allow, but the full program will be postponed to 2021.

7. Committee Reports

Trail Guide: Val asked for someone else to take this over. Susanne Baldwin volunteered.

Membership: As of June 2, we have 302 members, down 11 from February due to several non-renewals. 218 of them are life members, up 3 from February. We have 120 subscribers on our email list, up 11 from the February meeting.

Natural History: Laura Duncan updated the group on the return to counting the purple calypso orchids in KNP. The group is also looking into the various types and numbers of ferns in the park. No larger group outings are planned.

Trails:

-There was a discussion about trail upgrade plans for Romantic Ridge (north of Hillside) and Skid Road (wet spot). Chris will show the two options north of Hillside to the natural history group to ensure there are no natural history concerns before choosing the best route.

-Chris gave an update on the retired trail and burn scar reclamation project. Trail reclamation is important, and directors have researched best practices to ensure more effective reclamation. They'll test these practices on a small test plot on Eimer's Ridge within the next couple of weeks so that they have results and learnings to apply in the fall to Romantic Ridge and other reroutes. This project will require funds (seeds, soil, shrubs, signage, etc.) — Chris asked for ~\$400 towards the test project.

Motion to approve: carried

-John Henly updated the board on a small project to change the entrance of Thunder Turkey to a point closer to the HBV parking lot nearer the junctions of Coral Route and Mr Toad. Lisa Cox (RSTBC) has approved the location so the board does not see the need for further discussion.

-Trail sign project needs a director to take charge: Chris explained that a volunteer made all the wooden signs and is willing to make new or restore older signs if required. Ideally someone would take an inventory and note which signs might need updating or restoring. Mitch Tom volunteered to take an inventory of the park's signage to see what needs work.

Horse Barn Valley: John explained that the operations plan has been submitted.

-MOU is being designed between KNPS and the East Kootenay Climbing Association about the new Tora Bora crag. Once this is drafted, John will circulate to the board. EKCA is responsible for maintenance, no new routes are allowed, no disturbing the lichen (sign is there). A boardwalk from Tora Bora to the crag will be built to protect swampy ground.

-Partnership agreement renewal: Lisa will draft this in the late fall. The current one expires in January 2021 and it's a 10-year agreement.

-John restated the importance of tracking any volunteer hours that go into work on HBV

-The toilet has been cleaned and now has a deck outside. Stove at the cabin is now locked.

-Interpretive panel on pine beetle was damaged by a pine beetle tree (ironic) but John has fixed it

-Next project: update map in HBV

-John may ask Canfor to remove the used culvert on the side of the parking area when they're working

-Frank has taken on making temporary signage for Tora Bora Ridge and Tora Bora trail/loop. There was a discussion about the confusing combination of the names, and it was decided that they would be Tora Bora Ridge and Tora Bora Road.

Blog:

-March 8: Those other evergreens

-April 25: Watch out for deadly Water Hemlock

-May 7: Wildfire safety update

-May 26: Now is the time to see balsamroot in bloom

Events:

-no confirmation yet if Black Spur Ultra will cancel; currently rescheduled to September 2020

-Shred Sisters women's MTB coaching is ongoing

Interface Fire/Pine Beetle/Restoration:

-Chris Ferguson reported that wildlife trees and specific concerns have been identified and raised to Canfor: 1) flagged landing that wasn't on the map, 2) landing in seasonal flow below Shapeshifter, 3) riparian area that appeared to be within logging area. Canfor will do an all-day field walk on June 19 with several KNPS representatives. KNPS interface committee will do a group walk beforehand so reps can bring these up during the Canfor walk.

Grant Writing: no updates

8. New Business

A discussion of how new directors were feeling and potential support/changes that could help. One result is that to reduce confusion as business is carried out over email, Naomi will use very specific subject lines. The group agreed to stick to those subjects and start a new thread to discuss any tangential topics.

9. Interesting Sightings

-John saw a fisher! Some were skeptical as they've never been seen in KNP, but there have been other sightings just outside park boundaries. Irene Teske, a wildlife biologist in Cranbrook, reintroduced fishers to the area in 1996 but has had no way to monitor whether the project worked as the tracking collars did not stay on. John will write a blog about his sighting for the KNPS website and will include photos.

-Laura reported that a natural history committee member saw a wolf near Campground trail.

10. Next Meeting

To be determined; Naomi will email the Board when confirmed.