

KIMBERLEY NATURE PARK SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

November 29, 2018 Trickle Creek Lodge

Attendance List on File

1. Call to Order: 1900 hours

2. Determine Quorum (3 members)

3. Confirm Agenda

Motion: Suzanne McAllister / Nigel Kitto. Carried

4. Adopt 2017 AGM Minutes

Motion: To accept: Marty Musser / Lou Bedard - Carried

5. Treasurers Annual Report

Motion: To Accept: Ingrid Musser / Peter McConachie

6. Executive Report: The Year in Review: Kent Goodwin

7. Election of Officers and Directors

The Nomination Committee nominated the following:

President - Kent Goodwin

Vice President - Naoi Hummeny

Secretary - Rob McInnis

Treasurer - Ingrid Musser-Okholm

Directors - Frank O'Grady Cliff Erven

Chris Ferguson Rod Chapman

Lorraine Zerafa Gary Hicks

John Henly

Motion: To Accept: Marty Musser / Peter McConachie

8. Other Business – None

9. Adjourn Business Meeting

10. Special Presentation: Urban Deer Translocation – Ian Adams, Wildlife Biologist.

KNPS Year in Review 2018

Twenty eighteen has been another busy year for the Nature Park Society and despite a second summer in a row of hot, smoky weather (this time with an evacuation alert) we accomplished a lot. Highlights include a new approach to trail maintenance in partnership with the Kimberley Trails Society, the creation of a brand new version of our map and trail guide and the launch of our KNPS archive project.

Through the spring, summer and fall of this year, we hosted 16 guided public events in the Park and Horse Barn Valley with the number of participants for each event ranging from two to over 30. A big thank you to Suzanne McAllister and the events committee for organizing the schedule and to all the guides that took people out to enjoy the park. Here is a sampling of some of the outings: with the Mother's Day Walk, the Father's Day Walk, the Oh Canada Hike on July 1st, the Hike for Young Families, the Ridges and Kettles Hike, the Berry Walk, Chasing the Colours and the Golden Larch Hike.

The Park was also a venue this year for various events and activities organized by other groups including the weekly rides of the Freewheelers bike club, the Round the Mountain Festival in June, the Black Spur Ultramarathon in August (It was remarkable that the Black Spur went ahead successfully given the smoke in the air at that time) and the BC 55+ Games Mountain Bike races in September. We would like to thank the Freewheelers, Round the Mountain Festival and the Black Spur Ultra for making donations to support trail maintenance in the Park.

And once again this year, our Gateway to Nature volunteers organized natural history-oriented walks every Saturday morning in July and August from the Campground entrance. This is a great way for visitors to the campground and anyone else to learn about the flora and fauna of the park and about the Nature Park Society. In October, some of our Gateway volunteers also hosted a field trip by environmental educators from across Canada that were visiting the region for a national conference. Thanks to Flo, Glenda, Ruth, Irma, Jen and Cathy for all their work on the Gateway hikes.

More education occurred in the spring when a number of our volunteers took the Grade 6 classes from McKim School on hikes through the Park. Our hope is that the kids will come away from these outings with a better understanding of the Park and sense of respect for the it's trails and ecosystems. Thanks to Frank, Ruth and Chris for helping out with these field trips.

We also try to educate folks about the nature of the Nature Park with our new website and especially our blog. Please check it out the next time you are surfing the web. And we are always looking for new blog writers and photographers so please contact Rod Chapman, our blog editor, if you think you have a story to tell about the Park and we can help you polish it up.

Our Facebook page remains active and as of this week the number of people that have liked the page (and thereby receive our posts) stands at 995. If you are on Facebook and haven't liked our page yet, I encourage you to do so, and put us over the 1000 mark.

The KNPS currently has 287 members of which 185 are lifetime members. Our numbers are down a bit from last year at this time and part of that may be due to folks subscribing to our webpage rather than taking out a membership. We currently have 72 people that have done that and a challenge for the KNPS Board in the coming year will be how to convert those subscribers to members. I'd like to thank Gary Hicks our membership coordinator, for maintaining our database and responding to inquiries about membership. Gary is in Ontario this evening.

The Nature Park Society has been around for over 30 years. We originally incorporated as the Kimberley Wildlife Sanctum Society in 1987. This year, KNPS Director, Rod Chapman wrote a successful application for funding to Heritage BC and the Columbia Basin Trust to get their support to create an archive of all the KNPS documents and photos that have been

generated over that time. As a result, we are hiring an archivist and organizing all the records of the Society. This summer we spent a bunch of time going through boxes and have now sent the files to the archivist for sorting and indexing. We have arranged to store the archive, most of which will be digitized, at the Kimberley Heritage Museum where it will be available for researchers and any author that wants to make a coffee table book about the Park.

A major focus of our work every year is the maintenance and improvement of our trail network. This year, at the request of the Kimberley Trails Society, we entered into a partnership with that group and supported the creation of a paid Trails Manager position that would oversee and stimulate trail maintenance and construction on all the trails around Kimberley, from Lois Creek to Bootleg Mountain. KTS subsequently hired Ryan McKenzie to be the Trails Manager and we have worked with him this summer on a both normal trail maintenance and repairs and couple of larger projects in the Park. The KTS is now seeking long term funding from the City, RDEK and other sources to make the position permanent.

The two trail projects we completed this year were the building of Trickledown Trail which was started in 2017 and the construction of a new trail from Eimer's Lake to Eimer's Ridge. Trickledown provides a new route around the Trickle Creek golf course and offers a better ride for cyclists than Cabin Trail, which has steep sections at both ends. The old connector from Eimer's Lake to the ridge was built on the fall line and was eroding into a ditch and needed to be replaced with a more sustainable route. Since we have not been encouraging mountain bike traffic on the loop around Eimer's Lake because the trail is so soft on the sphagnum bog, the new connector was not designed to be ridden down. Tight corners and a set of stairs at the bottom will hopefully encourage folks to hike rather than ride.

Our concerns about the trail around Eimer's Lake are matched by our concerns about the health of the lake itself. Huge algae blooms in recent years have prompted KNPS volunteers, Laura and Jim Duncan, to take and analyze water samples and this summer we sent the results to the Ministry of the Environment. They have suggested that we carry out an aquatic wetland inventory of the area and Jim and Laura are currently researching how that might be done and where funding could be found.

The new trail to Eimer's Ridge and construction of Trickledown are only two of several changes that have been made to the overall trail network in the last few years. Last winter, as we realized our supply of paper trail guides was getting low, we decided that a new edition of the guide, rather than a reprint of the now out-of-date version was in order. We struck a committee to review the existing guide, applied for funding from a number of sources and with the help of Big Magic Design, Rocky Mountain Print Solutions and My Signs we created a wonderful new paper guide and 6 large weather-resistant maps for kiosks around the Park. Many thanks to the Columbia Basin Trust, the Kootenay Savings Community Foundation and the Kimberley Alpine Resort Summit Fund for the financial support for this project and to Rod, Cliff and Frank for spearheading our efforts.

Throughout this year we sold 381 copies of the trail guide at outlets around town and sales really picked up in August when the new edition became available. Three new businesses, Purcell Outdoors, Black Dog Cycle and Ski and Bootleg Bike Company approached us with requests to carry the guides, bringing the total number of outlets to ten. Thank you to all the businesses that have agreed to sell our guides at no cost to us and to KNPS volunteer Val Carey for managing our trail guide distribution.

Our partnership with Recreation Sites and Trails BC in the management of the Horse Barn Valley Interpretive Forest continued in 2018. A number of KNPS volunteers helped maintain the trails in the area and remove fallen trees. Lisa Cox, our local RSTBC manager, had a new three sided kiosk built and installed in the parking area this fall and work is currently underway to produce maps and signage for the Round the Mountain Route, the Nature Park and the Interpretive Forest to populate the kiosk. Thanks to KNPS Board member John Henly for coordinating our work with Lisa in Horse Barn Valley and for Jim Webster for helping out with the map revisions.

Efforts to reduce the forest fire risk in the Park continued this year, though the hot dry weather and evacuation alert did slow things down. This fall crews were at work on Myrtle Mountain, at the gravel pit near the Swan entrance, above the Army Road and between Duck Pond and Second Eimer's Lake slashing small conifers and piling and burning woody debris. We have just learned this week that more treatments are planned for the Nature Park over the next few years and we will have details about those in a month or two.

KNPS volunteers also pitched in to remove wildfire fuel from the Park through our volunteer firewood work parties. We had to wait till mid-September because of the fire situation and evacuation alert but were then able to do 10 weekend trips in a row with anywhere from two to 7 pickup trucks, cleaning up mostly dead lodgepole pine that had fallen near the roads. Thanks to Gabe Sanche, Andy Miller and Craig Furlonger for helping to lead the work parties.

And finally, we were all saddened this year to learn of the death of Susan Bond. Susan was very involved in the KNPS until a few years ago and served as Director, Secretary and newsletter editor. In September we were approached by Peter Moody, Susan's husband, requesting that a memorial bench be installed in the Park in Susan's memory. The Board felt that this would be a fitting tribute, offered to contribute to the cost of the bench and facilitated the installation on the knoll above Ponderosa Trail. A memorial plaque will soon be attached to the back of the bench. Thanks to KNPS volunteer, Marty Musser for coordinating the project. If you are in the area, please feel welcome to take a few minutes to rest on the bench and enjoy the view.

And that is it, for our year in review. Please consider joining our Board of Directors or signing up for a committee to help us continue our work in 2019.

Thanks for coming out this evening.

Kent Goodwin

President - KNPS