

**Kimberley Nature Park Society
Monthly Board Meeting
7pm, April 27, 2023
Room 137, McKim**

Minutes

Present: John Henly, Laura Duncan, Gary Hicks, Dave Hale, Ingrid Musser Okholm, Jean Terlesky, Ryan McKenzie, Mitch Tom, Graeme Donaldson, Heather van der Hoop, and Frank O'Grady

Regrets: Kevin O'Neill, Jenn McConnachie, Laura McKenzie

Meeting called to order at 7pm

1. Adopt the minutes of the last meeting

- a. Motion to accept: Jean moved, Ingrid seconded
- b. Motion carried

2. Accept the agenda as presented

- a. Motion to accept: Gary moved, Laura seconded
- b. Motion carried

3. Delegations

- a. ReDi Grant pitch: John presented the proposal for funds to update the trail guide to City Council. 38 grant presentations were on the docket and each person had 2 minutes. John presented last, and hasn't heard results yet.
- b. KNPS has a slot to speak to Council on May 15 to present the values of KNPS, introduce it to the new councillors, and explain how we carry out the Management Plan. We get 10 minutes and need to send in slides by May 9. John will put slides together and share them with the Board via email.

4. Correspondence/Communications

- a. Interface Fire WISA Habitat – Letter to Deputy Fire Chief, Will Booth – John sent the letter described in last month's minutes and received a reply from Will. City needs to hire a biologist to do the exclusion application. Some confusion regarding whether they still need to do the application if we can't confirm the presence of WISAs in the habitat and about which biologist will handle the review.
- b. Lisa Cox wrote to John today confirming that we don't need a permit to work near the water to replace the small bridge on Dipper Lake.
- c. Struan Robertson emailed John with dates for hikes he would like to lead in HBV. John shared the email with the Board, particularly the Events committee.
- d. Paul Johnson of Control-Mosquitoes.com emailed John to ask about being included in a blog post about tick and mosquito control and Lyme prevention. Heather noted that this is an SEO strategy for the site, which makes money from affiliate links, and may not offer us any benefit (though a blog post about tick awareness is probably a good idea—Gary volunteered to write one).
- e. Laura McKenzie, coach for Freewheelers youth MTB program, emailed to let us know about weekly trail clinics, mostly in the KNC but may be in KNP trails sometimes. There is a focus on trail etiquette.

5. February 2023 Financial report: Ingrid reported one donation from United Way (\$185) as part of \$315 in income, \$2,871 in expenses (mainly insurance), and \$29,328 in the bank.

- a. Some discussion of whether the City contributes towards the cost of insurance, so John will check with the City
- b. Motion to accept: Jean moved, Dave seconded

- c. Motion carried
6. **Guest Presentation:** Dave Quinn on Winter Ungulate Range
- a. Excellent presentation on winter use of KNP and area by elk, mule deer and whitetail deer
 - b. Biggest issues facing the survival of ungulates in the winter: off-leash dogs chasing them, people adding trails between trails (especially through key habitat), people pushing further into park during winter than they used to. Dave recommended not expanding the winter grooming loop (which hasn't been expanded, and there are no plans to do so).
 - c. Reminder that "winter" lasts until June because early-season grasses don't hold much nutritional value and animals are still in survival mode. Any additional stress during spring can make the difference whether or not they survive.
7. **Unfinished Business (including projects)**
- a. Trail Guide update project: Frank updated on progress and work so far, including planning and the ReDi grant application and presentation. Now we wait until June to find out if we'll be awarded the funds. Frank asked for a few more volunteers to help with this project. He will also send his "living document" of project tasks to the board by email so people can review and volunteer.
 - b. Boot Brush Project: Dave reported that the station is being designed and will be installed at the Campground Trail entrance within about a month.
 - c. Trail Counters Project: Laura reported that we're going ahead with the pilot project, borrowing two counters from Rec Sites and Trails. Location TBD, but will be in HBV. One counter will track bikes and one will track humans (and animals), so they'll be installed together. Likely to install in mid-May, but depends on the snow. Lisa Cox will download the data for the pilot project.
8. **New Business**
- a. CBT Non-Profit Advisor's Program: Laura reported that CBT offers the chance to be matched with an advisor to strategize how to improve organizational capacity. We would need to identify what we want support with and apply for the program. John and Laura will work on an application.
 - i. Motion to apply: Laura moved, Gary seconded
 - ii. Motion carried
9. **Committee Reports**
- a. Events: Jenn was unable to attend the meeting. There was a hike on Sunflower Hill on April 23 with 16 attendees. Jenn and Emma have been working to ensure our events don't overlap with other organizations' events (e.g., Wildsight). For example, we moved the hike from April 22 to 23 to avoid overlapping with Wildsight's Earth Day celebrations.
 - i. Upcoming: Mother's Day walk (May 14) is TBD, still looking for a leader.
 - ii. Partial plan for hiking season: Laura will get it sent to Heather to post on the website.
 - b. Community Engagement: Graeme reported on the most recent meeting.
 - i. Stickers: Got a quote from Big Magic for design and printing (\$75 for 150 stickers). Will get some mockups to share with the board for approval
 - ii. Brochure: Graeme and Jean are working on updates to the brochure.
 - iii. Teck Legacy: Graeme is working with Zoe from Teck Legacy about the calypso orchid count, likely in late May/beginning of June. About 13 people are interested in helping with the count.
 - iv. Awareness Campaign: Jean suggested contacting Kimberley Tourism to check whether there were opportunities for partnership and make them aware of what KNPS is about. Mitch suggested that we check in with the new executive director to introduce ourselves.
 - v. Membership: Gary reported that we got five new members after sending Jean's letter to email subscribers who weren't members.
 - vi. Map sales: no updates
 - c. Planning & Grants

- i. Gary is compiling a list of granting agencies so we can be ready when we have project ideas.
- d. Trails & Structures: Mitch reported that the committee will meet next week to discuss potential projects for the season. He welcomes suggestions from the board so they can discuss them next week. They're also going to plan the volunteer trail work schedule to coordinate with KTS.
- e. Natural History – Laura
 - i. Calypso orchid count: upcoming day of walking trails and counting all orchids visible from the trails. Late May/early June.
 - ii. Wildlife Cam project: Cameras have been in position about a month, and will be moved again soon. Not many images of small animals that the group had hoped to see, mainly larger ones.
- f. Interface Fire: Dave didn't have anything to report. John has been speaking with Lisa Cox about the planned mechanical thinning treatment west of HBV that touches a small part of it, especially near Front Blvd, and whether that area could be excluded.
 - i. John will also go talk to Will to check in, introduce himself, and see what's going on with the WISA exclusion.
- g. Horse Barn Valley: John needs to send the operation plan to Lisa Cox. It includes the replacement Dipper Lake bridge, assessment of the boardwalk by the cabin, and Talus trail boardwalk.

Kimberly Trails Society Report – Ryan

- Kimberley Girl Guides emailed Ryan about having a night trek on the weekend of May 5-7 on Sunflower Hill loop. About 30 participants, stations at kiosk/junctions/top viewpoint of Sunflower Hill. Asking permission to have an ATV on the hill for safety, with parents and leaders around for supervision if needed. Have been out there a number of times through the years.
 - John will contact them to learn more, but Board approved allowing ATV access in case of emergency
- About 80 responses to the winter grooming survey, with great feedback so far.
- Met with Mitch about TrickleDown to reduce the grade, make the trail safer and more inclusive. There's some flagging on trees but nothing else has been marked. The Trails committee will chat about this next week at their meeting and then get back to KTS.
- Trail Crew: 2 crew members start on May 1, and KTS is hiring 1-2 more people. Focus this year is everything from Pyramid Creek to Lois Creek.
- Trans Canada Trail Blitz on May 13: cleanup day on TCT, fixing up any areas that need attention or pruning, armouring, tree clearing, etc. Ryan will forward info to Gary to send to the membership.
- Electrify the Mountains: This year, will finish up a connection to RCR and a small reroute (100m) in KNC. Signage will start being installed this year. Signs at bottom of Hertz So Good will have KNP logo.

Interesting Sightings: none to report.

Motion to Adjourn: Laura moved, Ingrid seconded

Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm

Next Meeting: 7pm, May 25, 2023, at McKim School