

Minutes
Kimberley Nature Park Society Board Meeting
June 24, 2021

Zoom meeting called to order at 7:02pm by President Naomi Humenny.

Present: Naomi Humenny, Sandra Roberts, Ryan McKenzie, Mitch Tom, John Henly, Heather van der Hoop, Rand Davis, Frank O'Grady, Dave Hale, Susanne Baldwin, Cliff Erven, Ingrid Musser, Kent Goodwin, Dave Hale, Elaine Rangen, Lou Bedard

Regrets: Laura Duncan, Gary Hicks, Matt Thompson, Liz Royer

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: Ingrid Musser reported on the financials.

- \$1,819 in revenue, \$20.15 in expenditures, and \$27,764 in total assets.

6. Unfinished Business: none

7. Committee Reports

Trail Guide: Susanne reported that Home Hardware gave her \$65 and the campground gave her \$100 towards future sales.

Membership: Gary reported via email that we have 281 members, 229 of whom are lifetime members, and 143 nonmember email subscribers. KNPS has 5 new members since April.

- Welcome Elaine, who will take on membership duties with support from Liz

Natural History:

- Laura shared a poster by email reminding visitors to be aware of wild animals in the Nature Park.
Motion to print 8 posters to post at kiosks: carried
- 2021 Calypso Orchid Count: The count was very successful this year, with 728 spotted in KNP and 149 in the Horsebarn Valley for a total of 877 calypso orchids. 31 volunteers participated in the count.

Trails: Ryan and John reported on a number of trail-related projects.

Ryan:

- KTS Trail crew has been working hard on trail touchups on Romantic Ridge, lots of tree clearing, and other work on Creek trail, Musser's, Mountain Mine, and Three Corners.
- Lots of work planned for summer although it will slow down a bit during the heat wave.
- Ryan, John, and Lisa have met near Shapeshifter and flagged a new Higgins/Richardson's trail. Ryan would like to meet with Natural History committee to review the proposed route for any concerns.

John:

- Materials for the Skid Road boardwalk were purchased and carried into the site during the KTS work night on June 23. There was a very good turnout of 20 volunteers.
- Trail Crew will start preparing the trail bed shortly and then begin construction. (Update: construction was finished on June 30 and took 32 volunteer hours and 68 Trail Crew hours.)
- The finished boardwalk is 90 feet long and should cover the wet area well to protect the trail.
- John met with Lisa and Ryan on June 24 immediately before the Board meeting re: Shapeshifter reroute; John will write up a summary and email to Board
- Other Horse Barn Valley trail work will happen on Talus Trail; Lisa Cox has agreed to pay for materials.

Events: Struan Robertson has requested to lead small hikes throughout the summer. John suggested that any proposed events should be reviewed by the Board and posted on our calendar (dates, times, type of hike), partly for insurance reasons.

- Naomi has asked Struan to outline his plans so the Board can review and approve them.
- For 2022, we'll have a committee to plan the full calendar of hikes. For summer 2021, we'll stick to small, specifically proposed options.

Interface Fire/Pine Beetle/Restoration: Several Board members presented updates.

Kent:

- The committee has taken two field trips since the last meeting.
- Kent shared side-by-side maps, one of Canfor's initial proposed logging areas and the other of the revised plan after a field trip and several conversations.
- Initially, Canfor was looking at logging around Tora Bora Trail, Tora Bora Ridge Trail, and Round the Mountain. They had proposed to put a logging road on TB Ridge and a landing within the Horse Barn Valley.
- Graham Brown from the Ministry of Forests/Risk Reduction and Lisa Cox helped support KNPS recommendations.
- The updated logging area is much smaller, with no more logging on the north side of Tora Bora and a buffer area south of the trail. There won't be a logging road running into Tora Bora, and the landing will be outside HBV. It's still logging, but Canfor will skid the timber out instead of driving logging trucks, so there will be less impact on trails and no road to reclaim inside the interpretive forest. There will also be decent buffers along TB Ridge. All in all, the plan is a good balance of ecosystem sustainability and fuel management.

Dave:

- Graham Brown has created signs with Firesmart and fire interface treatment info and has offered four of them to KNPS to post at various entrances to the park. The Board discussed the fantastic information on the signs but felt they were large (40 x 50 inches) and included more words than we'd typically post. The Board proposes to accept one sign to install in the HBV parking lot, which is a big enough location for a big sign and is located after visitors have driven through ~1km of thinned forest.
 - Action item: John will email Lisa Cox to ask if that's ok
- Big ditch/berm on Front Boulevard: 0.8km SE of the HBV parking lot, just downhill from the spur, there's a large deactivation berm/ditch that's preventing biking and walking. Graham suggested removing the ditch and putting in a gate instead to prevent ATV/truck access but allow cyclists and hikers to pass.
 - Ryan reported that KTS Trail Crew built a trail around it so it's currently navigable for cyclists/hikers but not vehicles.
 - Lisa Cox is working on solutions that might preserve access if needed
 - Kent suggested that there have been discussions about a gate at the top of the Boulevard for a long time to improve access for Search and Rescue, firefighters, etc.

This could be a good opportunity to coordinate a gate with City locks so one key opens all of KNP for safety, maintenance, etc, as opposed to a ditch that impedes access.

- Discussion of location of gate: after the junction with Summer/Coral Route to prevent obstacles, or right at the parking lot for easy turning around.
- Action Item: Dave and John will discuss gate options with Graham and Lisa
- Field trip: Graham has four additional manual thinning and burning treatment areas planned, several near HBV parking lot. Dave and John had no concerns.
 - A previously treated area near Matthew Creek is a good example of what it will look like, and it looks much different than Canfor-logged area
 - These 4 areas would be a contract that will occur during winter 2021-2022
- Frank and Paul P. have installed new trail signs in HBV and put in posts instead of attaching them to trees. Also reordered the provincial sign so it's correct. Frank and Paul P. also posted the new Fall Line sign.

Blog post: Naomi is writing a blog post about the history and renaming of Suicide Trail/Fall Line

Horse Barn Valley: covered under Trails and Fire Interface

Grant Writing: KNPS submitted a Letter of Support for Wildsight Youth Climate Corps, which is applying for funding to collect data on fuel treatment and wildfire prevention decision-making.

8. New Business:

- Lou reported that Jimmy Russell is still covered in debris as of June 23, with only about a singletrack width clear, despite several requests to Canfor to clean up the full width of the road.
- Action Item: Kent will email Canfor contact to get set date on when this cleanup can happen
- Lou also reported that the wet section of Jimmy Russell is getting overgrown and blocking views of what's ahead. Kent and John explained that brushing happens every couple of years, but hasn't been done recently. A hand brushing work party can perhaps be scheduled. Ryan suggested that Wildsight Youth Climate Corps could collect data on optimal road width and could help support getting funding to clear roads throughout the park.

9. Interesting Sightings: none

10. Next Meeting: 7pm, Sept. 30, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.