

**Kimberley Nature Park Society
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
7pm, April 6, 2023
Room 137, McKim**

Present: John Henly, Laura Duncan, Gary Hicks, Dave Hale, Ingrid Musser Okholm, Jean Terlesky, Jenn McConnachie, Ryan McKenzie, Laura McKenzie, Mitch Tom, Naomi Humenny, Betty Baker, Susanne Baldwin, Graeme Donaldson, and Heather van der Hoop

Regrets: Kevin O'Neill, Frank O'Grady

1. Adopt the minutes of the last meeting

- a. Motion to adopt: Moved by Gary, seconded by Laura
- b. Motion carried

2. Accept the agenda as presented

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

3. Delegations:

- a. John, Laura and Graeme have all contacted the city about presenting to an upcoming council meeting to share info about KNP (likely April or May meeting)
- b. April 19 is when a group will pitch the CBT grant proposal for the Trail Guide update to the city (see #6)

4. Correspondence/Communications

- a. Interface Fire WISA Habitat: John sent a letter to Deputy Fire Chief Will Booth explaining that WISA designation gives special protections to the area, so KFD will need a land use exemption form filed with the province to do any work there. John also let them know the City will need to apply for the exemption.
- b. Kaeli Stark, Ecosystems Biologist, BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS): Kaeli will review the exemption requests and the work; see more under Fire Interface report
- c. Sue Cairns, City Councillor: Laura spoke with her and she is willing to come to some of our meetings and represent us to the Council as needed. She won't be an official liaison as the Mayor is not assigning them anymore.
- d. East Kootenay Invasive Species Council: Dave spoke with EKISC; will be covered under #7.
- e. Travis Emsland, Ministry of Forests: Dave spoke with him but we'll cover it under #8.
- f. Bob Gray: Dave spoke with him about future fuel reduction work.
- g. Kootenay Insurance Services: John spoke with them to renew the insurance

5. February 2023 Financial report: Ingrid reported \$1211 in income, donations and map sales, \$436 in expenditures, and \$31,935 overall.

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

6. Unfinished Business

- a. Trail Guide update project: Frank was unable to attend this meeting, but told John there have been no new developments on the guide. He received a notification from the city that KNPS needs to present the CBT grant proposal to the city on April 19 at 7pm.
- b. Tenure applications: Jean reported that both Shred Sisters and Ride Theory still have applications under review with Lands BC. No updates.

7. New Business

- a. Boot Brush Project: Dave has been in contact with Megan at EKISC and applied for a boot brush station at the base of Campground Trail. We were awarded \$700 to cover a brush station and informational signage to help prevent the spread of invasive species.
- b. Trail Counters Project: Laura reported that the wildlife camera project made the group wonder about how many human users are in the park, doing different activities in different seasons. The committee suggests taking Rec Sites and Trails up on their offer to use two types of sensors in HBV. If goes well, there's potential to add them to Campground, Higgins and Swan Sub entrances to collect more info. One sensor counts bikes using magnetic sensors, and the other counts people using infrared. Discussion ensued about timing (likely keep them in place for at least a year), accuracy (infrared can't tell the difference between people/dogs/deer, so it would mostly come down to time of day, or perhaps volunteer observations). Cost will depend whether we can borrow all components or need to pay for some (~\$1,000).
 - i. Motion to accept offer to borrow sensors from Rec Sites and Trails: Graeme moved, Dave seconded
 - ii. Motion carried
- c. Dipper Lake Bridge Project: \$400 requested to replace the bridge, which has disappeared somehow. John and Struan have a plan and materials list. Jenn suggested that we may require a permit to work near water, and recommended requesting \$650 to cover the cost of applying for a permit. John updated the request to the board.
 - i. Motion to approve \$650 expense: Laura moved, Jenn seconded
 - ii. Motion carried

8. Committee Reports

- a. Events: Jenn reported on a hike focused on winter tree and shrub identification using a dichotomous key. Goal for the committee is one formal hike per month led by volunteers. Next hike is April 23, Spring on Sunflower Hill.
 - i. Emma has also been collaborating with Wildsight to find synergies, such as avoiding conflicting event schedules. She's also looking at organizing a collaborative event for summer solstice.
 - ii. Other events coming up in May and June, including for both Mother's and Father's Day
 - iii. Committee is working on a larger schedule and then will share with Heather (website), Laura M (Facebook), Pam Walsh (city contact for electronic kiosks), etc.
- b. Community Engagement: Graeme reported that the committee met on March 16 to assign roles/tasks.
 - i. Status of the FB page: Laura McKenzie reported that she's been posting items sent to her, such as the trees and shrubs hike report. She also requested that people specify in the subject line that they're sending KNPS Facebook updates and also send photos as JPGs.
 1. Laura also asked about whether KNPS has a photo bank to pull from, and Laura D suggested the archive project and will check with Kent.
 - ii. Membership blitz: Jean reported that Diana Card will be taking on the membership management task from Gary.
 1. Jean reported on the note that will be sent to email subscribers who are not members, encouraging them to become members to support the work of the KNPS.
 - iii. Awareness Campaign: stickers, social media posts
 - iv. Map sales: Susanne reported no updates for map sales but will check on locations that sell maps before the next meeting.
 - v. Bulletin article: John enjoyed Ryan's article about KTS and thought we should write something similar for KNPS, perhaps including upcoming events, to inform the local readership. Jenn also suggested seeing if we could get coverage in Go Cranberly.
- c. Planning & Grants: Gary noted that there are no current projects that require grant funding, but he will

- take a look at potential funding options for the Trail Counter project that Laura suggested. Otherwise, Gary asked that anyone with ideas for capital projects contact him.
- d. Trails & Structures: Mitch reported that he and Laura M posted 14 signs about winter trail use (ski vs. walk/snowshoe/bike tracks). Laura noted that some of them are confusing because the words and photos aren't lined up, which could be confusing to trail users
 - i. Jean asked about replacing the small signs on the kiosk boxes for membership forms, and will email Mitch about options
 - e. Natural History: Laura reported:
 - i. Breeding Birds Survey: KNPS has done two of these in the past. Specific route with stopping points/times to listen and document what you see and hear to get a sense of what birds are using the area. Ruth Goodwin has run them in the past and is considering doing a 2023 survey in June, though it will be health-dependent. Additional volunteers welcome!
 - ii. Wildlife Cam project: Had to get one camera replaced under warranty. Cameras are in four new locations: Hoodoo View, Sunflower Hill, Second Eimer's and near Second Eimer's.
 - iii. Wolf kills found on Hoodoo View and Sunflower Hill
 - iv. Betty Baker has taken over posting Nature Notes on kiosks and refilling the membership form boxes. Laura noted that the Notes could be modernized as well and posted to the website and Facebook.
 - f. Interface Fire: Dave noted that we'd already spoken about the WISA area exemption. John is waiting to hear back from Will Booth and will follow up next week if needed.
 - i. \$400,000 is already with the city to do careful treatment within the WISA area, 50-80 hectares, 6 hectares of which will be done by Wildsight Youth Climate Corps, and the rest by the Kimberley Fire Department
 - ii. Travis Emsland from Ministry of Forests has planned to treat ~100 hectares outside of Nature Park and HBV, with tiny sliver along HBV connecting to Front Blvd. Mostly outside our area of concern, but Dave asked whether there would be any new skid trails near HBV. No burning, but mechanical thinning.
 - g. Horse Barn Valley: Nothing to report.

Kimberly Trails Society Report: Ryan reported:

- Nordic Centre burn treatment has been waiting for four years; will try to do this spring, but it may be too wet. There will be blocks on all trails that access the area to keep people out.
- Boardwalk near the Cabin is deteriorating and Ryan is scoping out other options, including those that will require less distance to cover
- KTS is hiring for Trail Crew, and applications are on KTS website. 10 weeks, 300 hours of work, starting May 1.
- Winter grooming is over as of April 1. Great job this season, excellent feedback, solid volunteer base, no major mechanical issues. Sharing a survey throughout April to collect feedback and see if people will sign up to volunteer next year.
- New maps of trail network on kiosks in a few spots, e.g., top of Higgins Hill near biathlon hut, though John mentioned that we should coordinate because that one's on the list as part of the KNPS map update project
- Bootleg: some logging happening at the base.

Interesting Sightings: Wolf kill on Sunflower Hill with eagles circling

Motion to Adjourn: Jean moved, Heather seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Next Meeting: 7pm, April 27, 2023 at McKim School