

Kimberley Nature Park Society

Monthly Meeting Minutes – May 30, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 19:01 hrs. by President Kent Goodwin.

Present: Frank O’Grady, Kent Goodwin, Gary Hicks, Naomi Humenny, John Henly, Lorraine Zerafa, Rod Chapman, Ryan McKenzie, Cheryl Bernhardt, David, Bernhardt, Chris Ferguson, Cliff Erven.

Treasurer Ingrid Musser sent regrets.

City Councilor/City Liaison Sandy Roberts sent regrets.

**1. Introduction and confirm agenda.**

Motion to approve: John Henly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Naomi Humenny; carried.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting.**

Printed copies were circulated. Kent mentioned the minutes are on the KNP website.

Motion to approve: Chris Ferguson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Rod Chapman; carried.

**3. Financial Report.**

Presented by Kent Goodwin. Current period expenditures were \$177.45 for annual post office box rent and \$480.55 for biennial update of website.

**4. Unfinished Business.**

Enduro Bike race. Kent reviewed the history of the Enduro organization’s attempt to secure a permit to use the Bootleg trails but because of permitting delays they requested use of the KNP trails as a contingency plan. The event was denied a permit to utilize Bootleg trails so they proceeded with their request to use (parts of) the KNP trails.

Kent circulated an email (that had been sent to directors earlier) from Megan Rose that contained Plan 1 and Plan 2 for trail use in the KNP.

A discussion was held on plan 1 vs. plan 2. Chris Ferguson pointed out most of the trail damage from racing is on the downhill sections. Chris also suggested taking pictures of the downhill sections, before the race, that are most likely to be damaged for reference after the race, and he also suggested KNP get a promise from Megan Rose that the trails will be restored to their original condition post-race.

**The consensus was that Plan 1 would be the best plan for the Enduro race.** Kent will advise Megan that KNP is approving Plan 1.

Merkel Bench. Kent examined the proposed location of the Merkel family bench in the park with Lindsey Merkel. It is not possible to ascertain if the proposed location is in KNP, in Forest Crowne, or on the boundary. However, it is very close to the boundary either way. Kent considers the proposed location acceptable. He is not sure of the timing of

placing the bench but he will advise the family (Lindsey) the location is approved and she will get back to him.

A discussion was held that ascertained design and location of benches in the park must be approved by KNP. All present are also aware that at some time in the future there may have to be a limit on the number of benches placed in the park.

There was some discussion on the bench at the view point on Northwest Passage trail that is in disrepair. It may have to be removed at some time for public safety.

Archive Project. Rod Chapman updated the archive project. The project is very close to being finished. The archive is about 20 Gigs.

Rod circulated a document that will appear in the local newspaper and will also be posted on Facebook. Details of the project and how to access the information, where the information will be kept is contained in the document.

All present expressed gratitude to Rod Chapman for instigating and carrying out this project.

## **5. Committee Reports:**

Trail Guide. Val deposited (with Kent) \$115 from Trail Guide sales.

Membership. Gary Hicks reported 5 new members: 3 lifetime memberships, 1 regular membership and one email subscriber that purchased a membership (this is the first time an email subscriber has purchased a membership).

There was a discussion on how to get email subscribers to become members.

Initially the decision was made to send emails to non-members hoping they would become members. There are 85 email subscribers that are potential members.

Natural History. Some of the KNP Naturalists hiked from the Campground to the top of Myrtle Mountain on May 25<sup>th</sup> to chronicle the bird and flower species present at this time of year.

Ruth Goodwin is conducting a breeding bird survey on Sunday, June 2, 2019 starting at 7AM. The survey is conducted by listening to birds; it is conducted early in the morning as the mating calls by birds are finished by 10AM.

Trails. Chris Ferguson flagged a section of the upper part of Shapeshifter that should be relocated in order to conform with trail building standards. Kent mentioned that an archaeological survey and a plant survey may have to be conducted before relocation starts on the trail.

Ryan McKenzie went over the relocation of Richardson's trail near the intersection with Mountain Mine trail. When Ryan has flagged the proposed relocation route, the Natural History people will examine it for rare fauna.

Ryan McKenzie reported on the trail work party conducted May 11, 2019. There was a turnout of 47 people; Ryan was satisfied with the results of their work. Ryan also reported there are now 14 trained volunteer chain saw operators working on the various trails around Kimberley.

Chris suggested that old trails that have been put to bed should be seeded as a way to keep them from becoming used again. Blocking the trails with trees and debris has varying results. Kent suggested transplanting nearby fauna to the reclaimed trails may work. Kent further suggested that this may be a project for Selkirk students that wish to work on community projects.

Gravel Pit Clean Up. Frank O'Grady briefed the meeting on the completed gravel pit clean up conducted by Frank, Paul Paronetto and Lou Bedard on May 17, 2019.

Unauthorized Trail Building. There was a discussion on unauthorized trail building. The theme was to create public awareness that the trails are designed and built to specifications. That putting up flagging and painting rocks are undesirable actions. In addition, the trail work is all done by volunteers. It is paramount that there be no unauthorized trail building. If there are trail changes that seem desirable, they cannot be done unilaterally. If a trail user has an idea that will improve a trail, they are encouraged to approach the KNP officers and directors with their idea so it can be properly analyzed.

Chris showed a picture of the awareness poster that he has had created. The poster was approved and will be put up at strategic locations in the park and selected businesses around the area.

Data from the trail user survey is being entered into a spreadsheet for analysis.

Blog. The new management plan for the park was posted on the website. Feedback is being solicited.

Horse Barn Valley. John Henly updated the Kiosk project for HBV which is completed. John reviewed the changes that were made to the kiosk.

Tora Bora. Climbing crag. There were climbing rings established in a crag in Tora Bora. This was a rogue action and was not authorized. Ministry representative Lisa Cox was alarmed at this action; she contacted the East Kootenay Climbing Association. The location of the climbing crag was on an app which she requested be taken down. This has been complied with. There is to be no promotion until the crag is evaluated by KNP and a proper

route is determined that does not interfere with rare lichens. It will be determined if there are rare lichens in the crag before more routes are authorized.

Events. The annual Mother's Day hike led by Ruth Goodwin was on May 12; the annual photography hike led by Janice Strong was on May 19. Both events were well attended and successful.

Several cards with all the hikes until October were distributed so they can be strategically placed to interest participants.

Grant Writing. There are no pending grants at this time.

Interface/Pine Beetle/Restoration. There was a fire in the park on the south side of Myrtle Mountain. The fire resulted from a smoldering pile flaring up under the conditions of temperature, humidity and wind speed that cause a fire to react. The fire resulted in the loss of some mature trees and the soil being burned to mineral soil in some places. Kent suggested that keeping track of the recovery of the burned area will add expertise to the knowledge of recovering burned areas.

Bob Grey, the fire ecologist retained by the City, is holding a meeting with the Fire Chief Wednesday June 19, 2019. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss how the City will be using the 2019 interface grant of \$700,000 the City received. Kent, Chris Ferguson and John Henly will attend the meeting.

New Business. Succession planning for president of KNP was not discussed.

Kent will discuss the search and rescue aspect of the management plan with Kimberley Search and Rescue.

Interesting Sightings. There are many new flowers in the park; when one species finish blooming another one or more species begin to bloom at this time of year.

Frank O'Grady, notes taken May 30, 2019, transcribed May 31, 2019.