

KIMBERLEY NATURE PARK SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 28, 2019 Trickle Creek Lodge

- 1 **Call to Order:** 19:09 hours
- 2 **Determine Quorum (3 members)**
- 3 **Confirm Agenda**

Motion: To Accept: Suzanne McAllister /Marty Musser.
Carried

4. **Adopt 2018 Minutes**

Motion: To Accept: Suzanne McAllister / Lorna Locke-
Carried

5. **Treasurer's Annual Report:**

Motion: To Accept: Ingrid Musser/ Rand Davis – Carried

6. **Executive Report:** The year in Review: Kent Goodwin.
(attached below)

7. **Election of Officers and Directors:**

President - Naomi Humenny

Vice President - Chris Ferguson (interim) to June 2020.

Secretary - To be determined.

Treasurer: Ingrid Musser – Okholm

KNPS Year in Review 2019

Twenty nineteen has been another successful year for the Kimberley Nature Park Society, with a cooler, moister summer giving some relief from the fires and smoke of the previous two years. Highlights of this year include the completion of our Archive project, a review and update of our Management Plan, a new kiosk and maps for Horse Barn Valley and many well-attended guided events in the Park.

As 2019 draws to a close, our membership stands at 287, of which more than 200 are lifetime members. I'd like to thank KNPS Director Gary Hicks for all the work he does maintaining our membership database. Gary is here tonight if you would like to renew your membership.

Over 100 additional people have subscribed to our webpage and email list but not yet purchased memberships

The KNPS webpage provides a point of contact for people interested in the Park and a great deal of background information. Our blog posts on that page are used to pass on in-depth information about the Park's flora and fauna and KNPS activities.

Our Facebook page is the platform we use to keep folks informed about upcoming Park events and activities and it is updated frequently. Our engagement with folks on Facebook continues to be popular with just over 1160 people following our posts. One of the challenges for the new board in 2020 will be figuring out how to convert all this interest in the Park into memberships and active volunteers.

This past year we hosted 18 guided events in the Park and participation ranged from awesome to "boy is it ever raining today". Thanks to Suzanne McAllister for spearheading the creation of our event calendar and to all the volunteers that took folks out into the Park.

The Park also hosted three major events this year that were organized by other groups, with the Round the Mountain Festival in June, BC Enduro race in July and the Black Spur Ultramarathon in August.

Of course we couldn't host events in the Park if we didn't have a well maintained trail network. In 2019 we were pleased to work again with Ryan McKenzie, the Trails Manager hired by the Kimberley Trails Society who helps with maintenance and renovation of all the trails around Kimberley. Ryan organized a major chainsaw work party early in the year, to clear and trim back deadfall and he helped look after our trails throughout the summer and fall. A number of volunteers turned out as needed to clear blowdown, make small repairs and do some brushing along the emergency vehicle access routes.

Unfortunately, not all the energy put into Park trails in 2019 was appropriate and twice this year we came across unauthorized trail building that require some effort on our part to restore to a more natural state. Please, don't build trails in the Nature Park. If you have a great idea for a trail come and talk to us about it.

This year we sold about 320 copies of our full colour paper trail guide and we would like to thank the businesses and organizations that provide outlets for those sales. I would also like to thank our awesome volunteer, Valerie Carey who distributes maps to the outlets and collects the revenue.

And while I am at it I will send a special thank you to Paddy at Purcell Outdoors for selling our awesome Nature Park T-shirts, which I might add, make great Christmas gifts.

Last year a forest fire fuel treatment project took place near the old gravel pit just in from the Swan Ave trailhead. The thinning and slashing revealed a large and diverse amount of old garbage and trash that had been mostly hidden by the small trees and shrubs. This spring Frank, Paul and Lou spent some time hauling stuff to the road and trucking it to the transfer station and the area now looks considerably better.

The KNPS continues in its role of co-manager of the Horse Barn Valley Interpretive Forest and maintains a great working relationship with Lisa Cox of Recreation Sites and Trails BC, our provincial government partner. This year Lisa provided funding to update the trail map on the Bullfrog Hill Kiosk and installed a new three-sided kiosk and maps in the HBV parking lot.

We also worked with Lisa this summer, in our response to the mysterious appearance of several bolted rock climbing routes on a crag in Tora Bora Valley.

Some local climbers had taken it upon themselves to develop and promote this area without checking with either Lisa or the KNPS. Some meetings and field trips took place and we did an inventory of the flora in the area only to find a number of occurrences of a red-listed, critically imperiled lichen, called granulated rock tripe, growing on the rock face. Lisa has approached the East Kootenay Climbing Association and confirmed that they are interested in stewarding the site and we are now planning to create some interpretive signage about the rare lichens to educate climbers about responsible route development.

Our Nature Park Naturalists group continued to be active this year with a number of field trips and some potluck suppers. One of our activities was an update of our breeding bird surveys which were previously carried out in 2008 and 2001. This year we did one of three routes in the Park, that included Eimer's Road, Lower Army Road and Duck Pond and found a small decline in both the numbers of species and numbers of birds. Next year, we will be focusing on the Jimmy Russell, Duckpond Trail, Sunflower Hill route in advance of any new fuel treatment proposed for that area. More on that in a minute.

Our invasive plant control efforts continued this year, albeit at a lower level than in previous years. Volunteers pulled and bagged numerous knapweed plants on Sunflower Hill and kept the blueweed from encroaching on the road by the Swan Ave. gravel pit. We are increasingly concerned about cheatgrass infestations in the south end of the Park and the spread of yellow hawkweed just about everywhere.

This year we completed the KNPS archive project that was started in 2018. Spearheaded by Director Rod Chapman, we used funding from the Columbia Basin Trust and Heritage BC to hire an archivist and gather and organize all the historical documents we could find from the 31-year history of the KNPS. The assembled archive now resides at the Kimberley Heritage Museum and will be updated from time to time in the future.

One of our major projects this year was the review of our KNPS Management Plan. The Plan is a requirement of the City's License of Occupation for the Park and a number of sections in it were out of date and need a refresh. Thank you to Gary Hicks, Rod Chapman, Cliff Erven, Frank O'Grady and John Henly for spending many hours this year reviewing the existing plan and crafting updates to every

section. The new plan was accepted by the City of Kimberley in September and now resides on the KNPS website. In about 6 years we will need to consider another update.

We got a late start on our firewood salvage activities this year, with our first foray in the middle of September. Over the next two months we did some cleanup on Eimer's Road, the Army Road and the Boulevard and helped folks collect about 35 pickup truck loads of wood. Thanks to Kayla Gilroy for helping to schedule our outings and line up the appropriate number of trucks and chainsaws for each work party.

Our salvaging of firewood is, in part, an effort to deal with the abundance of fuel in the Park that will contribute to future forest fires. The City of Kimberley, with funding from the Provincial Community Resiliency Program, has also been doing a lot of work in the Park using contractors to dice up small conifers and downed wood and pile it and burn it. This year crews worked along Duck Pond Trail, the Army Road, the Suicide and Romantic Ridge and this week they were burning along Eimer's Ridge. In one area near Myrtle Junction and Richardson's Sidehill, a mobile chipper was used to deal with the enormous volume of downed trees.

We had a bit of scare in the spring, when a burn pile was left smoldering over the weekend and a small wildfire flared up on Myrtle Mountain. The fire was actioned by the BC Wildfire Service and Kimberley Fire Department and was quickly extinguished. Plans are proceeding for a prescribed burn on the hillside above the Army Road and most of the Nordic Ski Trail area next spring and on the south side of Myrtle Mountain the following spring.

But that is not the biggest news relating to fuel management in the Park. In the last month we have learned that discussions have been taking place between the City, the Province and Canfor to create a large fuel break to the west of Kimberley that would span an area from Forest Crowne to Bootleg Mountain. The discussions have included the option of significant amounts of machine logging in the Nature Park. Members of the KNPS Board attended the wildfire management open house at Centennial Hall on Tuesday and we will be involved in discussions with the Province, the City and Canfor regarding the development of this plan.

For the KNPS, fuel management activities are not just about protecting the town or even the Park from a wildfire. The forests of the Nature Park have evolved with

and adapted to wildfires. A century of fire suppression has disrupted the natural cycle of low intensity ground fires and allowed the forests to become far denser than they would naturally be. We do need to take action to restore more natural stands of trees and to protect the Park and community. The devil is in the details. While we have supported machine logging in the past, on Sunflower Hill, we do not, at this point know, if the Canfor proposal will be acceptable to us and to the City of Kimberley. Stay tuned for more in the coming months.

So that was a brief summary of our past year and now it is time to look forward to the next one.

In a couple of minutes, we will be electing a new KNPS Board of Directors. I am retiring as President of the Society after a fairly long stint in that position, but I will remain an active member and stay involved in a number of issues and activities.

I would like to thank all the members of our Board who have served in the past year. Without your efforts the Park wouldn't be much of a park. I would especially like to thank Naomi Humenny our current vice-president for putting her name forward as the new president. Naomi will do a great job leading the KNPS, but unlike me, she works full time and helps Paddy run a small business. She is going to need a good strong team of directors pitching in with ideas and energy to help protect and promote the Park into the future. There is plenty of work to be done: trail renovation and maintenance, publicity and promotion, a membership drive, programs for school kids, ecological research, public events, fundraising, invasive weed control, ecosystem restoration and fuel management to name just a few. Many of our current directors have agreed to serve another term and a number of excellent new volunteers have already come forward. All their names are listed on tonight's agenda. As we call for further nominations, please consider putting your name forward if you have some time and energy to devote to the Park.

Thank you very much.

