

WESTSYDE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
MEETING MINUTES FROM
THURSDAY OCTOBER 5TH 2017

PRESENT:

S. Delaney, President
B. Kelly, Vice President
K. Kelly, Treasurer
A. Grineau, Secretary
K. MacKay, Youth Engagement Director
K. McMullen, Social Media Director
R. Kelly, Past President
S. Wilcox, Director
D. Kuchma, Director
G. McConechy, Director
S. Logan, Director

MEMBERS:

J. McConechy
M. Gilchrist
G. Koivula

REGRETS:

L. Bourgeois, Director
R. Kuchma, Director
J. McMullen

GUESTS:

Westsyde / Oak Hills residents (dozen or more)
Denis Walsh, City Councillor

1. Call to order

- Meeting called to order at 6:59pm in the Westsyde Community Centre.

2. Approval / Changes to the Agenda

- R. Kelly moved to add to the agenda, and seconded by S. Wilcox (CARRIED):
 - 4. Dike around Oak Hills.
 - 12. Project report for Centennial Park.
 - 13. WCDS Executive Christmas party.

3. Minutes

- Karen noted that in the Treasurer's Report in the September 2017 minutes, the outstanding cheque of \$40.00 (Societies Act registration fee) needed to be moved into the section "Cheques which cleared the account after June 1st meeting", as the cheque cleared the Chequing Account on July 21, 2017.
- R. Kelly moved that the minutes of September 7th be adopted as amended. Seconded by B. Kelly. CARRIED.

4. Oak Hills Dike

- Robert acted as moderator for this portion of the monthly meeting.
- Several residents of Westsyde and Oak Hills attended the monthly meeting to express concerns over paving of the dike around Oak Hills, as per the recently conducted poll on September 21st on the WCDS Facebook group discussion page, as well as concerns over WCDS's approval for the City's plan to pave the dike as per the letter from the WCDS to the City, dated April 23, 2017, which was referenced on this Facebook page, as noted below:
- On September 21st, the following post to the WCDS group discussion Facebook page was made by the WCDS regarding Poll information:
 - "The WCDS has in the past, sent in a letter to the city recommending that the dike be paved. This decision was based on many things but the main reasons were:
#1 The plan is in line with the Society's constitution and mission.
#2 The fact that the dog park was built by the city, as a direct response to dog-owner's concerns about the dike being paved.
#3 A paved dike would make bicycling and other modes of transport/activities easier for the community.
 - However, the ultimate decision on whether or not to pave the dike lies with the City. An email has been sent to the Parks Planning Supervisor to ask the status of this issue at city hall and we will update as soon as we hear back."
- Then on September 22nd, "DIKE UPDATE Sept 22: We have just received this information regarding the Dike in Oak hills:
 - "The paving of the dyke is mentioned in all three of our Active Transportation Plans (Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Trail). All three of these plans were adopted by City Council thus approving the objectives of those plans. Before these plans were finalized they all went through extensive public consultation including surveys and open houses. They can all be accessed on the City of Kamloops website.
 - The dyke is actually an important piece of the Rivers Trail network. The philosophy behind the Rivers Trail is to service recreational and commuter cyclists and pedestrians. At build out it will stretch from one corner of the City to the other. The objective of the Rivers Trail is to have it as close to the River as possible and to have it a minimum of 3 m wide and paved. The Westsyde dyke is currently a gap in the network that does not meet that criteria.

- The plan is to pave the dyke in 2018 depending on appropriate funding and having all regulatory approvals are in place."
 - -Michael Doll
Parks Planning Supervisor"
- There was a further DIKE UPDATE posted on the group discussion Facebook page on Sept 23: "See below as Michael Doll- Parks Planning Supervisor, has taken the time to answer your questions regarding the paving of the dike!
 - "-the path will actually be better maintained in the winter as we will be able to plow it now. We can't plow gravel paths. Being the Rivers Trail it will be a high priority on our snow list.
 - - if people prefer to walk and run on gravel there will be plenty of room on the shoulders to do that.
 - - the Dyke Authority has to approve the work so there is no chance of compromising the integrity of the dyke.
 - - [in response to the comment] waste of money. We have an annual Capital budget that is used exactly for these types of projects. Improving the Rivers Trail network and the trail system in general."
 - He also shares the WCDS's feeling that any increase in skateboard/roller blade/bicycle usage, is an increase in people getting out there and enjoying healthy activities, and is therefore a plus.
 - In response to the question brought forward of whether lighting will be added to the path, Michael has said that while improved lighting would "....be a wonderful addition..." it would require excavation for wiring and would be very expensive, and so there are "...no current plans to add lights.""
- Robert prefaced this discussion with some background information about why the City was considering paving the Oak Hills dike: the WCDS fundraised for the creation of the \$25,000.00 dog park (to allay residents' concerns about dogs being walked on the dike, paved or unpaved); the bottleneck on Westsyde Road that is created both for emergency vehicles and regular traffic in the event of flooding and mudslides—paving the centre portion of the dike would allow an alternate route for emergency access.
- Steve mentioned that it was his understanding that only a portion of the dike's surface was to be paved, leaving unpaved shoulders on either side of the paved portion.
- He then opened the meeting for comments from each of the Oak Hills residents and WCDS members to comment.
- Reference was made to petitions done in 1997 and 2007 not to pave the dike.
- Pro-paving proponents mentioned paving would provide easier access to the dike for strollers, wheelchairs, and people who bike to work.
- Residents against paving the dike expressed concerns about increased use of the dike by rollerbladers, bikers, and skateboarders, with the potential to cause injuries to elderly users of the path.

- Erosion of the dike was mentioned several times, as was maintenance of any paved portion of the dike during the winter months.
- Our Social Media Director reminded everyone that the WCDS members are all volunteers, that any information received from the Parks Planning Supervisor was posted immediately, and that the Provincial Dike Authority would have any final say as to paving any portion of the surface of the dike. She redirected residents to voice their concerns directly to the City.
- Discussion of this topic closed with a motion by R. Kelly that the President, on behalf of the WCDS, thank the community representatives present tonight for their observations on the City of Kamloops' planned paving of the Centennial Park dike in 2018 and that we revert to this evening's agenda. Seconded by G. McConechy.
- Residents thanked the WCDS for the opportunity to express their concerns over paving the dike, and Steve thanked Kassandra for creating the Facebook connection to the Westsyde community.

5. Treasurer's Report (Karen Kelly)

- New balance in Chequing account is \$17,584.03, of which \$6,500.00 is earmarked for the covered picnic shelter in Centennial Park.
- Bills to be paid:
 - The Printing Place (\$44.80 towards future 500 copies; Karen); S. Delaney moved that Karen be reimbursed for this expense, seconded by G. McConechy. CARRIED.
 - Arlene (\$22.40 for posters from The Printing Place advertising the Halloween costume exchange).

6. Memberships

- Membership cards were distributed to members who had paid their annual dues, including several 'grandfathered' members.
- We now have 2 corporate sponsors; both Westsyde Home Hardware and Westsyde Dental Centre have contributed \$100.00 each.
- Karen has been canvassing local businesses regarding memberships and potential contributors to an updated WCDS / Westsyde coupon booklet.
- Grant McConechy suggested that Kassandra create a social media contact list as a handout.

7. Budget

- R. Kelly moved that the President and Treasurer meet prior to the November meeting to finalize the 2017/18 budget. Seconded by G. McConechy. CARRIED.
- S. Delaney moved that \$500.00 be donated to Everett Bostock for his annual Halloween fireworks display. Seconded by K. MacKay. CARRIED.

8. Bylaws and Aim of the Society

- Both Steve and Robert suggested that rather than changing the bylaws and constitution, that it is the mission statement and purpose of the society which should be reworked.
- Grant McConechy suggested the bylaws be approved as is, and that consideration of the mission statement be tabled for another meeting; as well, that a slogan or motto is not a mission statement. The first paragraph on the Membership Form could be used as a guide.
- Robert proposed that a committee be formed to develop a rough draft of the mission statement which would then be distributed to all members to work on over the 2017/18 year. Committee members will be chosen at the November meeting.
- B. Kelly moved that the bylaws and constitution of the WCDS remain the same as the original wording of 2001. Seconded by K. MacKay. CARRIED.

9. Fundraisers (Karen Kelly)

a) Halloween Costume Swap

- Kim MacKay organized the first annual Halloween costume swap for 9:30 to 11:45 on Saturday, October 7th at the Westsyde Neighbourhood Centre; there are currently 30 costumes available, priced at \$2.00 each.
- This event is more of a means of connecting with the community in a fun way, rather than a serious fundraiser.
- On Friday evening Kassandra will post a reminder on Facebook.
- Unsold costumes will first be posted on the WCDS Facebook page, and then taken to Penny Pinchers after that.
- Official permission to hold this event has been given by Sharon Lockwood; paperwork to be posted in the WCDS Board Room.

b) Gary's Deli

- Diane distributed order forms, and reminded that October 19th is the deadline to get these forms back to her.

c) Coupon Booklets

- Karen will get another 100 new coupon booklets, as people have been selling a lot of them.

d) Fall Craft Fair

- This event will be held on Saturday, November 18th.
- Diane has contacted Jacki Anderson, and the WCDS will again be running the concession. Volunteers are required to staff the kitchen (Janna, Arlene, Diane Lucie), and to provide desserts for sale.
- A crew is also required to help set up the vendor tables, and as parking lot attendants.

- There will 2 tables which also requiring staffing: one by the front door, with the WCDS donation jar (needs 2 people), and the membership table. Promotional mugs and pens can be sold at both of these tables.

e) Coffee Mug Sales

- Promotional mugs and pens can be sold at both of these tables.

f) Grants for 2017/18 (e.g., Neighbourhood Matching Grant)

- The Neighbourhood Matching Grant is likely not going to be available to the WCDS this year, unless there is a specific project the City is willing to assist.

10. Social Media (Kassandra McMullen)

- Steve has requested more moderators and contributors are needed for our social media sites, to assist Kassandra, and Grant Koivula volunteered to be a moderator.

11. WCDS Website and Newsletter (Steve Delaney)

- Steve would like to change the status of the westsyde.info page from 'active' to 'static', which would save \$60.00 in domain fees per year.
- After group discussion, it was agreed that our Facebook page would better serve to reflect the active work of the WCDS.
- There was a suggestion that we could use our 'static' page on Facebook to post nonchanging items such as our constitution and bylaws, increasing the transparency of the WCDS to the community; discussion of this idea was tabled until November's meeting.

12. Community

a) Westsyde Pool and Fitness Centre

- The City has yet to contact the WCDS regarding participation in the official Grand Opening event.

b) Centennial Park / Picnic Shelter

Robert reviewed an email he received in the spring of 2017 from Mike Doll, Parks Planning Supervisor for the City of Kamloops. This email listed projects that the City was to undertake in Centennial Park during this past summer, in lieu of an \$18,000.00 cedar picnic shelter previously agreed upon by the City in 2015. It was this cedar picnic shelter for which the WCDS fundraised over the last 2 years. The following is the City's agreed upon list of projects:

1. The two prefabricated picnic shelters from Home Depot: Ben Chobater has been in recent discussions with Byron McCorkell, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Culture, about these picnic shelters, and informed Robert that the city will install them in the next 10 days to 2 weeks.

2. More tables and/or benches to be installed around the spray park: Nothing more will be done in 2017.
 3. A snow barrier for the maintenance building roof: this has not yet been installed. Robert has been informed that Clint Anderson from the City will be emailing him next week about this potential safety hazard.
 4. Painting the ice rink concrete to conserve ice: The City apparently had no idea about this request. Diane Kuchma suggested she and her son Shane will gather details of paint colour, brand and amount of paint required for this project, and submit this request to the Parks Department.
 5. Improvements along the petting zoo perimeter (gravel and benches): Grant Koivula knows both Al Threatful and Cindy Smodgi and will talk to them; Al and Cindy need to attend a WCDS meeting so that a development plan for the petting zoo can be created and then put forward to the City Parks Department.
 6. Redo the Pickleball lines on the ice rink concrete: the City has decided not to paint these lines.
 7. Add 'No Parking' signs on the roundabout by the spray park: the City will put up NO PARKING signs next week.
 8. Paving the Oak Hills / Centennial Park dike in 2018: Grant McConechy suggested the WCDS reserve the gym in the Neighbourhood Centre in the New Year, and invite the community and the City to participate in an open conversation about this issue. The City needs to hear peoples' comments and ideas, and the community needs to understand the City's proposals for paving the dike. Arlene and Steve will email Mike Doll with an invitation to the City to attend this forum.
- c) Boat Launch Study
- Tabled to a future meeting.
- d) Bike Park
- Tabled to a future meeting.
- e) Future Park Land
- Tabled to a future meeting.

13. Miscellaneous Business

- Karen will contact Nishino Sushi to book the annual Executive Christmas party, date of Saturday, December 9th, at 6:00pm. She will bring the price list to the November meeting.

Meeting Adjournment: 9:15pm

Next regular meeting November 2nd, 2017 at 7:00 PM at Westsyde Neighbourhood Centre.