

DRAFT MINUTES
DENMAN ISLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEETING
“BACK HALL” 7:30 PM - NOVEMBER 14, 2011

President Frank Frketich opened the meeting and asked for a motion to approve the posted agenda, with an additional item regarding a boat launch. (**Moved, Seconded, Carried**)

A motion was made to approve the posted minutes of the October 17th General Meeting. (**Seconded, Carried**)

Business Arising from the Minutes-

President Frketich reported that DIRA would need more money before year-end and that the Executive (Board of Directors) will apply for a Grant in Aid for DIRA from the CVRD and will look for a longer term solution over the next several months. Doug Wright contributed additional information from a recent meeting with CVRD staff.

The President also noted the rather unsatisfactory response received from Mark Collins of B.C. Ferries to DIRA's letter to the head of B.C. Ferries, David Hahn. DIRA will send a response back to Mark Collins.

Executive Report-

Frank Frketich reported that our negotiations with DIRA's insurance agent, Axis Insurance, had finally resulted in a total insurance cost a little lower than last year's but still quite high. He noted that we are presently about \$1000 short on funding for insurance. Bob French suggested that, in order for committees to support DIRA insurance costs, time lines need to be better co-ordinated in future so that committees know what will be needed before their budgets are fully committed.

Frank mentioned that the DIRA Board was considering the alternative of dealing with a local insurance agent because of difficulties in dealing with Axis. Commenting on this, John Johnston stated that he had also had difficulties dealing with Axis but, earlier, had also had similar difficulties with First Insurance. Axis was the only company found that would cover all our insurance needs. Contacting a higher level of management in Axis had given him better results.

Committee Reports-

Dock Committee:

John Johnston submitted comparison figures for actual versus budgeted expenditures; summary figures for project expenditures and income, and a summary of cash on hand and receivable from the various sources involved (all attached to these minutes). John stated that the amount of cash-plus-receivables that is not set aside for on-going major expenses such as insurance will be applied to lighting, etc. However DIRA will receive an annual bill from B.C. Hydro after the Hydro power is hooked up and the Dock Committee also plans to set aside part of its remaining available cash to cover this Hydro bill for the next three years or so. A motion will be put to a future DIRA meeting for approval to hook up the Hydro.

There was discussion regarding co-ordinating area lighting with B.C. Ferries, as B.C.F. will be expanding the parking area near the dock.

Motion: that the Dock Committee's financial statement be accepted as presented. (Seconded, Carried)

Parks Committee:

Ralph McCuaig reported that maintenance and upgrading work had been done at Morning Beach Park, including removal of a tree that fell across the stairway and planting of seedling trees. Parks Committee volunteers have also begun clearing a footpath along the right-of-way into the new Maple Park near the junction of McFarlane Road and East Road.

Trails Committee:

Ralph McCuaig reported that the Trails Committee is looking at developing a comprehensive map of trails on the island and working on mapping and opening old trails. In co-ordination with Karin Albert of the CVRD Parks Department, work is also being done to evaluate the two proposed routes for a cross-island, ferry-to-ferry trail. One route option is via Lacon Road, McFarlane Road and East Road; the other is via Denman Road and East Road with detours along smaller roads and trails to bypass a difficult section of East Road. The CVRD will contribute some money for surveying for the cross-island trail, if needed, and will attempt to set aside some funds each year for construction of this trail, which will have to be built in sections over a period of years. Signage at key points on trails is also being considered.

Concern was expressed from the floor as to whether or not the proposed cross-island trail, and other trails, would be used enough to be worth the effort and cost of building and maintaining them.

Swim Dock Committee: No Report.

Old School Committee: No Report.

Wildlife Committee: No Report.

Reports of Independent Organizations-

Fire Department:

John Ralston pointed out the Fire Department's ambitious program to train up to 20% of the population in CPR. He mentioned that a few places are still available in the course coming up later this month. John also stated that B.C. Ferries has indicated it will be happy to meet with the Fire Department regarding concerns about night docking at Buckley Bay and loss of after-hours emergency service if a cable ferry is substituted for the Quinitsa. Finally, John announced that the Province of B.C. has recently informed the Fire Department that the new ambulance station is expected to be completed and ready for occupation by the end of January, 2012.

Denman Works!:

Simon Palmer reported on the Annual General Meeting of Denman Works!, held on October 26th. A five-year budget was approved and an auditor was appointed. Reports on 2011

activities and other documents are available on the Denman Works! website.

Islands Trust: No Report.

Ferry Advisory Committee:

Dennis Forsyth reported that B.C. Ferries has published advertisements for expressions of interest in operating a cable ferry on the Denman Island-Buckley Bay route. The final decision as to whether to use a cable ferry has been moved to September 2012 and the “in service date” for a cable ferry has been moved from November 2013 to April 2014. Dennis noted that all of B.C. Ferries’ background work and information relating to the cable ferry proposal can be found on the B.C. Ferries website. Tony Law, as chairperson of the Ferry Advisory Committee, has written to B.C. Ferries to say that users see the advertisements for expressions of interest as a sign that the cable ferry is a “done deal”. The Ferry Commissioner has said there was no order from him to B.C. Ferries to explore the Cable Ferry option.

Vancouver Island Regional Library: No Report.

New Business-

DIRA letter to Ferry Commissioner:

President Frank Frketich described the content of a letter he had drafted to the Ferry Commissioner and, noting the December 5th deadline for such input, asked for a motion to approve sending it. Upon requests from the floor, he read the letter in full. (Copy of letter filed with these minutes.)

Motion: to send to the Ferry Commissioner the letter just read to this meeting. (**Seconded, Carried**)

Boat Launch:

Concern was expressed from the floor regarding loss of the boat-launching area just south of the Denman West ferry dock, when B.C. Ferries expands parking according to plan. Discussion ensued. Dennis Forsyth agreed to e-mail B.C. Ferries, asking about the status of the present launch location.

Meeting adjourned- 8:47 P.M.