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District of Squamish

2012 Parks & Recreation Master Plan Project

Open House #2

Date: June 11, 2012

Time: Interviews 4:30-7:30pm
Open House 6:00-8:00pm

Location: Brennan Park Auditorium and Senior Lounge

Attending: Lees+Associates Team
Erik Lees, Mark Vulliamy, Cathy Matheson
District Steering Committee Members

MC/Host: Erik Lees, LEES + Associates

Table Hosts: Janet Gugins - Sport, Health, Wellness
Shannon Collier - Arts, Culture, Heritage
Amica Antonelli - Events, Economic Development, Community Engagement
Todd Pope – Parks, Environment, Waterfront, Climbing, Trails

Agenda:

6:00	Welcome
6:10-6:30	Presentation of Key Findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public phone survey and online/paper survey results• Summary from Open House #1• Key Findings
6:30-7:00	Table Discussions
7:00-7:30	Table Discussions
7:30-7:50	Wrap-up summary from each table host
7:50-8:00	Next Steps



TABLE TOPICS AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Sport, Health, and Wellness

- A. Review survey and open house responses.
- B. Discussion Questions:
 - 1. Sports field allocation – is it working? How can it be improved? What is fair?
 - 2. How should the recreation department support the most popular leisure and sport activities? Entry level, advanced, or all levels? Provide programs internally or partner with local organizations/businesses? What about multi-sport programs for young kids (as opposed to single-sport programs)?
 - 3. Given Squamish’s identity as the “Outdoor Recreation Capital of Canada” what about making a stronger connection with outdoor recreation activities that aren’t traditional rec programs? One strategy would be for the Recreation department to develop programs that build awareness, safety, and skills for outdoor opportunities.
 - 4. Would you like to see the Recreation department develop sport programs that are guided by national athletic development principles? Do you like this direction? What other approaches to recreational programming could be considered?
 - 5. Squamish has a large proportion of young and very young children. What indoor and outdoor spaces are needed to support programs and play for young children?
 - 6. Are there linkages and partnerships with local organizations, athletes, or businesses that could be developed?

Arts, culture, and heritage

- A. Review survey and open house responses.
- B. Discussion Questions:

Squamish is rich in Arts, Culture, and Heritage, but these aren’t a substantial part of the District’s Recreation Services.

 - 1. What role should the District play in arts, culture, and heritage promotion or programming?
 - 2. What role should the Parks and Recreation department play in arts, culture and heritage promotion or programming?
 - 3. How can arts, culture and heritage leverage, support or build on the “Outdoor Recreation Capital of Canada” brand?



4. What kind of opportunities for partnership/collaboration between local artists or arts, culture or heritage organizations and the Recreation Department could be realized now? What benefits would these partnerships + collaborations bring to each partner? What partnerships + collaborations could be realized in the future? What benefits could they bring in the future?
5. What facility or park infrastructure should be identified and prioritized to support arts, culture and heritage?
6. Where is the greatest need and priority for arts, culture or heritage programming?
7. Squamish has a large proportion of young and very young children. What new arts, culture or heritage programs could be offered and are there people in the community who could lead their development?

Events and Economic Development

- A. Review survey and open house responses.
- B. Discussion Questions:

There is strong support in the community for hosting a wide variety of special events for locals and visitors such as:

- Sports races
 - Markets
 - Athletic tournaments
 - Music festivals – local or regional?
 - Children’s events (what kind?)
 - Arts and theatre events
1. What should be the priority events for the District in the short term? New events? What about long-term goals?
 2. What are the main issues with existing events (i.e. coordination, parking, noise, communications, transportation, integration with the community, etc.)? What could make those events better and appealing to a wider variety of people? (Spectator areas? Washrooms? Remote parking with shuttles? Other support amenities?)
 3. If the District assigns designated staff member to work on events planning, coordination, communication, and support of volunteers, what do you believe the key roles and priorities for this staff should be?
 4. Part of the Parks and Rec Master Plan will include an evaluation of existing facilities and whether they can meet Squamish’s goals for hosting events. Do you see a need



for new facilities to host these types of events? What do you think of a new events site somewhere other than Brennan Park?

5. What is the role of the Logger Sports Days? Are there upgrades or changes to the existing site that could allow for other uses for events or activities at other times of the year?
6. Could the Logger Sports event be better accommodated at a new multipurpose venue?
7. Should the District pursue partnership opportunities that would integrate private service providers directly into recreation facilities (i.e. physio office, health care clinic, fitness provider, etc. with rented office space in the recreation centre "mall")?
8. Should the District pursue partnership opportunities with public or private institutional organizations such as the School District? Should Don Ross Secondary School be considered for a joint partnership to upgrade the natural turf field and track, or maybe create a mini-stadium? *note – this question is not on the display board

Parks, Trails, Environment, Waterfront, Climbing

- A. Review survey and open house responses.
- B. Discussion Questions:
 1. One of the key findings so far is that site-specific improvement plans should be developed for the Estuary, the Training Dyke/Howe Sound water sports precinct, and the Squamish River corridor. Which should have priority? How should these sites be developed?
 2. How has the Smoke Bluffs Development Plan worked so far? Is it time to re-evaluate or reinvigorate the planning and implementation process?
 3. What is the future of Brennan Park? Should it be devoted to long-term growth of community athletic infrastructure?
 4. Squamish Parks are constantly undergoing evaluation for upgrade and maintenance needs. Part of the Park and Rec Master Plan is to develop maintenance and renewal priorities for each park. Do you have any suggestions for short term needs at existing parks?
 5. The District has limited budgets and resources for maintenance of existing park land and natural areas. What potential do you see for developing neighbourhood interest groups or stewardship groups? What kind of resources should the District contribute to these kinds of efforts?



6. Should uncommitted or leased land at Brennan Park be reserved for long-term growth of traditional community athletic park infrastructure (i.e. additional sports fields, children's areas, support amenities, etc.)? Should short term leases remain just that - with an ultimate goal of having the lease-holder seek more appropriate accommodation as their membership base and means improve (i.e. equestrian clubs, tennis clubs, BMX & mountain bike clubs, etc.)?. What kind of criteria should be used to make this kind of decision?