

# MINUTES OF THE 2010 AGM FOR PROTECTION ISLAND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

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Board members present: David Essig, Brenda Henderson, Thora Howell, Cathy Tuominen, Linda Irvine, Fred Schloessinger, Michael MacColl, Veronica Zehntner - (absent: Josephine Kentchen and Cathy Tuominen)

Approximately 50 people from the community attended the AGM.

To begin the meeting, a motion was made by Michael MacColl to table the minutes of the last AGM, seconded by Linda Irvine. It was tabled as the board only received last year's AGM Minutes on Wednesday and there was not enough time to read through and consider all the information in the minutes...

## **President's welcoming remarks:**

David spoke of his appreciation for the community's participation and support, particularly for the forums held in the past year. In terms of the work of the board, most decision making has been accomplished by consensus, requiring few votes. The recent PIRA Board has considered its focus to be community enhancement and facilitating this enhancement.

Reports from the Treasurer, Docks, Communications/Community Liaison, Roads, Parks, Access...

## **Linda Irvine's report on Communications and Community Liaison:**

Communications committee: Brenda Henderson, Thora Howell, Linda Irvine.

We have endeavored to provide advance notice of Community Forums, Board Meetings and other PIRA activities regarding parks, roads, dock and other information. We have also encouraged islanders to give thoughts and concerns to any Board member to bring forward if they cannot attend a meeting.

Notes from Community Forums and Board Meetings have been posted on bulletin boards, the Pro-Isle list serve and the PIRA website.

The Newsletter contained valuable community information and was mailed or hand delivered to all island residents and property owners.

A letter to Nanaimo Community Health has been drafted and will be sent to Maureen Sexsmith regarding the inconsistent nature of service on the island.

Communications with Cory Crane of the Dinghy Dock Pub and Ferry have been productive, with the 5:30 Islanders Priority ferry service being continued.

The Protection Island Phone Book is being worked on. Contact information will be included with permission only. Email addresses will be included.

## **Veronica Zehntner's Roads report:**

On Feb. 5th this year, PIRA hosted a Community Forum on Roads and Transportation which was very well attended. Participants spent an afternoon brainstorming & identifying the problems & changes they would like to see. The Roads Committee then took the consensus to our meetings with the City Roads Dept.

During the past few years, there has been a minor building boom on the Island, consequently many large trucks have severely damaged our fragile dirt roads. Potholes have become small craters that drivers have attempted to avoid by swinging wider & wider on the road bed and onto boulevards. The result has been constant road widening which has been exacerbated by past road maintenance practices. To remedy these problems, the City has agreed to a series of revised road maintenance protocols. These include paying more attention to the perennial problem areas, making the roads narrower, suspension of boulevard mowing, continuation of dust suppression, preliminary & then complete resurfacing of the circle and new restrictions on building contractors. The City will continue comprehensive maintenance spring and fall, focusing on the perennial problem sections (approx. 20% of the road areas). They will use the grader to pull the edges of the road into the centre, creating a domed contour to shed water. In some areas, extra fill will be used to accentuate the convex profile. The goal is to narrow roads to about 14 ft. width and run water to the sides. A secondary goal will be to spend a great deal of time & effort on the problem areas.

For the remaining 80% of the road surfaces, the City decided to use their plow to demarcate the new edges of the future narrower roads. This process leaves little ditches at the edges of the roads to gather any water & encourage vegetation to grow out from the boulevards. The goal with narrower roads is that traffic will move more slowly, drivers will be more courteous when passing & the roads will take less of a beating & less dust will be created.

This is going to be about a 3 yr. project & we have just seen part of Phase 1, with dust suppression slated for June 28th (a week later than was scheduled). There will also be regular spot maintenance of problem areas through the winter months by either the City or their contractor.

The parking circle will be completely resurfaced this fall or early 2011 using a product called ECOGRID, made from recycled plastic comprising a grid structure that is filled with gravel. It is widely used in Europe & can be seen at Oliver Woods Community Center parking lot. Site preparation at the circle has begun, with the removal of soil & organics & fresh fill spread & graded so that the circle drains in all directions. Should the ECOGRID be delayed till 2011, due to budget considerations, we will at least have fresh gravel, including down to the dock head, to get us out of the mud over the winter.

Development Services has agreed to meet with new house-building contractors to inform them that any Damage to the roads caused by their trucks must be repaired within 3 days (this will be monitored) & failure to do so will result in repairs being carried out by the City, charged to the contractor. Also, all contractor vehicles, equipment & dumpsters must be moved off the road onto the building site or boulevard in front of it & the boulevard must be restored & reseeded after work is complete. Finally, the CLUNKER removal, scheduled to coincide with the arrival of City Roads equipment, saw 9 old vehicles depart our fair Isle never to return.

**ALSO FROM VERONICA, THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

<b><u>Protection Island Ratepayers' Association Annual Financial Report to June 20, 2010</u></b>			
General Account			
Income			
	Cash Balance as at June, 2009	\$1,024.54	
	Membership Fees Received	890	
			1914.54
Expenses			
	Licences, Permits and Fees	59.85	
	Office Expenses	22.21	
	Printing and Reproduction	221.45	
	Postage	324.66	
	Donation	50.00	
	Barging and Dumping Fees	66.25	
			-744.42
Balance			1170.12
Dock Account			
Income			
	Cash Balance as at June, 2009		8,594.70
	Dock Fees and Contributions Received	7,510.00	
			16,104.70
Expenses			
	Dock Supplies, Repairs, Maintenance	6146.90	
	Annual Insurance	925.00	
	Directors' and Officers' Insurance	1032.00	
	Lease Expense	1.05	
	Moorage Expense (Port of Nanaimo)	1363.15	
	Licences/Permits	27.58	
	Office Expenses	147.84	
			-9643.52
Balance			6461.18

### **Cathy Tuominen's Parks report:**

There has been some activity at the multi-use court in Smugglers Park. Thanks to the ongoing efforts of Jason Metz the city has now fenced the court, delivered a storage locker and tennis nets. Soon they will be resurfacing the court to make it non-slip and painting tennis court lines.

The city has been replenishing the pea gravel in the children's play area in Pirates park in the next few weeks making it safer for the kids to have fun. Please keep in mind that smoking and kids play areas do not mix well.

PIRA hosted a Parks Forum May 8th and invited the community to share their concerns or ideas for uses in our green spaces. There was some good discussion on stewardship of our parks and ideas for future uses. One of the ideas that came out of the discussions was increasing public awareness of invasive plants and inviting volunteers to get involved in work parties and developing ideas for enhancing our boulevards. Stay tuned to hear more on that subject. Another area discussed was looking at establishing a Dog Off Leash Park. There will be an invitation for those interested in such a park to get together and discuss the probability and logistics of establishing such a park with the city's support. Access to beaches and inner green space is being looked at to determine how best to identify them and make them more user friendly. A plan will be put together and brought forward to the community prior to approaching the city. Some interpretive signage is also being looked to help educate the community on things like invasive plants and Garry Oak meadows. The question of public toilet facilities came up for high use areas like Pirates Park and Smugglers Park near the D.I.G.S. gardens. There will be some investigation on what would be required for a proposal to go forward to the city.

The Lions Club has renewed it's contract with the city which involves mowing the major parks and keeping beach accesses open. They will begin mowing once the wildflowers have finished flowering so that we can ensure they continue to flourish in our parks. Thanks again to all the work the Lions do for our community.

There was a Shore Clean Up Day on June 13th 1pm to 4pm. We had a good turn out of volunteers and were able to collect a fair amount of garbage from the beaches as well as tucking away material s to be used on the mud bay dock in the future to a more secure spot from the weather.

Brochures for invasive plants have been acquired and will be posted on the bulletin boards. Along with the brochures we received fridge magnets about invasive weeds which were donated to DIGs for distribution through some of the children's activities.

### **Josephine Kentchen's Docks report:**

highly suggested do's and don'ts...

DO...

Say hi to Larry and ask him WHAT is going on WHEN and HOW you can do to help.

Ask Troy about the Kayak dock plans and share your ideas.

Attend any and all dock related meetings.

PAY UP. Cathy Pearson lives right near the dock in the Log house.

Remember to smile and forgive your neighbour who rafted to you using kryptonite cables making you 20 minutes late for work this morning.

This is a commuter dock only. If leaving the island please make other arrangements for your boat.

During my time as dock rep. there had been a large push to meet safety standards set by an insurance representative. David and I were present. Larry, Jason, Bob led work parties every weekend for 2 months to meet this deadline. Improvements included new dockhead rail design, new ramp surface, and multiple dock sections. Thanks to the volunteers necessary to make this happen. A meeting specific to docks was conducted. Larry was present to give a dock history, and why things are conducted the way they are. This is important as new comers and old may be critical without understanding a process is happening. Trial and error and success have been our journey. Each new dock section cost @ 2,000 dollars in supplies. Boat motors are still being raised when parked. Boats are being stored and abandoned. We had incidents with two sailboat live aboards. Both had parked in the prime low tide area for extended time.

Someone had been untying boats. Please don't. Rafting is a reality here.

### **Thora Howell's Community Relations report:**

(From the newsletter - F.S.) Heather Cooling, Nella Frewin, Margaret Harris, Brenda Henderson, Thora Howell, Linda Irvine  
The community relations committee has met several times this year to discuss the implementation of suggestions that have arisen from the 2009 survey results.

Chairs of the Roads, Parks and Access and Moorage committees have used information from the survey as a basis for community meetings.

The committee is presently working on a Protection Island phone book which will be put together over the summer. Please let us know if you would like to have your name and number listed. We will need to know the name(s) of people, the mailing address and phone number. Please email Brenda Henderson [ba\\_hender@yahoo.com](mailto:ba_hender@yahoo.com) or Thora Howell [hwjit@telus.net](mailto:hwjit@telus.net) (or send the information to Thora Howell, 176 Captain Morgans Blvd., Nanaimo, V9R 6R1)

The survey suggested that many people support having a Library. Before this can happen, we will need to find a space to house it. Some Protection Islanders are experiencing problems accessing doctor-ordered nursing and home care. PIRA is asking for a meeting with VIHA administrators in Nanaimo to rectify this. Anyone on Protection Island needing nursing or home care should have the doctor order the care from VIHA. If it is not immediately forthcoming call the doctor and ask him/her to reinforce the order.

### **Michael MacColl's Access report:**

(From the newsletter - F.S.)

#### **ACCESS - EMERGENCY ACCESS and MOORAGE**

During the Fall the development potential of the Borrowman Property was considered with significant input coming from the City and the Port Authority as to what might be possible including possible expansion of the foreshore lease area. The Borrowman property is one of the very few marine access lots with deep water left on the island. Despite the property being zoned MA1, the existing wharf is about 225 feet long and is grandfathered. In addition the marine lease area can be extended further to the north east and out into the harbour by another 30 metres.

Of course there is the money issue. The property acquisition costs and wharf reconstruction to enable disability and a second emergency access would be significant, but far less than anything that would involve Leeshore (even if there was any movement on the owners part). Given budgets and the City's current finances, there is very little likelihood the City would be able to do much here in acquiring the land. As the Chinese say - you can't get feathers out of an iron rooster.. However, if a group of islanders were willing to buy shares in a moorage co-op arrangement and offset the City's acquisition costs, financing by the City might not appear so onerous, - but enough people (40+) would be needed to buy into such a plan and get additional moorage attached to the main (disability/emergency) wharf.

At the end of March we held a meeting on access and moorage (tied into the Mud Bay Dock discussions). To summarise the discussion: it was pointed out that the Causeway has possibilities for kayaks and rowboats; Gallows Point would be a good spot for an additional small dock for moorage that might alleviate some of the pressure on Mud Bay. Other options were discussed that would require purchase of properties or acquiring foreshore leases from areas like Lot 2 & 12. There was discussion about emergency access at Gallows Point in inclement weather. Most times it is fine but there could be times that weather forbids landing at the dock. 911 dispatch would make the determination on dispatching a helicopter. There was further discussion on the response time to get off the island. It would appear that most of the delay is due to the mid-island having few ambulances available in the evening. Response time is an issue in town as well. Members of the public should address the shortfall of service to VIHA.

The AGM continues...

A motion was made by Thora Howell, seconded by Marion Luxton, to repeal the increase in dues to \$15 that had been set to go into effect on July 1, 2010 at the previous AGM . The motion was to have the dues remain at \$10. Motion: passed

New board members were elected, by acclamation, to replace outgoing members whose 3 year terms had expired. The new board members are: Janet Estes, Linda Irvine and Brenda Henderson, who join the other board members David Essig, Thora Howell, Michael MacColl Cathy Tuominen, Fred Schloessinger and Veronica Zehntner.

Fred took over the chair of the meeting in order that David be able to present a motion to change our name from PIRA to Protection Island Neighbourhood Association. David then read the motion as presented in the Newsletter, as well as a letter from Mr. Punnet, who was against the motion. David explained parts of the motion and the reasoning for them - essentially, to be more democratic and inclusive. Some home owners had fears that financial decisions could be made by renters, but PIRA cannot make any such decisions, as that power has been removed from neighbourhood associations by the Province. Seconded by Tauno Tuominen. The motion passed : 50 in favour, 2 against, no abstentions. A vote of 75% was needed to pass the motion, and it was gotten

This message from our President, David Essig, subsequently posted on pro-Isle June 30, seems appropriate to include here, although it does not come from the AGM:

### **PIRA is now PINA**

At the Annual General Meeting of the Protection Island Ratepayers' Association, held this past Sunday afternoon at Beacon House, our membership voted to amend the Constitution and Bylaws to change the name of the association to the Protection Island Neighbourhood Association. In order to pass the motion, 75% of the membership attending the meeting needed to vote in favour. The outcome was 96% in favour – 4% opposed.

The name change marks a new direction for the association: we are opening up our membership to all Protection Islanders in an effort to become more inclusive and representative of the entire island community. Everyone who calls this community home or owns property here is invited to join the new PINA. We have replaced the former property-based voting requirement with a simple rule: anyone who is a legal resident and/or property owner can pay the \$10 membership fee and become a voting member.

This new basis for membership underscores the reality that our association is a voluntary community group and cannot make any decisions that are binding on property owners or that would effect property tax assessments. We believe this new direction will enable us to better articulate our core values through inclusive and transparent neighbourhood consultation and facilitation....which is a fancy way of saying...We've just opened up the tent, come and join the party.

At the end of the meeting, certificates of appreciation were given both to Don McQueen, for his work with the city on the Roads, and to Cory Crane for his work in support of many Island functions.