

Park and Tree mtg. May 31st

Minutes: **Tree and Park Meeting**, May 31, 2008, 10am, Alison Watt's house

Present:

Alison Watt

Brenda Henderson

Heather Cooling

Jody Le Masurier

Marian Luxton arrived after the meeting and was briefed by Alison.

Could not attend: Barb Nield

We identified two issues for discussion:

1. Tree Cover
2. PI Mapping Project

Tree Cover

-loss of tree cover has been identified in recent public meetings as an issue that islanders are concerned about, with the main perceived problem being loss of trees on private land.

-the city is now involved in an urban forest initiative and will, along with open houses in the north and south end and PI, be looking at aspects influencing urban forest, including the role of the Tree Bylaw.

-Rob Lawrence, the city Environmental Planner, has, in recent conversations with Alison, indicated that the city is interested in any ideas from citizens on changes to the tree bylaw.

-some questions that came up in this mtg. include:

is there any way to contact/educate buyer before clearing/ any way for PI tree committee can participate?

-do we need to decrease the exemption lot size (at present less than .2 hectares)?

-how does the tree bylaw interface with minimum and maximum house size bylaws.

-can replanting be part of bylaw* (as Toronto? has recently introduced).

-It was decided that a group might take on this issue to: review carefully the existing bylaw and suggest amendments, or special conditions for PI. This might include:

Barb Nield, Heather Cooling (after mid-June), Brenda Henderson. It was suggested that Terry Gordon be invited to be involved in some way.

-another aspect of tree cover could include **replanting**. Islanders could offer plants or labour to help replant trees that have been lost during clearing and building. This "native gardeners" group could investigate sources (the city, NALT?) for native trees as well as pot and propagate native trees, shrubs and perennials, perhaps in conjunction with DIGS. Marian Luxton would be interested in working on this issue. (She won't be available until mid-July).

PI Mapping Project

-the idea of creating an illustrated map (much like those featured in the book, *Islands in the Salish Sea*, has come up at several island meetings.)

-Rob Lawrence of the city has encouraged the island to use this project to identify and create a lasting image of the island's unique qualities. He has also indicated that funds may be available to reproduce this image as an island "sign".

-Alison has contacted Briony Penn, who would be available to give a workshop on developing an island map. Her fee is \$500. Alison has asked Rob Lawrence whether the city could help with this and he is going to get back to us on this.

-meanwhile it was decided that we should get started on this regardless. A meeting date of Wednesday, **June 11, 7pm**, at Alison's studio has been suggested. Alison will post a pro-isle notice to invite input at this "brain-storming" session. It is expected that the map will identify both natural and human history features of the island.

-it is hoped that this image may be adaptable to an educational brochure which visitors, current, and prospective residents can refer to.