

## Community Meeting Summary Notes

November 28, 2009

1:30 – 3:30

Executive in Attendance: David Essig, Thora Howell, Linda Irvine, Josephine Kenchenten, Michael McColl, Fred Schloessinger, Cathy Tuominen, and Veronica Zehntner. Regrets: Brenda Henderson.

1. It is proposed that P.I.R.A. becomes a “Community Organization” versus Ratepayers only, in order to become more inclusive and provide a more positive role for islanders. Before proceeding we would determine the costs, willingness of the current group (executive & PIRA members) and whether non-ratepayers are interested.
2. Executive outlined their Focus Areas on PIRA as follows.

**Thora Howell:** community relations and roads. Thora has been working with the results of the community survey, is planning the community phone book, liaising with community groups (DIGS, Fire Dept, Lions Club, Museum Board, Parks people) to have groups work together and working with Don McQueen to develop a comprehensive road plan.

**Fred Schloessinger** (vice president & secretary): will also work on roads focusing on the Hole Away Program and forming a group to meet with Terry Gordon.

**Cathy Tuominen:** Parks. Cathy will gather ideas from the community on priorities and concerns for Park areas. Present plans include continued removal of invasive and planting more native plants, information signs for invasive plants and Garry Oak Meadows, and contacting the city regarding government programs for invasive plant control. Plans also include a dog-off-leash area in the field below Beacon House.

**Michael MacColl:** Access – moorage, emergency and disability. Michael is exploring the purchase of the Borrowman property for improved moorage and emergency and disability access. The foreshore may also provide space for a community facility for events too large for Beacon House.

**Josephine Kenchenten:** docks. Josephine will provide PIRA with a work plan (including finger work, kayak docks, expansion at end of dock, ramp access from park to beach, improved security) and budget. Josephine will discuss all plans with those currently working on the docks, Larry Iwaskow, Bob Lawson, Don Corfield, Jason Metz, Troy Pearson and others who work to maintain the community dock. Please submit all dock fees to The Pearsons.

**Veronica Zehntner (treasurer):** Veronica will maintain the dock account and liability insurance. As of this meeting date approximately 50% of dock users have paid fees. Fees are payable to Cathy Pearson, who will also provide decals.

Veronica also reported as Fire Department Liason. All On-Call Fire Fighters are Licensed First Responders, with emergency equipment. First Responders will remain on scene until B.C. Ambulance Paramedics arrive at which time, transportation to Nanaimo takes place via the

Harbour Patrol vessel . In an emergency call 911, clearly state that your location is on Protection Island. Veronica reminds that **your house number must be clearly visible from the road.**

**David Essig (president):** In addition to all president duties, David will focus on government relations and areas of community enhancement that do not involve City managers.

**Linda Irvine (communications):** Linda will work on general communication (Fred will do minutes) and will send items to Denise Bonin to post onto the Pro-Isle Website. Linda will also work with a group to put together and deliver the newsletter.

### **3. Community Forum Ideas for Enhancement**

- "Take Back The Verges". Plant 10,000 daffodil bulbs along the boulevard
- develop a Protection Island Library with a broad range of books (but to not overlap with current gardening/children's library)
- group purchase of golf carts to get a reduced price
- ask the City to purchase the unbuildable lots in the swampy area along Capt Morgan's Blvd north of Smuggler's Park and build boardwalks for trail access to these important wetlands.
- lobby for a mixed recycling bin (dumpster) in the Boat Basin
- talk with City about public toilets for Smuggler's and Pirate's Park. Explore feasibility of composting toilets.
- compile a comprehensive island phone book with "white pages", "yellow pages", and key information such as emergency medical services, island community groups, regulations (speed limit, licensed vehicles, dock usage) & other general information recycling, P.I.R.A. website, Sears Repair service etc).