

**Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House**

**Directors present:** Denise Bonin, David Essig, Coreen Hanson, Thora Howell, Michael MacColl  
**Directors absent:** Peter Frewin, Lynn Roberts, Josephine Kenchenten  
**Guests:** Cheryl Ashley, Mike Gillespie, Donna Keith, Barb LeBrasseur, Don McQueen, Cate Muir, Gary Noble, Liam Taylor, Jane Teskey, Jim Lawton, Karen Berg, Louise Hamilton (Volunteer)

**1 Opening Remarks**

- 1.1 Call to order at 7:35 pm
- 1.2 Late agenda items  
Don McQueen will speak about roads in New Business
- 1.3 Approval of the revised agenda  
MOTION: (moved by Hanson and seconded by Bonin)  
That the agenda be approved.  
(Motion Carried)

**2 Minutes of the Previous Directors Meeting**

- Bonin questioned if minutes should be posted on the PIRA website before they were approved by the Board. Essig advised suggested that the minutes could be posted as Draft and then the board could approve them at the next meeting.
- 2.1 MOTION: (moved by Hanson and seconded by Bonin)  
That the minutes of the December 1 2008 Directors Meeting be approved.  
(Motion Carried)

**3 Business Arising from the Previous Directors Meeting**

- 3.1 PIRA Board Procedures, Processes and Conduct (MacColl)  
As per MacColl's request, the Board agreed that this would be discussed after this public meeting.

**4 Correspondence**

- 4.1 Mail (PIRA address: Box 116, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5K4)
  - 4.1.1. No mail
- 4.2 Email
  - 4.2.1. Chris Sholberg, re: Trees for Tomorrow  
Chris said the City of Nanaimo is preparing a \$75,000 grant application for the Provincial Government's "Trees for Tomorrow" program to plant 117 trees as part of the Maffeo-Sutton Park Improvement Project. The Province provides the trees on a 50/50 cost sharing basis. The City and residents associations do the rest. Chris asked specifically for help with the tree planting at Maffeo-Sutton Park in the late Spring/early Summer of 2009. Bonin posted the e-mail to Pro-Isle on January 12, 2009 and has already received an excellent response from the community.
- 4.3 Telephone Calls
  - 4.3.1. Bonin dealt with many telephone calls from residents and others:  
Residents phoned about the PIRA survey, snow removal from roads and stairs in the parks, emergency vehicle access, and the new Port Authority rules. Jeff Ritchie, Senior Manager of Parks, City of Nanaimo phoned about DIGS.

**5 Reports of Directors**

- 5.1 Treasurer - Frewin (presented by Bonin)

**Interim Financial Report to December 19, 2008**

(see Appendix 1)

Bonin presented the report on behalf of Frewin as at the date of the last bank statement.

**Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House**

Thanks very much to Cathy Pearson for continuing some of the work that she did while a PIRA Director, receiving dock fees and issuing decals on behalf of PIRA. There has been a steady income from dock fees. People are tending to pay the higher \$200 rate in lieu of working on dock maintenance, which helps cover dock expenses.

Two-thirds of Directors' & Officers' Liability Insurance premium has been paid from the Dock account and one-third from the General account. Port Authority dock fees have been paid.

**MOTION:** (moved by MacColl seconded by Essig)

To accept the Treasurer's report.

(Motion Carried)

**6 Reports of Committees**

**6.1 Emergency Access - MacColl**

MacColl said he is waiting for a response from Mike Davidson, Manager of Property, Nanaimo Port Authority, regarding a study of the feasibility of locating a marina at the Leeshore property completed several years ago. MacColl said the PIRA survey delay was hindering his discussions. Hanson asked who was interested in this [study] and MacColl replied that it was the Port Authority, but they shelved the idea because they didn't think it was economically viable because of the size and number of slips.

Bonin asked for clarification from guests, Don McQueen, who replied that he did not know and Liam Taylor, who replied that Mike Davidson told him that he once punted the idea around but it didn't fit their business model, but he would be the one to talk to if we wanted the history. MacColl will follow-up on this.

**6.2 Parks and Garden Circle - Kenchenten**  
Director absent.

**6.3 Community Liaison - Howell**  
Howell presented the *Community Survey Committee 2008-2009* report.  
(see Appendix 2)

Howell also presented:

- *Recommendations to the PIRA Board Re the Community Survey 2009*
- *Preamble for Board Consideration*
- *To Do List*
- *Protection Island Community Survey 2009*, drawing attention to the proposed question:  
*F. PARKLAND AND BEACHES*  
*11. Would you support the formation of a committee made up of representatives of PIRA, of DIGS, of the Lions Club and a Parks staff person to discuss how Smugglers Park can be developed in the interests of all Islanders.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No                      \_\_\_\_\_ no opinion

*There are families on the Island who would like to see improvements in the playing field. DIGS members would like to expand the community garden. There is impetus for mutual support and cooperation. If the above committee were formed, it could be asked to develop a plan for the cooperative use of the park and bring recommendations to their each of the respective boards. It is proposed that this committee might call a community meeting to put forward ideas and to gather further input.*

(see Appendices 3, 4, 5, 6)

**Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009**  
**Beacon House**

Hanson asked for an explanation of Howell's comment *Jeff indicated early in the meeting that "private use of public space" is not an issue that the City recognizes*. Howell said that one of the objections to allotments was that it could be called private use of public space, but Jeff [Richie] said the City doesn't recognize that as an issue.

MacColl commented that is not private use and Howell replied that private use of public space is going on all of the time so it's not something the City feels it needs to be concerned about.

6.3.1 **MOTION:** (moved by Essig seconded by MacColl)  
To accept the Community Liaison report.

Bonin felt that there did not need to be a vote on this report at this time as it was customary to vote on all committee reports at one time, after they were all completed. The rest of the board felt that they wanted to vote on this report now.  
Report Accepted.

Bonin proposed that in the interest of completing the rest of the committee reports, that discussion of recommendations be postponed until unfinished business later in the meeting. The board agreed.

6.4 City of Nanaimo Liaison - Essig

Essig reported that there was nothing new to report as he had been away for a few months and that he got the impression that Chris Sholberg wanted to see the results of the survey.

6.5 Dock Committee - Hanson

Hanson met again with Cathy Pearson. A list of persons having paid Mud Bay dock dues, with associated decal numbers, has been given to Frewin. Pearson suggested that invoices be sent to those who have not paid dues for 2007/8 and 2008/9. Hanson will draft an invoice to end to those people who have not paid as it was felt that this was a better solution than posting their names at the dock head. Hanson will look into resurfacing the lower end of the Mud Bay Dock ramp because the non-slip mesh is loose.

Bonin mentioned new Port Authority rules (see also New Business 8.2) which will require harbour boaters to have insurance and implies PIRA insurance coverage may rise from \$1m to \$2-\$3 million. Hanson will ask current insurers for quotation to cover increase.

6.6 Communications Committee - Bonin

Website and Pro-Isle communications are ongoing. Links to the new Port Authority rules and the Regional District of Nanaimo have been posted on the website: [www.pira.ca](http://www.pira.ca)

6.7 Roads, Safety and Parking - Bonin (Position Vacant)

Bonin stated that she had a roads report from Liam Taylor, who was carrying on the work that he had been doing last year while on the board.

MacColl questioned why a non-board member was our roads liaison with the City and that Taylor had never officially been appointed by the board. Bonin pointed out that no one from the board wanted to do this job and that he was following up on a motion that was passed at the last AGM.

Essig volunteered to take on the job of roads liaison with the City so that it would solve the problem of having a non-elected member of the board representing the board to the City and that there was never a motion of the board made to allow Taylor to do this job.

MacColl suggested that other people would help with additional City contacts and that McQueen might help with the process and that this was a better way to go.

**Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House**

Bonin pointed out that it was possible to have PIRA members represent the board and that Taylor had handed in or presented reports at previous meetings and that no one on the board had objected to this before. MacColl suggested that this process was subject to discussion.

Taylor asked, from the audience, if there was an objection to the work he had been doing and McQueen, from the audience, told Taylor that he was not part of the board and that he had to be quiet. Bonin asked Taylor to ask his question again. MacColl stated that he did not have a problem with the work that Taylor was doing, he objected because he felt that this was an issue of representation. McQueen, from the audience, said that it was a matter of process and questioned how an audience member could be speaking as a board member. He also stated that a meeting could not be run this way.

Bonin's authority to appoint a non-board member to undertake this task was called into question by MacColl and Essig, whereas she stated that she had not appointed him, she had asked him to continue the discussions with the city regarding the motion voted on at the AGM and she stated that there was no objection to this at previous board meetings since the AGM and that she had reported on his behalf until the last meeting when he was asked to present the report in person.

Bonin presented the Roads report prepared by Taylor and thanked him for his report. (see Appendix 7)

MacColl had several questions about the report, including how much the City budgeted for the cost of grading and filling potholes also stated that tractor operators require licenses and insurance. Taylor did not know what the total City roads budget was for Protection Island, but stated that it is 2 or 3 times what they spend in the rest of the city for maintenance. This is only a maintenance budget comparison given that roads elsewhere are paved reducing upkeep costs. MacColl concurred that the rest of the city did not have barge costs and crews for how many days they are on the island, which he recalled was usually more than three, plus materials and that is an amazing amount of money. He also stated that if they were going to grade anyway and if people wanted to fix up a little patch in front of their property that would be fine with him. He then stated that he would like to hear what Don [McQueen] had to say later in the meeting.

**MOTION:** (moved by Hanson seconded by Howell)  
To accept the remaining Committee reports.

**7 Unfinished Business**

**7.1 Survey Issues**

Bonin presented a report *PIRA, DIGS and a Meeting with Jeff Ritchie* with attached *D.I.G.S. Survey* from a meeting with Jeff Ritchie (Senior Manager of Parks, City of Nanaimo) at Bowen Park conference room on January 9 attended by Jim and Marg Harris (DIGS Executive), Josephine Kenchenten (DIGS Executive and PIRA Board), Bonin (PIRA Board), and Howell (PIRA Board). (see Appendix 8)

Howell and Bonin debated the merits of asking specific questions about allotment beds in the PIRA survey, with Howell stating that by asking specific questions, e.g. about allotment time period, there would be all sorts of problems and that the people working in the garden should define the specifics. Bonin countered that DIGS is asking the island to allow allotments but that they are not defining how they are going to be allocated.

Howell reported that Jim [Harris] felt that these questions could not be asked until DIGS finds out if people care about allotments. She stated that she didn't think that PIRA has worked out its relationships with the organised groups on this island and read a statement

**Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House**

entitled: *Meeting Between Protection Island Residents' Association (PIRA) Douglas Island Garden Society (DIGS) and City of Nanaimo and City of Nanaimo Parks, Recreation and Culture Staff.*

(see Appendix 9)

Bonin stated that this document came from interviewing other members of the board, but excluding her. Howell stated that was true and that her reasons were that she had been approached by DIGS members several times with their concerns. She said that she has called for the board to discuss this meeting and to have a recorded vote by the board on the questions [about the community garden] brought forward [by Bonin]. When that didn't happen and when she got an email from the Harris' saying that Bonin had send an email to Jeff Richie stating that the meeting with the City was not necessary because DIGS had agreed to the questions being put into the [PIRA] survey. The Harris's said that they did not agree to this and wanted to know what the rest of the board thought.

Bonin stated that she had several emails from board member and there were only minor phrasing changes requested to be made in terms of the suggested questions.

MacColl stated that if Jeff Richie was satisfied with the questions presented by DIGS then he didn't think that anybody had a right to tell the city what they needed to hear.

There was considerable debate about the City of Nanaimo Parks staff and Commission, and DIGS concerning the question of allotments on both the DIGS survey and the PIRA survey. MacColl argued that Parks staff was in favour of allotment plots in community gardens and that the Parks Commission was misled by conflicting representation at the DIGS meeting with the Commission [about phase 2, last June]. He felt that we should not be interfering between the Parks staff and DIGS and that Parks are the responsibility of Parks staff and that we should not be telling Parks or DIGS what they need to ask.

Bonin agreed that Parks staff was in favour of allotments, but disagreed that there was any misunderstanding about how the Commission felt about allotments. The minutes from that meeting were clear; the Commission did not want them. She felt that DIGS and the Commission were of opposite opinions when it came to allotments and that since the garden was located in a public park, that it was the people on the whole island who should decide if they wanted allotments not just DIGS members.

Hanson was okay with the DIGS question even though it was vague and she was okay with the proposed meeting of island groups suggested by Howell.

Essig suggested that we should not be having this discussion without having a motion on the floor and then he moved the following motion:

MOTION: (moved by Essig and seconded by Hanson)

That recommendations 1, 2, and 3 of the *Recommendations to the PIRA Board re the Community Survey 2009* be approved by the Board as a framework for conducting the community survey and that the Board proceed with the survey in a timely manner with a target of distribution by the end of February 2009.

4 approved (Essig, Howell, MacColl, Hanson), 1 opposed (Bonin), 0 abstentions  
(Motion Carried)

The PIRA survey committee recommendations are as follows:

1. We recommend that PIRA work with DIGS on the distribution of the survey. DIGS is keen to do this.
2. We recommend that PIRA include in its survey a question that addresses putting together a committee of PIRA, DIGS , Parks and Lions Club members To discuss the

**Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House**

future of the shared use of Smugglers Park for all Protection Islanders. There is an impetus to do this. We have observed that there have been communication problems and this might help alleviate some of the problems. This question can be found in the draft copy of the survey.

3. We do not think that putting the survey on Pro-Isle for comment is a good idea. The Board will give the survey a second look and there is ample room on the survey for people to comment on issues that are of concern. We respectfully suggest that inviting comment on the survey at this time could be divisive. If the Board wishes to put the survey on the website, the best time to do it is at the beginning of the process.

MacColl said that he could live with that.

Bonin stated that at the previous survey review meeting that we had gotten through almost half of the survey questions, but that there are a lot of questions left to discuss and that comments and questions were suggested by Larry Wolfe and Carol Matthews. Howell stated that the questions Larry suggested would have made the survey much longer and that Bonin was suggesting getting the survey out before the end of February.

Essig stated that he had chosen the wording carefully, that the three recommendations are a framework for conducting the survey, that is the first part, and the second part is that we proceed with the survey in a timely manner with a target of distribution before the end of February. So it was intentionally vague because if we don't do something like this we could go through another term.

Bonin said that she would like to get the survey out, but would like to state that the question being added to discuss park issues by defining a committee, should really be done with a community meeting. She would put the PIRA survey onto the PIRA website as a draft format and announce it via Pro-Isle. So that people could actually go there, have a look at it, read through it, and if they strongly object to one thing or another then they could have their say before it goes out and let them start to buy into the survey ahead of time.

## **8 New Business**

- 8.1 Essig brought up an issue that had been brought forward by several Protection Island residents, specifically regarding the lack of consideration by Regional District of Nanaimo Transit bus drivers given to passengers arriving on the 7:55am Protection Connection Ferry.  
(see Appendix 10)

- 8.2 New Port Authority Rules (Bonin)  
Bonin said the new *Proposed Changes to the Current Practices and Procedures - December 2008* were available from the PIRA website. The new rules will affect boats anchored in the harbour focussing on the live-aboard and abandoned boats moored between Newcastle and Protection Islands. Bonin was phoned by Rod Dodge a Protection Island resident who moored a boat in the harbour and who expressed his concerns for the new rules. Dodge had stated that these boats are now an integral part of the harbour view and it was mostly the abandoned boats that were the problem. Bonin was contacted by Darrell Bellaart of the Nanaimo Daily News and she told him that she was mostly concerned for Protection Island residents who moored their boats in the harbour as moorage on the island was in short supply. She was also concerned about boats dumping raw sewage. Bonin proposed a community meeting to discuss the implications of the new rules.

Gary Noble, from the audience, said that most of the rules were already in place but had never been enforced. Protection Islanders and live-aboard boat owners tended to be responsible, while others are not. About 15-20 boats anchored in the harbour have been

**Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House**

“parked” and left. There are about 8 live aboard boats. Gary said that the Port Authority had handled the proposals in a high-handed way. There has been no consideration of, nor consultation with long-term residents of Protection Island, nor with summertime residents who moor their boats. Live-aboard boat owners were notified and polled and meetings have been held with them but no one on Protection Island has been informed. Gary supported Bonin’s proposal of a community meeting.

Bonin suggested a community meeting be arranged for next Wednesday January 21 or the following Monday January 26. MacColl will contact Andrew Pitcher, Manager of Marine Operations & Harbour Master, and ask that someone from the Port Authority be available. The Public Comment Form included with the new rules must be delivered to the Port Authority by February 2 2009 in person or by fax.

Bonin thanked Noble for coming to the meeting.

8.3 Roads (Don McQueen)

McQueen said he had come to urge the Board to make one member responsible for roads and to be a direct liaison with the City and this had already been done. He thought that the roads should be discussed by the community and that he was not sure if this board had all the information that it needed to act effectively. He described an event that happened in the summer, shortly after the PIRA AGM where the motion was made for a community group to fill in potholes. He was driving his golf buggy down the road and there was a large grader backing up the road at a high rate of speed repairing roads, driven by a person on the island that he would not name, but presumed that it was one of the volunteers. He had to drive off the road to avoid him as the driver was looking forward and driving backwards.

Bonin stated that at that time there was no hole-away project put in place.

McQueen stated that he felt that in fact that it actually was and that what he was doing was alerting us to the fact that fixing the roads was something that the city was pretty good at. He mentioned that they had insurance and that was what we pay taxes to have them do. He thought what he was saying was the kind of opinion that the rest of the island would like to express and would like the board to know about. He challenged the board to find out what those opinions were and to act accordingly and that it was time for the island to be consulted about this perennial problem.

McQueen said that roads were a problem when he was on the board and that it would probably go into the future. He said that the board he was on didn’t know what the island community wanted. They listened to the city engineers who have always done what they wanted. He thought that the roads were atrocious and that he hears complaints about them every day. He said that if we talked to the right city people and to our own people to find out the long term goals, e.g. like a paving scheme that Taylor had presented from the city or if they should be gravelled in a certain way. He stated that we needed someone to take information to the city and negotiate on our behalf and that now we had a negotiator.

Bonin asked if they used the survey when he was on the board.

McQueen replied that the survey did not give enough detail for anyone to understand the issue. He felt for example that if people were asked if they wanted the roads paved they would say no, but if they were asked if they wanted certain parts paved they might say yes. He felt that only with a community meeting could this information be ascertained with long term goals and a 3 or 5 year plan put in place.

MacColl said Roads was one of the four major issues raised at the community meeting with the city in April 2008.

**Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009**  
**Beacon House**

Gary Noble said the City Engineering Department is solution-oriented and could offer options at a meeting.

McQueen mentioned that Taylor had suggested that kind of thing earlier with the appropriate person invited to meet in a non-confrontational way. He didn't want people to nag at them.

Taylor stated that there was just such a meeting open to the community about roads. It was after the Issues Identification Process Meeting that he had set up with Chris Sholberg, where, as was mentioned, roads were one of the four main issues. It was only attended by about 15 people and there was a round-table discussion but at the end of the meeting there was no interest in establishing a committee to go further. He was not suggesting that it's a bad idea, it's a good idea, but you need to bring people into the mix. He said that the conversations that he had while on PIRA and that he's having now with people from the city, tells him that Gary is right; that these people in the city are very committed to solving these problems here, and that Don is also right to be urging civility. He suggested that these same people are also gun shy having been yelled at a great deal and when he first started to speak with them and told them that he was from Protection Island it seemed as though they were expecting to be yelled at. He said that if we were to listen we would discover that they are dealing with restrictive budgets and timeframes but they are not NOT trying to solve the problems here. They have experimented with different gravel types and grading processes. He said that it will likely include some kind of reassessment of what amount of money that the Council actually gives the roads department to pay for it.

Taylor told McQueen that what he said about the grader had nothing to do with the motion passed at the AGM. He stated that this project hasn't started yet. They have just gotten the insurance issues sorted out, and there are other issues to define yet. He pointed out that McQueen's experience with the grader had nothing to do with a hole-away type project. It has been a long time working through contract issues and insurance.

Barb LeBrasseur said she had understood that the Board would be exploring the issue of roads in greater detail in the survey.

Bonin stated that this is what she was asking Liam to do because he had made these connections with the city, and has explored many ideas, and that she agreed that it would be really nice to have these questions in the survey, but they were not apparently. But that doesn't preclude a community meeting.

MacColl stated that he recalled conversations that there was going to be an attempt at exploring creative perhaps even non-traditional solutions, where we can experiment to come up with a good solution.

Taylor suggested that the place to begin all of that is the very place that where he ended up at with this hole-away project. He stated that now the board has a relationship where the city is committed to coming over and that it was not a matter of our taking our traditional approach of saying you guys come over and fix it while we pay taxes. The plan is that they are going to come over here and train us, impart the things that they know, and we get people out appreciating what it is that they are up against in dealing with these problems. He said that there are things that we know about the roads because we live here. He said that in that process trust and understanding is developed and that we can see that the city is trying to help and that we would get to understand what the issues are, and perhaps then be able to earn the flexibility to consider different solutions.

Howell asked if she could clarify that what McQueen was suggesting is that he would like to take a hold of that?

**Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009**  
**Beacon House**

McQueen replied that no, he just want to volunteer as a citizen, as Taylor has, but that he did not want to be the guy who is representing the board. He stated that he was not the board representative, but if help was needed to organize a meeting or help put up posters he would help with that.

Essig said that the Board should plan a community meeting about Roads later in the spring.

Bonin thanked McQueen for coming to the meeting.

**9 Closing Remarks and Announcements**

Next meeting: Wednesday February 18, 2009 at 7:30 pm, Beacon House

**10 Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm

Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House

Appendix 1 – Treasure’s Report (Frewin)

**Protection Island Ratepayers Association**

**Interim Financial Report to December 19, 2008**

**Cash flows from General Account Activity**

Cash Balance Per Last Report	1,765.24	
Membership Fees	0.00	
Donation	0.00	
Other	0.00	
<b>Total Revenue &amp; Cash Balance</b>		<b>1,765.24</b>
Director’s & Officer’s Liability Insurance	(-343.67)	
Licenses & Permits	0.00	
Minister of Finance Filing Fee	(-15.00)	
Office Expense (New Bank Cheques)	0.00	
Postage & Delivery	0.00	
Printing & Reproduction	0.00	
Property Tax	0.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>(-358.67)</b>
<b>General Account Balance December 19, 2008</b>		<b>1,406.57</b>

**Cash flows from Dock Account Activity**

Cash Balance Per Last Report	5,623.95	
Cash Received from Dock Fees, 2008/09	3,070.00	
Cash Received from Dock Fees, 2007/08		
Cash Received from Maintenance Contribution	0.00	
<b>Total Revenue &amp; Cash Balance</b>		<b>8,693.95</b>
Dock Supplies, Advance	0.00	
General Insurance	0.00	
Director’s & Officer’s Liability Insurance	(-687.33)	
Licenses & Fees	0.00	
Moorage Fee	(-1,376.92)	(Cheque O/S @ 01/19/08)
Office Expenses (Annual Mail Box)	0.00	
Printing & Reproduction	0.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>(-2,064.25)</b>
<b>Dock Account Balance December 19, 2008</b>		<b>6,629.70</b>

E & O.E.



Peter W. Frewin  
Treasurer

**Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House**

**Appendix 2 - Community Survey Committee 2008-2009 report (Howell)**

I have been on a steep learning curve on this committee

I made an assumption at the beginning that DIGS would be doing the garden questions.

I would like to apologize to the Board and particularly to Denise for excluding her from the email I received from DIGS. I know this caused everyone unhappiness. I acted on impulse and I should not have.

I would like to extend an apology to DIGS. Had I listened more carefully and acted more quickly, perhaps your concerns could have reached the Board earlier.

I would like to acknowledge the preliminary work that Denise did to prepare materials for the survey. She gave us a formatted draft in Word. She gave us a good deal of material that she had gathered through Pro-Isle and Survey Monkey.

In fact Denise has done so much work with surveys over the years that we are all indebted to her.

A committee of four, Heather Cooling, Nella Frewin, Brenda Henderson and Thora Howell met several times in September to put together a survey from several documents we had been given.

In October, Nella and Heather, continued work on the survey. A preliminary draft which was brought forward to the PIRA Board at the September meeting. There were further refinements to the survey in October and November.

The issue of what to include re the community garden has occupied a great deal of time in December and January

A meeting with PIRA, DIGS and Parks on January 9<sup>th</sup> resulted in the following:

Parks approved of DIGS questions with some slight modification in wording. DIGS will print its survey on colored paper and provide envelopes addressed to City Parks for collation. DIGS will print its surveys, and provide envelopes and postage for its survey questions.

DIGS expressed a wish to work with PIRA on the distribution of the surveys.

Jeff Ritchie stated that since Parks and DIGS had agreed to questions, he had no interest in having input into questions in the PIRA survey.

Several people at the meeting liked the idea of a committee made up of representatives of the stakeholders in Smugglers Park--PIRA, DIGS, Parks and the Lions Club to meet to come up with a plan (or on-going plans) to develop the Park in the best interests of all Islanders.

Please see a copy of the survey for the wording of that question under Parks.

The committee spent some time looking at the questions submitted by Denise. The second question could not be answered because of the wording.

When asked, DIGS said they felt it was too soon to include questions about allotment bed management. The first step had to be to find the level of interest in having allotment beds. Once that was determined and if the idea was approved, stakeholders would meet to address those questions.

Jeff indicated early in the meeting that “private use of public space” is not an issue that the City recognizes.

**Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009**  
**Beacon House**

Yesterday, I met with Nella to rework the survey one more time. Last night I emailed you the survey. I have brought copies for each of you.

We would like to recommend to the Board that they review and accept the survey.

Nella and I met with Margaret and Jim Harris to discuss the delivery of the survey. Nella brought a list of Protection Island property owners. DIGS has agreed to work on the list to ensure we have mailing addresses for those property owners who live off the Island.

DIGS is willing to wait for PIRA to complete its survey. They would like to see the delivery of the surveys in late February.

Our committee recommends we work with DIGS on the delivery. It would make much easier for us.

Getting answers:

We would like to pursue the idea of a survey collection dessert party in March (provided we can deliver surveys in late February)

We also discussed the idea of asking John if we could have a secure box in the pub for people who find it an easy place to access. It would save us postage. We think that off-Island homeowners would be willing to pay the postage to return the survey. Some of these survey need to be sent out of the country.

I will be away for three weeks and Nella for four. Heather Cooling has had to withdraw due to concerns about her family. We have invited Barb Neild to be part of our community survey committee. She has an encyclopedic knowledge of the community and can provide information for both on-Island and off island residents. I have also asked Jody if she would be interested in helping us with the last part of the work of the survey. Nella and I will be back to work on the distribution of the surveys in mid February.

I would like to thank Nella, Heather and Brenda for their astonishing commitment to this process. It was a joy to work them and they brought knowledge and good sense to the process.

Appendix 3 - Recommendations to the PIRA Board Re the Community Survey 2009 (Howell)

**Recommendations to the PIRA Board  
Re the  
Community Survey 2009**

**1. We recommend that PIRA work with DIGS on the distribution of the survey. DIGS is keen to do this.**

**Denise suggested this in December and we think it would be a good community building event. It would be very helpful to PIRA, because we would have a good number of people willing to take part.**

**2. We recommend that PIRA include in its survey a question that addresses putting together a committee of PIRA, DIGS, Parks and the Lions Club to discuss the future of the shared use of Smugglers Park for all Protection Islanders. There is an impetus to do this.**

**We have observed that there have been communication problems and this might help alleviate some of the problems.**

**3. We do not think that putting the Survey on Pro-Isle for comment is a good idea. The Board will give the survey a second look and there is ample room on the survey for people to comment on issues that are of concern. We respectfully suggest that inviting comment on the survey at this time, could be divisive. If the Board wishes to put the survey on the web site, the best time to do it is at the beginning of the process.**

**4. I would ask that the PIRA Board consider a meeting at which Board members could address the following:**

**PIRA's mandate in the community**

**The relationships of the Board and its committees.**

**PIRA's relationship to other organized groups in the community**

**Respectfully submitted**

**Thora Howell**

**January 13, 2009**

**Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House**

**Appendix 4 - Preamble for Board Consideration (Howell)**

**We would like to propose some changes this year:**

- 1. This year we wish to cooperate with DIGS to distribute the community survey. It is critically important the each and every ratepayer/ resident in a home on Protection Island be given the opportunity to fill in the questionnaire.**
- 2. We suggest that every person over the age of 18 be invited to respond to the survey**
- 3. We have changed the order of the questions.**
- 4. It is important that the community understand the work of PIRA and to that end we propose an info sheet about PIRA and its mandate as well as info about activities on Protection Island.**
- 5. We propose**
  - (a) Forming a survey team of 20 - 25 people made up of PIRA and DIGS members to hand deliver the forms.**
  - (b) Sending out an accompanying information sheet describing other community groups and events on the Island with contact numbers where appropriate subject to the approval of the groups.**
    - To include: Station No. 7 Nanaimo Fire Rescue**
    - The Protection Island Lions Club**
    - The Protection Island Cultural Historical Society**
    - Douglas Island Garden Society**
    - Recycling options**
    - Garbage removal**
    - Other groups that wish to welcome new people**  
**(Using info from the web page and adding to it.)**
  - (c) Hosting a dessert party at Beacon House at some point after questionnaires have been distributed to give people an opportunity to drop off questionnaires**
  - (d) We should aim for distribution in late February**

**Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House**

**Appendix 5 - To Do List (Howell)**

- 1. Work with Digs to prepare an accurate list of PI residents and property owners who live off-Island**
- 2. Have a committee of PIRA affix the seal to the surveys we distribute.**
- 3. Set up volunteers in consultation with DIGS to distribute the survey after a briefing.**
- 4. Request volunteers to help with the collation of the PIRA survey.**
- 5. Ask community groups if they are comfortable having info about them go out with the survey.**

**Every three years Islanders have the opportunity to add their  
Opinions and ideas to contribute to the future direction of  
Protection Island  
Here is your chance!**

Appendix 6 - Protection Island Community Survey 2009 (Howell)

## PROTECTION ISLAND COMMUNITY SURVEY 2009

This year's survey is being circulated with a one-page survey from DIGS, which is obliged by the city to gather Islanders opinions about future growth of the Garden in the Park

DIGS and PIRA are separate groups, however it is economical and efficient to work together on circulating two surveys

We invite all Protection Islanders 18 and over to fill in a survey. If you need additional copies of the survey, please call Thora Howell 250 753 1913

There is a page at the end of the survey for you to comment on any issues that relate to Protection island.

### A. PROTECTION ISLANDERS TELL US WHO YOU ARE

*The questions on the survey relating to age will provide valuable input should we need to access services for preschoolers and seniors.*

1, Are you a:

Property owner       Renter

2. Are you a

Full time resident     Part time resident     Non resident owner

### The following question requires one response per household

3. We would like to know how many seniors and children live on the Island. Please include the number of people in your household who fit into each category.

Age 0-5     Ages 6 - 12     Ages 13- 19  
 Adults 20 - 59       60+

### B. WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT PROTECTION ISLAND

Rural atmosphere       Unpaved roads  
 Parks                       Dinghy Dock pub  
 Public beaches         Limited commercialism

Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peace and quiet        | <input type="checkbox"/> Beacon House              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sense of community     | <input type="checkbox"/> Protection Island Museum  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Investment potential   | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Bulletin Boards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trees and wildlife     | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal golf carts          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not much traffic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Garden          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | _____  |
- 

**C. ACCESS TO PROTECTION ISLAND**

1. Do you use a private boat for access to Protection Island  
 regularly       rarely       never
2. Do you use the Protection Island ferry for access to Protection Island  
 regularly       occasionally       rarely       never
3. Would you like to see changes to the ferry service to accommodate locals at busy times of the day/season  
 yes       no       not applicable  
What would you suggest \_\_\_\_\_
4. Would you support requesting the City of Nanaimo and the Regional District to support ferry transportation for Protection Islanders with a subsidy  
 yes       no       n/a
5. What access changes would you support  
 All weather emergency dock  
 Wheelchair access  
 Allocated downtown parking  
 Easier access from ferry to the circle
6. What access changes would you be willing to pay for  
 Expanded moorage  
 Land acquisition to expand moorage  
Other ( please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**D BOATS AND MOORAGE**

1. Do you own or use a boat to access Protection Island  
 yes       no       n/a
2. If yes please indicate the kind of boat  
 motor boat       canoe  
 row boat       kayak
3. Is availability of moorage on Protection Island a concern for you?



4. Should beach access trails be cleared and better marked

yes  no

5. Should interior park access trails be cleared and better marked?

yes  no

6. Are you concerned with the natural erosion of community shore land on the island?

yes  no where?

---

7. Would you support an ongoing plan to invite people to replace trees that have been cut

yes  no

8. Would you support regulations on cutting Gary oak trees

yes  no

9. Would you support a plan to enhance the boulevards by planting native plants and trees

yes  no

10. Are you concerned about human waste discharge from vessels in the Nanaimo harbour

yes  No

11. Would you support the formation of a committee made up of representatives of PIRA, of DIGS, of the Lions Club and a Parks staff person to discuss how Smugglers Park can be developed in the interests of all Islanders.

Yes  No  no opinion

There are families on the Island who would like to see improvements in the playing field. DIGS members would like to expand the community garden. There is impetus for mutual support and cooperation. If the above committee were formed, it could be asked to develop a plan for the cooperative use of the park and bring recommendations to their each of the respective boards. It is proposed that this committee might call a community meeting to put forward ideas and to gather further input.

12. Would you support installing a public toilet

In Smugglers Park  yes  no  no opinion  
Elsewhere on the

island \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

## G. CITY OF NANAIMO SERVICES AND BYLAWS

Protection Island is part of the City of Nanaimo, City Bylaws apply



Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House

yes                       no                       no opinion

11. Are you concerned about compliance with animal control bylaws  
(e.g. poop and scoop/ dogs off leash)

yes                       no                       no opinion

12. Would you support designating a location for dogs to run?

yes                       no                       no opinion

13. Protection Island has a special exemption from the burning ban  
now in force in the rest of Nanaimo. Do you support burn days?

yes                       no                       no opinion

14. Would you support a year-round method of disposing of yard waste?

yes                       no                       no opinion

Suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

15. Would you favour a current maximum/minimum size (square feet of  
floor area) for new residential construction on the Island.

yes                       no                       no opinion

*For help with the question please see the information on zoning at the end of this document.*

16. What would you support as a minimum square footage \_\_\_\_\_

17. What would you support as a maximum square  
footage \_\_\_\_\_

18. Would you favour a maximum site coverage ratio (percentage of lot  
covered with structures for residential lots on the Island

yes                       no                       no opinion

## H. PROTECTION ISLAND COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. On Protection Island do you own and operate a?:

wheelbarrow       car                       electric golf cart  
 truck                       bicycle                       gas golf cart  
 scooter/ motorcycle

2. Do you find adequate parking at the Circle ?(roundabout)

yes                       no                       n/a

3. Would you support investigating the re-establishment of a car pool

yes                       no                       n/a

4. If coordinated on a community basis would you use and (if necessary)

Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House

be willing to pay a fee for:

Propane delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Septic tank cleanout	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Grocery delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

5. Please check those services you would be interested in having the community investigate.

<input type="checkbox"/> Community golf cart	<input type="checkbox"/> Regularly scheduled barge service
<input type="checkbox"/> Community car/van	<input type="checkbox"/> Community boat trailer
<input type="checkbox"/> Community boat	<input type="checkbox"/> Community truck
<input type="checkbox"/> Community bicycles	<input type="checkbox"/> Community wheelbarrows
<input type="checkbox"/> Community car in downtown Nanaimo	

6. Do you think that the community facilities at Gallows Point (Beacon House and the Lightkeeper's Cottage) are meeting the community needs?

yes  no  no opinion

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

7. Are you concerned about the delivery of home and nursing care to Protection Islanders

yes  no

8. Are you interested in services for preschoolers?

yes  no  n/a

9. Would you like to see more play structures on Protection Island

yes  no  no opinion

10/ Do you feel there is a need for services for teenagers on Protection Island

yes  no  no opinion

11. If yes do you have suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

12. Would you support the circulation of a Protection Island phone book

yes  no

13.. Do you (and your family) use the playing court.

yes  no

14 Would you support the upgrading of the existing basketball court to be a multi-use court. This would include an all-weather surface, fencing the court, and installing removable tennis courts and nets?

yes  no  no opinion

15. Do you have other suggestions for improving the community play area?

yes  no  no opinion

16. Would you support the establishment of a Protection Island community library?

yes  no  no opinion

17. Would you support investigating a dockside recycling station in downtown

Nanaimo  
 yes  no

\*\*\*\*\*

## I. COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

1. Do you read the annual PIRA newsletter mailed to every ratepayer each spring

yes  no  
If yes tell us what you

like \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you belong to the Pro Isle email group?

yes  no

4. Do you post or read notices on the poster boards located at each mailbox location?

frequently  sometimes  never

5. Do you attend Protection Island Community events?

frequently  sometimes  never

6. Which of the following open community discussion might you attend (please check any number of choices)

Health services for Islanders

Moorage

Barged-on houses

Protection of trees and other vegetation, including the foreshore

Development issues e.g house sizes, siting of houses on lots

Developing a neighbourhood association

Formulating a neighbourhood plan

Roads

Community garden development

Other \_\_\_\_\_

## J. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION

1. Do you support the idea of having a community association?  
 yes                       no                       no opinion

2. Are you currently a member of the Protection Island Ratepayers Association (PIRA)  
 yes                       no

3. Do you attend PIRA meetings?  
 frequently                       seldom                       never

If not why not?  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Is the annual fee of \$10.00 a barrier to your being a member  
 yes                       no

5. Currently, under the PIRA constitution, only property owners are members of PIRA.  
Would you support PIRA changing it's current bylaws to include renters  
 yes                       no

6. If yes would you support renters becoming voting members on  
(a) General community issues?  
 yes                       no

(b) Property issues?  
 yes                       no

7. Would you support renters having an advocate on the PIRA board  
 yes                       no

8. How could our neighbourhood association (PIRA) best represent you?  
\_\_\_\_\_

*We welcome comments on any community topic relating to Protection Island*

*I wish to remain anonymous*

*Here is my personal information:*

Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address on P.I. \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address if different \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Your comments**

**A Primer on House sizes**

Under current zoning on PI (RS4) a house may be 40% of the lot size  
Minimum of 936 square feet

Under current zoning in the rest of Nanaimo RSH2  
Maximum of 4200 square feet

RS1-2 lots 10,764 4200 square feet

Lots 10764 +5000 sq ft

**Pira Board of Directors 2008/2009**

Denise Bonin

David Essig

Peter Frewin

Coreen Hanson

Thora Howell

Josephine Kenchenten

Michael MacColl

Lynn Roberts

**PROTECTION ISLAND INFO**

**Contact info**

Emergency - Fire Health

911

Ambulance

250 758 8181

Fire

250 753 7311

Police

250 754 2345

Earthquake Flood Dangerous Spills

Tsunami

1-800-215-4700

Nanaimo Regional General Hospital 250 754 2141

Neighbourhood Watch Roger Gumbert 250753 5343 Josie Thornton 250 753 9568

Pro-Isle email network

Barb Lebrasseur email [barbith@telus.net](mailto:barbith@telus.net)

Recycling

Bob Lawson/Josephine Kenchenten email [jobob23@telus.net](mailto:jobob23@telus.net)

Garbage removal

Fraser/Alice Farquhar email [scalleywagman@telus.net](mailto:scalleywagman@telus.net)

**Community organizations**

**Would you like to participate?**

Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House

**PIRA AND IT'S COMMITTEES**

Parks	Josephine Kenchenten 250 714 0523
Boats and Moorage	Coreen Hanson
Access Moorage	Michael McColl
Community Development	David Essig
Community Liason	Lynn Roberts/ Thora Howell
LIONS CLUB Beacon House, Bottle drive	
STATION NO 7 NANAIMO FIRE RESCUE.	Veronica Zehntner 250 754 6759
PROTECTION ISLAND MUSEUM	
DIGS COMMUNITY GARDEN	Jim Harris 250

**Informal Groups**

BOOK CLUB	Shawne 250 753 5102
KNITWITS	Lynn Roberts 250 755 1112
OPEN MIKE DINGHY DOCK	
LANTERN FESTIVAL	
HOUSE TO HOUSE CONCERTS	Jim/Linda Irvine 250 716 1761
GAMES NIGHT AT BEACON HOUSE	

**FOR CHILDREN sponsored by the Lions club**

EASTER EGG HUNT  
HALLOWEEN PARTY  
CHRISTMAS PARTY

**FOR ADULTS**

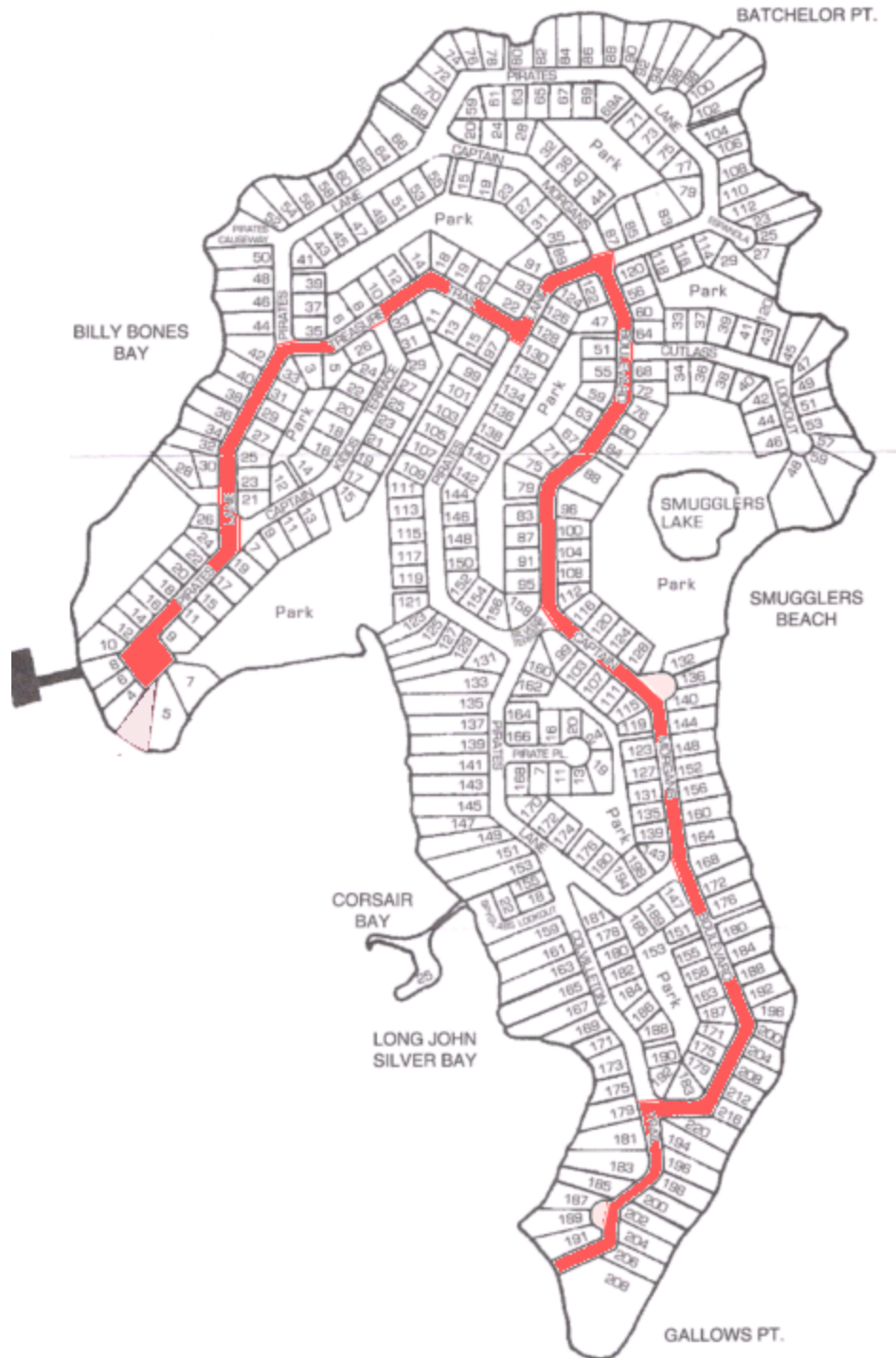
**ProIsle 360**  
**Bathtub weekend pancake breakfast**  
**New Years Day Polar Bear Swim**

**Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House**

**Appendix 7 - Roads Report** (Taylor, presented by Bonin)

- -Roads staff are aware that our current pot-hole count is high and they are going to be scheduling a visit to do repairs.
- -The holeaway program is proceeding with the City Risk manager telling me today that the city looks like it will be able to offer insurance for Holeaway volunteers. Tom Hickey is still working out the details with the Union. When those issues are defined a contract can then be drawn up. Currently we are discussing about 6 or so holeaways a winter, with the City paying in the neighbourhood of \$2000 a year to Beacon House.
- -Several discussions were had concerning our recent snowmageddon. As you may have read I discovered that there has never been a service level provision for clearing snow here. The roads department and the Risk manager defined the primary concern as the mobility and access of emergency vehicles. We discussed the possibility of having a snow plough that could be fitted to a local truck to be used as contingency for snow removal. This would be driven by a local operator. It would require a request for consideration from council. At this point the recent civic election has generated a review of all existing spending, and that coupled with the ability our emergency vehicles did have to get around the island reduces the chances that this issue might generate any attention. Fraser Farquhar called expressing his willingness and interest in seeking a contract with the city for both snow ploughing the roads, and filling pot-holes. I told him what discussions I had been having with the city and passed his information along to Roads.

Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House



- A proposal was outlined by roads staff, Gary Davenport, Roads Foreman, Brian Denbigh, Manager, Roads & Traffic Services, and Tom Hickey, Director of Engineering and Public Works, to pave a one lane single road "tip to tip" section of Protection Island roads from the circle to Gallows. I will present this proposal as a question for the upcoming survey. If there ends up being sufficient interest here, then several steps might follow including a meeting with roads people on the island, and presentation and request to council. This would be a one lane road without conventional storm drains, that would be paid for by the city rehab budget (in other words no levy), and it would take several years to complete, doing a section each year as budgets and time allowed.

**Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House**

**Appendix 8 - PIRA, DIGS and a Meeting with Jeff Ritchie (Bonin)**

A meeting with Jeff Ritchie, Senior Parks Manager was held Jan 9, 2009. In attendance were Jo Kenchenten, and Jim & Margaret Harris of the DIGS executive, Thora Howell and myself. This meeting was held to review wording for survey questions concerning allotments potentially being added to the community garden. Very briefly this is how this meeting came about.

- -In June of 2008 DIGS made a request to the Nanaimo Parks Commission for phase 2 of their garden plan. Digs asked for the right to expand the garden by 8 plots, for an additional \$2000 of VIP funds to help pay the costs of those plots, and finally to have these plots deemed allotment beds. The commission granted them the right to expand and the funds to do so, but mandated that the plots be communal and not allotment based. This was the second time that the Commission had supported DIGS request for a Garden, but denied them their request for allotments within that garden.
- Members of DIGS continued to state their interest in having allotment beds in the garden to Parks staff. DIGS members were told by Parks staff that they must poll islanders to determine support amongst the general population for allotment beds before they could revisit this issue with the Commission.
- In a conversation with Jeff in early September 2008, I suggested that we could to add questions about allotments to the upcoming PIRA survey. Jeff thought that this was a good idea and it was proposed at the September PIRA meeting.
- DIGS responded with a concept wherein they would add to the PIRA survey a separate page with 2 questions on it, as a kind of survey within a survey.
- Many discussions followed to try to figure out the most effective way to proceed, culminating with the meeting January 9.

At the meeting with Jeff the majority of people present were in favour of a separate DIGS survey, delivered with the PIRA survey, but filled out and submitted separately by survey respondents. The DIGS survey would look like the following:



## **D.I.G.S. SURVEY**

In an effort to gain a sense of islanders' thoughts on allotment style beds D.I.G.S. has developed the following survey. Please check the choices that best convey your opinions.

Allotment gardens are cultivated individually rather than collectively. Allotment gardeners pay a small fee and abide with the constitution and bylaws of the community garden association. The revenue from these fees are used to maintain the entire garden. There are many allotment styles and later, meetings of interested gardeners will decide which style best suits the island. For more information about different allotment styles go to [www.communitygarden.org](http://www.communitygarden.org) and in the search box type in "allotments".

- 1. Are you in favour, in principle, of having some allotment style beds in the Garden in the Park (Protection Island's community garden)?**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**                      \_\_\_\_\_ **No**

- 2. If allotment beds in some form were available in the Garden in Park, would you be interested in leasing one?**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Strong interest**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Moderate interest**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **No interest**

**If you are interested in acquiring an allotment bed please *either* fill in your name and phone number *or* call/email Jim or Margaret Harris at 250-740-0317 email: [meharris@telus.net](mailto:meharris@telus.net) If enough interest is shown a meeting will be arranged to discuss the rules for their management.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this questionnaire in the attached envelope addressed to:  
Jeff Ritchie, Senior Manager of Parks, 89 Prideaux Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 1Z7

There was some discussion about modifying the definition in the box, but I have not seen this yet.

I remain concerned about the above survey for a number of reasons and I am also concerned that the PIRA Board's endorsement of this format, however tacit, may be a contentious issue for some members of the community including members of PIRA whom this board represents.

**Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House**

My issues with the DIGS survey as defined are:

- The survey does not explain that it is going to be used by DIGS to once again make a request for allotments in the community garden, by indicating to the Commission the degree of support for allotments amongst members of the general community. This is the core reason people are being polled, but they are not being told this. One might assume that DIGS would not be able to make a case for allotments without a favourable response from the community, but none of this is explained. DIGS must establish first that there is interest before allotments will be considered by the Commission, but the survey describes none of this.
- The questions within the DIGS survey do not include a description of how these potential allotments are to be allocated and what the terms of use are. This is essential information for anyone trying to determine whether or not they are in support of the concept. Supporters of the allotment concept from within DIGS do not want to ask this question because they believe that defining the allotment terms of use is the prerogative only of those people who would be using these allotments. But this survey is supposed to determine the opinion of the general population of the island concerning allotments, and how these allotments might be allocated, and for how long, for example someone might hold an allotment, could have huge bearing on how a member of the community might feel about support for allotments. The number of projected allotment beds that would be made available is also not described.
- Supporters of allotments on the island want to include in the survey a request for contact information in the case that someone wants an allotment. They have declared their purpose in this is to be able to call a private meeting of only those people interested in allotments, who will then define usage policies. A cursory glance of the document, however would seem to require identifying oneself, which for the purposes of soliciting public opinion is completely unnecessary and simply adds complexity. This is supposed to be a polling of public opinion and anything that makes it harder to understand should be completely avoided. (It would not be difficult to make a public announcement at some potential later date inviting all those who had expressed interest in allotments to meet.)

The argument might be made that this DIGS survey document is not PIRA's and therefore it is not PIRA's business, and that DIGS has the right to behave however it likes. There are reasons that this is something the PIRA board needs to consider carefully.

In case it isn't obvious, let me outline the problem with the above survey. It is biased toward generating a response from those who are seeking an allotment and will be a deterrent for those who might not support the allotment concept, for the reasons I have cited above. I do not personally care if the island "votes" for allotments or not, but I care a great deal that people are told the whole story and that as large a response as possible is collected so that we can move forward without any worries that we might not understand how people really feel. I think that is something that this board ought to be very concerned about as well. People expect us, with our contact with the city to be forthcoming and transparent and to set a standard that others can trust and follow.

Not only are members of the PIRA board aware of all of the above, but there has been participation in the setting up of this structure on the part of various PIRA board members. This includes arguing for the removal of any questions from the PIRA survey concerning the garden. I tried to have questions added so that we could get a clear picture of the island feeling about not simply allotments but the garden itself. This is very much one of the purposes of the PIRA survey - taking the island's temperature. To not ask any questions because DIGS is asking their own, and while at the same time understanding that the DIGS survey could readily be viewed as carrying a bias,

**Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House**

makes this board appear to be in collusion. For the record the questions that I had submitted for consideration in developing a thorough understanding of issues around the garden were:

*Dec 30, 2008*

*Denise's **proposed** questions – to be included in the Parks and Beaches section of the PIRA survey:*

Do you feel the community garden in Smuggler's Park is a good use of public space?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Are you in favour of an expansion of the community garden into the community playing field or keeping the field as part of the community's sports facilities and open space park land?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Currently the funding for the community garden from the City of Nanaimo Volunteers in the Park (VIP) program is for communal beds. Are you in favour of retaining the status of the garden as an entirely community garden?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Allotment style beds are often defined as allowing an individual the right to garden as they see fit – within some parameters, e.g. keeping the garden weeded and tended regularly, no use of pesticides, etc. but with the freedom to experiment with certain plants, with soil and other growing conditions, with or without the option to keep the entire harvest to share a portion of the harvest. They can be assigned for limited or long term use on a first come first served basis or via a lottery. There is also usually a fee attached to their use.

If allotment style beds were allowed in the community garden, what process would you like to see for assigning these?

First come first served \_\_\_\_\_ Lottery draw \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

If allotment style beds were allowed in the community garden, what period would you like to see for the length of their use by an individual?

One growing season \_\_\_\_\_ Two growing seasons \_\_\_\_\_ Three growing seasons \_\_\_\_\_

Indefinitely \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want a community meeting to review the need for allotment beds and / or their regulation in the community garden?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want more detailed information about how allotment beds would be managed in the community garden before making decisions about these types of beds?


Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If allotment style beds were well defined and available in the community garden, would you be interested in leasing one?

Strong interest \_\_\_\_\_ Moderate interest \_\_\_\_\_ No interest \_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in an allotment beds in the community garden, please contact Jim or Margaret Harris at [meharris@telus.net](mailto:meharris@telus.net) or 250-740-0317. If enough interest is shown, a meeting will be arranged to discuss the rules for their management.

Appendix 9 - Meeting Between Protection Island Residents' Association (PIRA) Douglas Island Garden Society (DIGS) and City of Nanaimo and City of Nanaimo Parks, Recreation and Culture Staff (Howell)

 **MEETING BETWEEN PROTECTION ISLAND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (PIRA), DOUGLAS ISLAND GARDEN SOCIETY (DIGS) AND CITY OF NANAIMO AND CITY OF NANAIMO PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE STAFF**

Friday January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Report from Thora Howell for the Community Survey Committee

After consultation with some members of the PIRA Board and the Community Survey Committee, I am reporting on the input received from those who responded to a request for comments. The major points raised by respondents referred to the desire for a cooperative approach, the need to respect the rights of various island groups to conduct surveys on behalf of their own organizations, the need for clarification in PIRA's role, the importance of maintaining a sense of trust and positive relationships between community members and PIRA, and concerns about the long-term implications of PIRA intruding in the internal workings of other organizations on the island. I have expanded on each of these in point form as follows.

**Desire for a Cooperative Approach**

PIRA and Community Survey committee members who responded to the request for input on this report expressed a desire to find a way to work cooperatively with DIGS on the questions and on the delivery of the survey. As one Board member expressed it, "I hope the spirit of the questions (on the PIRA survey) permits the members of DIGS and those desiring to garden in allotment beds the freedom to organize among themselves providing they have the consent of the broader membership of DIGS and the Parks staff."

**Rights of Various Island Groups**

Members of the PIRA Board recognized that both PIRA and DIGS have the right and responsibility to conduct surveys on behalf of their respective organizations. Some PIRA Board members have concerns about asking questions that could be construed as interference with DIGS' responsibilities.

**Clarification of PIRA's Role**

The questions put forward have not been endorsed by the PIRA Board. They were discussed only once at a meeting when they were introduced. Several board members have reservations about many of the questions. A response from one board member was, "I think we (PIRA Board) need to talk more about PIRA's role and the PIRA survey's role re the Protection Island community (LIONS Protection Island Cultural and Historical Society, DIGS, residents, owners, kids, seniors and the City) versus what is to be left for specific groups (e.g. DIGS) to work out. The survey serves as a tangible reflection of how the PIRA board members see their role/responsibility and something that will be subliminally judged by the community."

**Trust and Community Relationships**

There is a serious issue of trust on the Island. Many DIGS members do not feel supported by

Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House

§7

PIRA. PIRA's role and responsibilities are not clear. This could explain why some PIRA Board members want to be careful about the approach we take with regard to the survey.

**Long-Term Implications**

Some members of the Board and Community Survey Committee have expressed concern that if PIRA asks questions about DIGS operations they could ask begin to ask questions about the internal workings of other organizations like the Museum Society and the Lions Club. Will this set a precedent? What is to stop PIRA from asking whether the Lions Club should stop renting Beacon House to people from off the Island? As one board member has stated, "We have not determined what our relationship is with other established organizations on the Island."

**Possible Solutions**

1. It has been proposed that the following question might be asked in the survey:

**Would you support the formation of a committee made up of representatives of PIRA, of DIGS and a Parks staff person to discuss how Smugglers Park can be developed in the interest of all Islanders?**

There are families on the Island who would like to see improvements in the playing field. DIGS members would like to expand the community garden. At the present time there is a sense that each group is trying to protect its turf when in fact there is impetus for mutual support and cooperation. If a committee between PIRA, DIGS and Parks staff were formed, it could be asked to develop a plan for the cooperative use of the park and bring recommendations to their respective boards. It was also proposed that this committee might call a community meeting to put forward ideas and to gather further input. If there are questions about DIGS to be included in the PIRA questionnaire, this committee would be an appropriate body to develop such questions.

2. If there are questions included in the PIRA questionnaire, it was proposed that the following question be asked:

**Are you in favour of a TRIAL allotment bed, in order to observe how such a system might work and what problems might arise?**

It would be helpful to everyone to be able to better understand the process by seeing a pilot project in action, without feeling we are blindly signing on to something that may present problems that haven't been foreseen.

3. Perhaps the Mud Bay dock management system could serve as a model. This model may be of use to the City Parks department as the community garden idea expands.

**Minutes PIRA Directors Meeting – January 13, 2009  
Beacon House**

**Appendix 10 – Bus issue:**

On behalf of the commuters on Protection Island, I am writing to bring your attention to a problem with Nanaimo Bus Route 6 on weekday mornings.

The Route 6 schedule calls for the bus to pass by the PO stop at 8:06 AM. The ferry from Protection arrives at exactly 8:04. On several occasions, this particular bus has arrived early and carried on, despite passengers attempting to get to the stop in time to board the bus.

This morning, three commuters from Protection, all going to VIU, were left behind by the #6, which was, once again, early and sped away when the passengers attempted to make their desire to board the bus known to the driver. One of the passengers informed me that it appeared that the driver deliberately sped up to avoid picking up the passengers from Protection Island.

Consequently, these three commuters had to take the #6 that arrived at PO at 8:21 and were late for work.

Would it be possible to ask the driver, if he is early at the 8:06AM PO stop , to wait until the Protection Island ferry passengers arrive? It would only mean a moment's delay for the driver, but it is of great importance to these effected passengers.

Thank you for your consideration of this problem.

David Essig  
Director  
Protection Island Ratepayers Association

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