

**MINUTES OF NOV 4/20 MTG
for
FRIENDS OF GARBALDI PARK SOCIETY (FOGPS)**

TIME: 7:00pm. November 4, 2020

LOCATION: Conference call via Zoom

ATTENDEES:

Seventeen people attended:

Taryn – *president* taryn.eyton@gmail.com

Greg - greg@smolyn.org

Martin - *secretary* mmoseley@telus.net

Josie – *Advocacy Committee* josiedix@hotmail.co.uk

Allyssa – *Social Committee* allyssa.lacap@gmail.com

Charmaine – *Social Committee* charjoycegarcia@gmail.com

Jag – *Trail Maintenance* jagwindersingh28@gmail.com

Vanessa – *Trail Maintenance* vanessa.ca.33@gmail.com

Brian – *past president* bwbjwood@gmail.com

Al – *past president* agwjen@gmail.com

Monika Bittel – *Chair of FCMBC SWBC recreation & conservation Committee*
mbittel9@gmail.com

Steve Jones – *outdoors advocate and member of Alpine Club of Canada*
stevejoneshikes@gmail.com

Tori Ball – *Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society* tori@cpawsbc.org

Andrew Wilson – *member of Varsity Outdoor Club* andrew.wilson849@icloud.com or
huts@ubc-voc.com

Manrico and Liz - *members Alpine Club of Canada - Whistler section*

Ron Stewart - *Board of Directors, Sea to Sky Retreat Centre*
ron@siddharthasintent.org

PURPOSE:

To continue discussions regarding issues raised during the September 30th meeting

DISCUSSION:

Rubble Creek winter parking

History

- The access road to the Rubble Creek parking lot is not plowed in the winter.
- Prior to last year cars have parked at the beginning of the road.

- Last year BC Parks enforced no parking within the lower area over concern that this area is exposed to debris from the Barrier should it fail.
- The rule at the moment is that anyone within the “danger area” must be able to get to at least 400m elevation within 30 minutes.
- The first 150+/- m of the road is plowed to provide access to the retreat centre

Issues

- Last year a group from the VoC shoveled the road to the parking area, but this is not a long-term option.
- The retreat centre has a snow blower mounted on a bobcat to clear access to its site. It doesn't damage the asphalt and moves fairly slowly so it is safe.
- Mr. David Whiteside, a senior ranger with BC Parks, is working on a study to determine whether the requirement for 30 minutes access to 400m elevation could be relaxed.
- It has been estimated that it will cost in the order of \$18,000 to have a contractor clear the road during the winter.
- Al stated that the road asphalt is ‘cold rolled’. It could be vulnerable to damage from a snow plow. In addition clearing the road of snow would expose the subgrade to the cold and thus to possible frost damage.
- When Al was with Parks they used a 4x4 pickup truck with chains all around and a snowplow blade.

Possible Options

- Parks could be encouraged to purchase a bobcat and a snow blower as these items are not very expensive.
- It is estimated that around 2000 vehicles will wish to park each winter. If a parking fee in the order of \$8 per vehicle was charged the cost of plowing could be covered.
- This should be a last resort and not a precedence that should be established.
- BC Parks does clear the road to Diamond Head at its expense so why not here?
- Perhaps funds from Covid-19 funding could be directed to this issue.
- If the group talked to the government about a user fee the government might see the need to do something.
- The new MLA for the area is an avid skier and climber so he might be sympathetic to the group's concern about lack of winter access to the park.

- Ron clarified that David Whiteside has no control over Park budgets. At the moment there is no funding for this work. The person to contact is the MLA.

Actions

- Monika will try to get the FCMBC to arrange a meeting with BC Parks and the MLA.
- The VOC could perhaps assist with communications with David Whiteside as they have been dealing with him.
- Such a meeting should include all user groups so that Parks is well aware of the extent of interest.
- This topic will be put on social media to try to attract more public attention.

TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

The main topic for discussion at the next meeting will be the issue of park access permits:

- Is this a good idea?
- Should such a system be continued?
- What form should it take if it is continued?

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, December 2nd, at 7:00pm.

END