

**Minutes of The Cycling Subcommittee Meeting
of the North Saanich Parks Commission,
Tuesday, March 1, 7:00 to 8:30 pm
at the home of Anny Scoones**

Present: Farrell Boyce, Joyce Norlund, Councillor Anny Scoones, District Engineer Tim Tanton

1. The 1991 Terms of Reference for the Bicycle Advisory Committee were examined and deemed suitable as a template for the Terms of Reference for the present Subcommittee (draft attached for approval).
2. There was general agreement that the next goal of the Subcommittee should be the presentation of a series of recommendations to the North Saanich District Council that, taken together, would constitute an action plan for the promotion of both recreational and commuter cycling in the District. Such a plan would
 - point out the many benefits of increased bicycle usage in the District
 - take account of the work of previous cycling committees (example: the Cycling Needs Survey of 1997)
 - Seek recommendation and endorsement from the public at large as well as from area cycling associations, the police and fire departments etc. .
 - compile a list, in order of priority, of recommended actions that would “encourage” cycling in North Saanich (examples: cycle lanes on key arterial roads, cycle route maps and cycling brochures)

The plan would be introduced to the District Council at a Committee of the Whole Meeting using a press conference format and accompanied by a Power Point presentation with many pretty pictures and a positive “can do” attitude.

Having been reminded by Mr. Tanton (District Engineer) that the Parks Commission and the Cycling Subcommittee thereof exist at the pleasure of the District Council and deal with matters referred to them by the Council, we are requesting that Councillor Scoones put forward a motion to the North Saanich District Council along the lines of:

“Moved that the District Council charge the Cycling Subcommittee of the North Saanich Parks Commission with the preparation of a detailed report on the potential for and benefits of increased cycling (both recreational and commuter) in the District, including prioritized recommendations for improvements (bicycle lanes, trail upgrades, signage etc.) to selected cycle routes.”

Passage of this or a similar motion would indicate that Council supports the above initiative and would be disposed towards receiving the eventual presentation and report.

3. In order to promote North Saanich parks, trails and cycle routes and to solicit feedback from the active public, the Subcommittee proposes that the Parks Commission consider sponsoring a public activity afternoon (a Saturday or Sunday in the early autumn). Mustering at the District Hall (story boards, slide shows etc), participants could join the tour of their choosing (easy or more challenging cycle tour, easy or more challenging hike, heritage tour , for example), returning to base in a couple of hours for hotdogs and lemonade. Commission members act as tour guides and wranglers. We could hand out questionnaires and gather some useful feedback. Tim Tanton will look into the liability insurance aspects of such a caper.

These notes are circulated to all Parks Commission members and with the request that we reserve some time to discuss the initiatives at the March 17 meeting.

Anny requests that we hold the next Cycling Subcommittee meeting after April 4. How about Tuesday, April 5? Charlene, can you tell us if there is room at the District Hall?