



AGENDA
TOWN OF LAKE COWICHAN
Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee meeting
Tuesday, August 2nd, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS (if applicable)

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. BUSINESS ARISING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (a) Community Garden Relocation– Update.
- (b) Lady of the Lake: Float Storage and Truck- Update.
- (c) Canada 150 Grant- Phase 2 of Centennial Park Improvement.
- (d) **Ongoing Items Still Being Addressed:**
 - (i) Riverfront Walkway and Trail Connection Opportunities
 - (ii) Water Park Planning.

4. DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS

- (a) Michelle Davis- Lake Cowichan Slo-pitch Re: Past, Present, and Future of Centennial Park and Update on Upgrade Timelines.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

6. REPORTS

- (a) James van Hemert, Contract Planner, Re: Community Garden Recommendations.

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7. NEW BUSINESS

None.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

9. PUBLIC RELATIONS ITEMS

10. MEDIA/PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

11. ADJOURNMENT

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Memorandum



To: Chief Administrative Officer
From: James van Hemert, Contract Planner
Date: July 29, 2016
Re: Community Garden Recommendations

Context

Our Official Community Plan supports urban agriculture. The introduction to Section 16 Urban Agriculture states:

Urban agriculture is the practice of cultivating, processing and distributing food in or around a village, town or city. It can also involve aquaculture, agro-forestry and horticulture. The benefits of urban agriculture include improved access to healthy, local food; enhancement of food security, community building and the repair of natural ecological systems. Animal husbandry has seen a reintroduction in all urban areas across Canada and the USA in recent years.

The first objective is:

To promote and support community gardens

A supporting policy is:

- 1) Community gardens shall be promoted in appropriate locations throughout the Town on public and private land.

One primary and practical benefit of a community garden is that it provides a place to build community. Other benefits include access to healthy, local food and personal recreation. Although the amount of food grown is typically a small percentage of the overall food consumed within a community, food grown in individual plots can represent a sizable portion of a household's fruit and vegetable needs.

Options for a community garden location

As in most communities there are many potential locations for a community garden. A garden location should be reasonably level, easily accessible, visible, well-drained, sunny, be free of infrastructure constraints, and have access to water. Fencing may be required if deer frequent the area.

Five sites were visited and evaluated according to these criteria:

- 1) Lake Cowichan High school. The existing garden and greenhouse is available for use. The site is constrained and has some sunlight limitations; however, it is fenced, has water and is accessible.

- 2) Joginder Bains Park. The park has a grassy area adjacent to the marina on Point Ideal Drive. The site has easy access with parking nearby, is reasonably flat, partially fenced, has water and is sunny. However, there is limited parking in the summer and the park is used as a staging area for boaters. Furthermore, the park is irrigated and there are underground lines that constrain planting areas.
- 3) 'Point Ideal Park' at 435 Point Ideal Drive, directly west of the marina. The site is sunny, easily accessible, is very visible, is relatively flat, is maintained as a mown grass field, and has a two inch water line available.
- 4) Sahtlam Park. There is a grassy area adjacent to the basketball court. The area is flat and reasonably sunny-- particularly the area adjacent to the court. It would require fencing as deer frequent the area. The area, however, floods in rainy weather.
- 5) Cowichan Park. The flat area adjacent to and west of the tennis courts can be used. It will require additional fencing. The location is sunny, accessible, visible, and the local street water line can be tapped for water supply. Note that the existing poplar trees on the south side should be removed to maximize sunshine. An alternative location is on Pine Street adjacent to the pumping station.



Other consideration: a modest fee is typically charged for a garden plot and it may cover the cost of water and maintenance.

Recommendations:

1. Cowichan Park, west of the tennis courts on Cowichan Avenue is a preferred long term location because all criteria for a successful community garden can be met at reasonable cost. Furthermore, it is the most central and can serve a wider population.
2. The high school site is already developed. Reserving specific plots may be done through the school.
3. The Point Ideal Park is also a reasonable location. The town is willing to pursue its development for a community garden in consultation with the neighbourhood.

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