

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT
TRAIL NETWORK TASK FORCE
GAMBIER ISLAND SOUTH WEST PENINSULA

September 2, 2017

MINUTES FROM THE TRAIL NETWORK TASK FORCE GAMBIER ISLAND SOUTH WEST PENINSULA MEETING HELD AT GAMBIER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE, ANDY'S ROAD, NEW BRIGHTON, BC

PRESENT:	Members	Boris Gorgitza Carol Barlow Emily Pickett Kevin Grodesky Natasha Tousaw Todd Gordon
ALSO PRESENT:	Parks Planning Coordinator West Howe Sound/Area F Alt. Director Recording Secretary Public	Sam Adams (Chair) Kate-Louise Stamford Autumn Ruinat 7

CALL TO ORDER	9:33 a.m.
INTRODUCTIONS	Roundtable introductions of those present at the meeting
AGENDA	The agenda was adopted as presented.
MINUTES AND NOTES	<u>It was moved and seconded</u>

THAT The Trail Network Task Force Gambier Island South West Peninsula minutes of July 22, 2017 be accepted as presented;

AND THAT The Trail Network Task Force Gambier Island South West Peninsula Field Notes of August 13, 2017 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

PURPOSE AND PROCESS REVIEW

The Parks Planning Coordinator (Chair) reviewed the purpose and process of the Trail Network Task Force.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Task Force acknowledged receipt of correspondence in the agenda package dated August 27, 2017 for information.

DEBRIEF ON WALK AND TALK

A roundtable discussion regarding the Walk and Talk included the following points:

- Well attended by the community, approximately 40 people.
- The community has concerns both with trails going forward and not going forward.
- Helpful to see the trails first hand.
- Prompted more community involvement and dialogue on trail development
- Frustrated with the lack of solutions.
- Surprised by the environmental concerns.
- Even though there is some opposition, trail development doesn't need to be stalled.
- Adjacent property owners that are directly impacted by the trails attended the Walk and Talk to voice their concerns.
- Would like to continue with the work of the Task Force.
- Simple solution is that if we need to say no, we can.
- Questionnaire results may not be relevant anymore.
- Pro-privacy rather than anti-trail. Respect for the process.
- The public meeting will allow the community to provide official comment.

DRAFT PRINCIPLES, DEFINITIONS AND CRITERIA MATRIX

The Task Force reviewed and considered revisions to the Draft Principles as follows:

Draft Principle 1 – Trail Selection and Prioritization

- Change “within the context of local/regional priorities and funding” to “reflective of the desires of the community and SCRD funding”
- Member of the public suggested change in vocabulary of the word “trails” to “shortcuts”.
- The Task Force would like to come back to this Draft principle to review it another time and at another meeting.
- The principle was amended to read: Potential trails will be evaluated and prioritized according to an evaluation matrix taking into consideration important criteria such as environment, community needs, and cost. High priority trails may be developed incrementally within the context of local/regional process reflective of the community's desires and SCRD funding.

Draft Principle 2 - Privacy

- Change “Involve” to “Engage”.
- Comment regarding, “When circumstances warrant, consider hedge screening or other materials as a method of helping to preserve privacy”. Could also decide to not build the trail at all.
- The principle was amended to read: Engage potentially affected residents early in the consultation process. Employ design features such as trail location and topography to help enhance and preserve privacy for trail neighbors.

Draft Principle 3 – Fire Safety

- The Task Force agrees with this principle.
- Question: Who will work with the emergency services stakeholders?
- Suggestion to remove the bullet and forward to Gambier Island Community Association to add to their agenda: “Work with the community, the Squamish First Nation, and emergency services stakeholders to conduct public “fire safety” open houses and provide information to residents and visitors.”

Draft Principle 4 – Water Quality

- Correct the typo: “Involve and” to “Involve a” QEP (Quality Environmental Professional).

Draft Principle 5 – Amenities and Emergency Services

- Correct the typo: Inform “visitor” to “visitors”.
- Comment regarding the challenge of maintaining a website with this information.
- Gambier Island Community Association subcommittee for trails who may be able to do the trail signage.
- SCRD coordinates trail signage with a local trails maintenance contractor.
- A Task Force member noted that the Mountain Road park sign is not in the correct location.
- SCRD to look into authority for signage through the ministry.

Maintenance

SCRD Trails on Gambier Island, once developed, will be maintained at a level which is appropriate for their location and use. To facilitate the trail maintenance program the SCRD has developed a trail inspection checklist (see attached). The SCRD is currently in the process of adopting standards for trail maintenance and inspection. These standards, once developed, will apply to all trails on the South West Peninsula.

The Task Force reviewed the Trail Inspection Checklist document.

The public may report issues or requests for service at SCRD Parks through *parks@scrd.ca* or 604-885-6800. The SCRD dispatches calls to a local trails maintenance contractor.

The Task Force meeting recessed at 10:32 a.m. and reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

PRIORITIZED TRAIL SELECTION AND DEVELOPMENT MATRIX

The Task Force reviewed the Draft Matrix Criteria Definitions:

- Network Contribution: Would the trail connect with other trails or road systems, either existing or proposed?
- Privacy: Will a nearby dwelling be in sight of the trail?
- Accessibility: Are there existing physical barriers to accessing the potential trail?
- Appeal: Does the trail increase accessibility to desirable locations?
- Environmental Impact: Are there environmental issues that could be impacted by trail development?
- Safety: Are there safety concerns with this trail?
- Cost: What is the anticipated financial impact of the trail - low, medium or expensive?

Each Criteria was measured as follows: High (5), Medium (3), Low (1). The higher the score, the more desirability the trail has. Proposed trails were evaluated according to the matrix and scored as follows:

Dulcie Road Central Trail

Network Contribution	3
Privacy	unknown?
Accessibility	1
Appeal	1
Environmental Impact	1
Safety	3
Cost	1
Total Score	10?

Rationale for Scores:

Environmental Impact – wetlands, requirement for a bridge, Grennan Creek headwaters

Cost – would be high as a survey is needed, QEP, cost of materials, labour.

There is an Islands Trust covenant on a property in the vicinity of this considered trail corridor.

The Task Force concluded that due to major environmental concerns and costs which this trail would not be a viable option at this time.

Dulcie Road South Trail

Network Contribution	1
Privacy	1
Accessibility	1
Appeal	1
Environmental Impact	3
Safety	1
Cost	1
Total Score	9

Notes regarding the Trail:

The terrain is quite steep. The trail would connect two existing roads. If there is no Dulcie Road Central trail, then this is not a connection.

Rationale for Scores:

The Task Force consensus was that this is not a viable trail to be developed due to cost, accessibility, appeal and low contribution. The Task force does not recommend perusing this trail option.

West Bay Connector*

Network Contribution	4
Privacy	1
Accessibility	5
Appeal	3
Environmental Impact	1
Safety	3
Cost	3
Total Score	20

Rationale for Scores: Could act more as a shortcut to get to the Community Hall, gathering place. The Task Force agreed to a score of 4 for network contribution as it could also be used for emergency services access. There may be a bog in this area and would require a QEP. Would require stairs for the slightly steep sections.

The Task Force consensus is that the West Bay Connector Trail is a good option for trail development, but that it should not be proceeded with in the immediate future. The Task Force suggested to re-visit trail development in a few years' time.

*Note: The Community Connector Trail was renamed to West Bay Connector Trail.

Mountain Road, Austin Trails

Network Contribution	3
Privacy	1
Accessibility	3
Appeal	1
Environmental Impact	2
Safety	5
Cost	5
Total Score	20

Rationale for Scores: The Task Force agreed on a score of 3 for network contribution as it would complete a full circle of the road and trail network. A QEP is required. The Task Force feels that the safety and cost would be minimal.

The Task Force noted concerns with wildlife (cougar) and safety concerns. Privacy and impact on adjacent owners was noted as a concern from Task Force and community members. It was noted that feedback from Austin Heights and West Bay residents that there is not much desire for this trail.

MATRIX RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Task Force reviewed and discussed the results of the trail prioritization matrix results. The West Bay Trail seemed to be the most viable option. Comments from the Task Force were as follows:

- Does not support the development of the West Bay Connector trail due to the potential to disrupt the adjacent land owners. Could be considered again in the future.
- There is a desire and need for this trail, but perhaps at another time. Must be respectful of the current land owner's privacy.
- Concerns with privacy and environmental impacts. Could be a potential trail in the future if the route is moved away from private properties.
- Supports the trail and feels that the public would like it. Supports the concerns of the current landowners. Suggestion to postpone the development of this trail.
- Feels there is community support for this trail from both the questionnaire and the Gambier Island Community Association public trail meeting.

The Task Force discussed the results of the scoring. It was noted that the matrix score of 20/35 for the West Bay Connector Trail is about as representative of the questionnaire results.

NEXT STEPS

The work of the Task Force and the prioritization of trail selection and development will be presented to the community at a public open house. Staff will provide a report the SCR Board. There will be an option for the community to provide feedback online if not able to attend in person.

ADJOURNMENT 12:06 p.m.