

**Friends of the Rossland Range (FoRR)**

**Meeting: Wednesday March 20th, 2008 Rossland Library 4pm**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Les Carter, Kim Deane, Cindy Hall, Sherry Sonfield, & Stewart Spooner

**Absent:** Richie Mann, Suzanne Paquin, Brian Steeves }

Chair: Kim Deane

Approved Minutes of February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008 meeting. Approved Agenda.

1) Mountain Cabin Project on S edge of Paradise Basin. Presentation by Andrew Zwicker. Initial concept of several yurt/cabins now one lodge (28 ft x 28 ft) with 8 double bunks for 12 guests plus staff. Water (creek), electricity (hydro + solar), sewer (per Kokanee Cabin) and heat (propane). In Red tenure in Area B (not City)...needs rezoning. Will seek 7 to 10 shareholders. Seeks Letter of Support for CFDC and shareholder recruitment...to indicate a "reasonable idea" (and no major opposition). FoRR Q's: (a) exit strategy; (b) future shift to 'more exploitive' operation? FoRR discussion: hesitate to support due to long-term uncertainty; but this offset by opportunity to state what FoRR is able to support. LC to attempt a trial letter for email review by all; or decide not to provide a letter.

2) Public Event: only Invasive Plants (Nancie Dohan) because Bear (Michael Procter, or equivalent) person not available. LC noted this is an opportunity to develop greater rapport with motorized users. Set Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup>. KD to tentatively book the Parish Hall. Consideration also to a Nowhere Special evening.

3) Possible Community Tenure for Old Glory Alpine & Nancy Greene Summit Cabin Areas: SSp advised that 4 BC Gov't ministries can issue tenures – none anxious to deal with a "Community Tenure". SSp expects this will be sorted out. Continuing.

4) Support from Municipalities for Planning:  
City of Rossland approved support March 10<sup>th</sup>.  
KD contacting Nordic XC and snowmobile clubs in Rossland, Castlegar and Grand Forks; plus Cities of Trail, Castlegar and Grand Forks.  
LC pointed out the FoRR needn't wait for all to approach the BCGov't.

5) Proposed Red Golf Course & Residential Development Project (Nov. 2007 announcement): FoRR has significant concerns. SSp to confirm letter to City has been sent and will circulate to all.

6) Natural Resource Base Inventory: believed that most information is known (ATCO, Red Environmental Assessment, etc.) and needs only to be compiled. Current Selkirk student project with City of Rossland ('Landscape Ecology Assessment') reinforces this. No action identified at this point.

7) Old Glory Hikes for 2008: SP agreed to lead again this year (SSo to help with flyers). August hike same day as large Bike Race on Seven Summits Trail – no conflicts expected.

8) Purchase of additional photo display materials (for 60 photos currently in hand). SSo advised meeting of the purchases.

9) FoRR Constitution and Bylaws: LC suggested these be visited given the FoRR evolving into broader watchdog role (ie: less emphasis on non-motorized). LC to propose a change (also to Mission statement).

10) “Membership Lists”: SSo has Excel files of (a) past members with valid email addresses; and (b) current members. Latter minimal due to low-key membership campaigns last year and this year.

11) Wildsight:

CH presented list of current activities of their 4 Branches in the East Kootenay under the overall objective of promoting ecological sustainability; examples:

recreation access	habitat retention/restoration (especially wetlands)
pesticide reduction	support Bear Aware, Eco-gardens, Advocates for Community Living

monitor resource extraction activities (forestry, mining, methane, oil & gas)

recycling, anti-idling, water quality

education programs for youth

comprehensive environmental, economic & social impact study (Fernie area)

etc.

CH believes this area needs such an organization – to help manage the many issues facing Rossland and area. While the FoRR is good as far as it goes, it has a strong Board that could certainly handle more; or a separate, broader-based group should take on the wider agenda. Wildsight is well-established, has permanent staff and is well-regarded. Should be a good resource and save us having to “reinvent the wheel”.

Meeting was receptive to CH’s suggestion that an alliance with Wildsight be explored. Agreed to support CH in having a Wildsight person speak to (a) FoRR; and (b) open evening at Nowhere Special (or equivalent). CH is considering a date in June.

Next meeting (open to all): Wednesday April 9th, 2008 4 to 6pm Rossland Library

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.