

Friends of the Rossland Range (FoRR)
Minutes of Meeting - October 24th, 2006 4pm

Present: Kim Deane Ken Holmes Richie Mann Suzanne Paquin Sparky Steeves
Absent (Director's): Ari Gore Sheree Sonfield Stewart Spooner

This was the first meeting following the very busy period November 2005 to April 2006 (with several major public events) and a lull from May to October during which the only activities (no meetings) were two hikes to Old Glory sponsored by Suzanne (& Rejean). The 2nd of these hikes was extremely successful with 25 persons – all reaching the top.

FoRR bank balance: \$4,300 (of which approx \$500 is committed to Heritage Photo Project (Les Otterbein etc.) & \$1,000 is CBT Heritage grant which we may/may not be able to utilize). Thus, 'free' funds in bank balance total approx. \$2,800. With 2007 memberships likely to raise another \$500 to \$1,000.

(1) AGM 2006 planned:

Date: Tuesday November 21st, 2006 Place: Parish Hall Time: 7:00pm

Require a Financial Report (Kim & Suzanne)

Approve membership fees: Directors will propose continuation of \$5 per person per year (\$1 for students under 14)

Election: Of 7 Directors, either 3 or 4 (to be decided) to be elected for 2 year term.

Remaining 4 or 3 (respectively, to be decided) continue for 1 year.

Kim, Ken & Richie willing to continue if no others.

Need to check with Sheree, Stewart & Ari (Sparky will try to contact Ari)

Sparky will not stand again.

Seek interest from any others.

AGM Publicity:

Sparky - posters up about November 10th

Kim - sandwich boards downtown & try for photo/caption in Trail Times

Stewart - website posting

(2) Continue to pressure Gov't Planners:

Nelson office: Ken

Another letter to the (another new) Minister: Kim

Red Resorts (Don Thompson & Christine Andison): working with their contacts

Meet with MLA Katrine Conroy (Richie can arrange when we are ready)

(3) Build local support { with Cities of Rossland & Trail, RDKB, etc.)

Sparky to draft a position on which we will formally request support

Present this at AGM for ratification

RDKB - Richie can approach via Area B Committee (he is a member)

(4) Heritage Photo/Story Archive:

a) Project in progress organized by Sheree (contract with Les Otterbein)

b) Additional project contemplated – for which FoRR has received \$1,000 grant

from the CBT (Arts & Culture Sector) which must be completed by March 31st.
Richie & Kim to meet with Sherry when she returns in mid-November to assess
FoRR resources and capability to complete.

(5) More Parking along Highway#3B during winter:

Apparently, winter plowing of Hwy#3B from Nancy Greene Lake to Rossland will be subcontracted (Rod Newton mentioned) (Note: subsequent to the meeting Kim spoke with Rod. He will do the '1st response' plowing, but only when and as specifically directed by Emcon. Emcon will probably still do the clean-up snow removal and parking areas themselves).

Basic issue remains unchanged: no money/budget for plowing parking spaces in a timely manner (ie: immediately after a snowfall) – only being done/authorized by Emcon as a community benefit.

Letters to editor thanking Emcon sent by FoRR last winter. Emcon expressed their appreciation.

No further specific action identified at this meeting.

(6) Charitable Status Application:

A very substantial application was prepared by Sheree last winter, through which process Sheree led a significant refining of our organization and objectives.

Unfortunately, it was not accepted this last summer (an appeal is possible) on the basis that the FoRR is too much a 'lobby' organization.

Will review with Sheree/others on her return to see if we can make another try.

(7) Accounting Service contracted:

Kim raised this possibility at a cost of possibly a few hundred dollars per year (say "\$300" per year).

At \$5 per member, paying for this could require 30 to 50 membership fees.

Meeting felt the activity last season was exceptional - which needed considerable accounting. Sheree (once again) has set up an excellent accounting system last spring.

Suzanne offered to serve as Treasurer to try without contracting the service.

(8) Wind generation (towers on the ride-tops + associated powerlines):

Initially, just test towers for a year or so.

This possibility came to the Area B Committee (Richie) last fall – nothing since; except, was in the news last week re: same in the Okanagan (public consultation intended there according to the report). Probably hasn't gone away here.

(9) "Scenic Area" – from Ken: apparently this is a new designation by Integrated Land Management Bureau under the Ministry of Lands & Agriculture (the "tenures" and "land use planning" ministry).

"Scenic Area" may not be all that we want ultimately – but might afford some protection and be a 'stepping-stone'.

Ken also found that the Boundary Country already has one (or more?) "Scenic

Area(s)", but the Kootenay's have none!
Action: we need more info' on this possibility. All to inquire.

(10) Tenure (Non-motorized) of our own:

This "very big idea & undertaking" is still available.

Action: none from this meeting. Consider as an AGM topic and whether, or not to seek FoRR team to explore in detail

(11) BC Gov't seeking "Expressions of Interest" for 30-bed lodge at Nancy Greene Lake
Discussed whether FoRR should take a position.

Evolved that we should (after considering that the FoRR shouldn't be seen to be objecting to everything & thus maybe gaining nothing) – however, the site is in an unusually large block of open land that is currently very accessible from Grand Forks/Christina, Castlegar & Rossland on excellent provincial highways within about ½ hour. Thus, easily available to all without a lodge. Family place.

Campsite. Grizzly sightings across lake.

Therefore, use these arguments to keep as is.

Action: Sparky to draft position. Again, a good topic for AGM.

(12) "Beetle-Kill" Logging – is any planned in FoRR areas of interest?

Action: Kim to inquire of Forestry in Castlegar.

Kim Deane
October 24th, 2006