

Friends of the Rossland Range Annual General Meeting – 2007
MINUTES

November 19, 2007
Rossland Parish Hall
7pm

Approximately 35 persons in attendance.

7:10pm Meeting called to order by Chair (President Kim Deane)

1. Membership approved the Minutes of the previous AGM as read by the Chair.
2. Membership approved the Treasurer's Report by Suzanne Paquin as circulated (to be posted on the Friends of the Rossland Range (FoRR) website.
3. President's Report by Kim Deane:

2007

BCGov't planning – again, no concrete progress.

We maintained contact with BCGov't staff – no letters to Ministers.

Most hopeful were significant efforts by Red Resorts through Christine Andison & Don Thompson through their senior contacts in the land tenure management department in Kamloops – still no progress.

Board resolved to obtain "Letters of Support" for "community based planning" from the City of Rossland...then Trail, Castlegar & Grand Forks...then Warfield, Montrose & Fruitvale.

So far...31 "Letters of Support" or commitments including key ones: Red Resorts, Big Red Cats, ATCO, Beaumont & Redstone.

Now poised to approach City Council.

Possible Tenure Application – 'Community Recreation Tenure'

Raised by Red Resorts as their guiding services expand...they wondered if Red Resorts should apply for a self-propelled, umbrella tenure. Others have suggested the FoRR apply...if only to force the planning, plus getting our name in with Lands BC. FoRR Board has been cautious due to ongoing workload involved vs. capacity of FoRR. No action by FoRR to date.

Opposition to the lodge proposed for Nancy Greene Lake by the BCGov't was communicated to BCGov't by letter from FoRR. Then, no bids received by BCGov't. Followup letter by FoRR to BCGov't reply, challenging response that lodge idea was a good one.. Thanks to Les Carter & Sarah Golling for excellent letters.

Public events by FoRR – none during 2007. This after two major public events during 2006. Needed a rest.

Completed 6 large historic display boards & easels – utilizing a \$1,000 CBT grant – facilitated greatly through the Rossland Arts Council by Louise Drescher.

Displayed at Pro Hardware last spring. Then, all summer at the Museum. Special thanks to Sheree Sonfield for conceiving and carrying out this large, and very valuable project.

Parking along Highway#3B not as much of an issue in 2007 as the year before – probably due to fewer big snow days. No actions taken by the FoRR after letters being sent during 2006.

Director Ken Holmes resigned at mid-year. Ken was a founding Director of FoRR and active as a Director...especially with BCGov't contacts. He will continue to assist the FoRR as fully as he is able. Thanks to Ken for all his work.

Thus, only 6 of its 7 Director positions filled for the last few months.

Old Glory Community Hikes – two during the summer of 2007 arranged by Suzanne and Rejean. Good participation. Positive response - many expressions of appreciation.

Website: an excellent site developed and maintained up to date by Sheree. Served the society very well during 2007; a great asset for the FoRR.

City of Rossland “Visions” process. Many FoRR members participated. FoRR recognized and has been proposed to assist with some specific tasks.

During last few weeks, an application by Big Red Cats for some specific exclusive rights to manage safety concerns on steep sections of snow roads has drawn interest of backcountry users. On the Agenda of this meeting.

Membership approved President's Report.

4. Membership elected the 6 incumbent Directors (Les Carter, Kim Deane, Richie Mann, Sherry Sonfield, Stewart Spooner & Brian (Sparky) Steeves), and also elected Cindy Hall to fill the 7 Director's positions.
5. General discussion.
Membership tasked Director's to investigate merits of membership fee by donation.
Membership voted to set the membership fee for 2008 at \$5.
6. Old Business Agenda items:
 - Communicate history of Old Glory Alpine area
 - Seek letters of support from community
 - Community hikes
 - Winter parking along Highway#3B
 - Maintaining membership Master List
 - Website – person to do updates
 - BCGov't proposal for lodge at Nancy Greene Lake

Items listed above from the Agenda were commented upon briefly by the President further to his report above. Some general discussion. Membership gave no specific direction; the general tenor was “carry on”.

7. New Business:

(A) Check” on FoRR basic strategy:

Membership indicated that the Directors should carry on with the initiative for a community-based planning process, and that the Directors should make specific efforts to involve all community sectors, including motorized recreational users. The idea of seeking a non-motorized tenure was discussed, and the Directors were tasked with continuing to explore this idea.

(B) Seek support from City(s) for “community based planning” by BCGov’t

As noted above, the Directors were tasked with seeking letters of support for the planning process from all sectors, including motorized users.

(C) Removal of derelict bus, etc. beside bottom of Old Glory Trail?

Membership asked the Directors to investigate the practicality of removing the old buses from the Old Glory trailhead as a FoRR project.

(D) 6-Board Historic Photo Display: Summer: at Museum...well received. Winter?

No specific direction given.

(E) Rossland “Visions for Action” process (initial steps toward new OCP) has resulted in FoRR being listed as a support group for initiatives to be led by others including: creation by Council of a new “Recreation & Trails Advisory Committee”, inventory of greenspaces, designation of areas of special interest, promotion of park land acquisitions, & preservation of public access to key natural amenities. {Assign person to respond to City by tomorrow’s deadline}.

Membership tasked Les and Sara with drafting a submission to the Visions for Action process, circulating it to the Directors for revision, and then submitting it to the project coordinator.

(F) Big Red Cat Application for 7 exclusive (“intensive use”) rights to very small areas on steep winter road sections to manage cat – skidoo safety issues.

Kieran Gaul of Big Red Cats presented their proposal for exclusive use of some key sections of their cat roads in order to resolve safety issues caused by a few snowmobilers traveling at unacceptable speeds. A number of local snowmobile recreationists attended, expressed their concerns, and participated in a productive discussion on alternative ways to ensure safety on Big Red Cats’ roads.

(G) (1) Les presented the idea of taking on coordination of a noxious weed removal campaign in the Rossland Range. (2) Membership asked the Directors to place FoRR on the BC Land and Water tenure application referral list.

Membership adjourned meeting at 8:45pm