



Bella Coola Valley Tourism

February 5th, 2019 MINUTES (DRAFT)

Location: NES Boardroom, Hagensborg

Call to Order:

Present: Carsten G, Jayme K, Ken D, Chris N, Tom H

Regrets: Jan Prins, Holly Wilgress

Absent:

Guests:

Motion: (KD/JK) Adoption of Agenda CARRIED

Motion: (KD/CG) Adoption of January's Minutes: CARRIED

Business Arising from January's Minutes:

2019 Visitor Guide:

FUNDING: BCF's \$25,000 & Community' Futures' \$2500 was received in January. BC Ferries also took out a full page Ad (\$500). Port Hardy given half page editorial w/ images in the BCF/NSW section. The remaining half page dedicated to the NSW & Danika N's artwork.

Visitor Guide Sub-Committee met in January to work on topics: Out of Date Material, Maps, & input from Bear Working Group, Trails Alliance, Resource Society topics & Member Ad issues. Almost all of the Ads are in but many payments lag behind.

ACTION: Tom to DRAFT a payment reminder to late members of ad fees.

A third of the new trail maps were delivered but the remaining maps are delayed until Hans returns in mid February.

TRAIL MAPS:

Sent to Roger (Terra Firma):	<i>Waiting for Maps of:</i>	
Kettle Pond	Snootli	Odegaard Falls
Snooka Trail	Saloompt	HammerLake/Purgatory
School House Mtn Trail,	Medby Lookout	Capoose
M Gurr Trail,	Burnt Bridge	Tweedsmuir Lookout
Lost Lake		
The Legend		

Business Conducted:

CCRD Grant-In-Aid application was filed by Jan. The grant proposal is for creating a Bear Viewing Video focusing on Best Practices. Local Signage swapped to reflect the "YOU ARE HERE" maps are displayed properly.

BC Ferries: Tom H will have a conference call tomorrow (Wednesday Feb 6th) with BCF to discuss the delays in passenger confirmations. Last week a customer-cancellation email was sent BCF specifically citing the waitlist & the inability to confirm his ferry reservation as his cause to cancel.

UPDATE: During the following day's BCF conference call, it was decided BCF's President will send a letter to wait-listed passengers clarifying the delay (due to safety procedure requirements for a new vessel and not due to lack of space). According to BCF, everyone waitlisted has a spot onboard the NSW. Reservations for the summer are at roughly 85% levels.

Last week BCF received a complaint from a Mack family member asking to delete a Twitter post and discontinue use of the Sisiutl "Two Headed Serpent" image. The previous President had approval from the head Hereditary Chief, but apparently not from the family. The family commissioned the pole after the death of the father and doesn't want the image used for promotions. It was agreed. BCVT & BCF will no longer use that image & for BCF to delete the Twitter Post.



MOTION: To research & get approval for all Nuxalk images.

ACTION: (JK/CN) Chris N will seek approvals from all relevant parties for two new Nuxalk images prior to printing the Guide. CARRIED

BCVT received a nicely written guide entry for mountain biking by Tom Bernier along with pictures. A page is dedicated to bike trails throughout the valley. Ken brought up that BC Parks may not approve of bike trails in the park.

ACTION: Tom to ask Steve Hodgson of BC Parks to ask for approval for Bike Trails section.

Open Forum:

It was noted that a quasi-public government meeting will be held by Bear Safety Committee scheduled for Feb 20th.

MOTION: That BCVT be represented at the next Bear Safety Committee meeting. (KD/JK)

ACTION: (KD/JK) Tom will DRAFT a letter addressed to Lori Wildlife Conservations of BC Parks to request a BCVT representative attend their next BSC meeting. CARRIED

It was proposed to begin each BCVT meeting with an acknowledgement of appreciation for meeting on Nuxalk territory to be spoken aloud and noted in the minutes & agenda.

Example: "This is to acknowledge that this meeting is taking place on unseated Nuxalk territory." A consensus was not reached. Reasons included concerns of inequality and divisiveness. There was consensus that BCVT truly appreciates Nuxalk contributions and participation and will actively pursue a closer Nuxalk partnership.

It was proposed for BCVT adopt a valley pledge to show respect for the land, people and wildlife. Other destinations have visitors sign their name and pledge at entry. It also could serve as a way to help with community relations, BCVT target respectful tourists. For Example: "I take this pledge to preserve and protect your beautiful & unique island home.." and placed at the airport, wharf, bear viewing stations, etc. Another suggestion was to try and collect donations at pledge locations. Tom mentioned that a portion of the guide text additions is regarding respectful, low impact behavior. But for those who aren't model tourists, a pledge to folks remind how to act. Scheduled for next meeting's agenda for future discussion.

5. **Reports:**

President: Tom H drafted & sent an ad 2019 AGM to Coast Mtn News to run for the month of February.

Tom H drafted and sent a letter of appreciation to the Ministry of FLNRO with the intent to encourage maintenance roadwork to the valley's FSRs. The letter was addressed to Kerry Phillips & managers of FLNRO with a request to pass it on to anyone else responsible. BCVT is promoting scenic hiking trails (Clayton FRS & Nusatsum FSR) but these roads have been eroded and in need of repair. Kerry suggested BCVT set aside a moderate amount of funds to put towards road projects with the assumption that funding would be matched (at minimum) by FLNRO.

MOTION: To find out if the new MRT tax could be used for these projects.

ACTION: Jayme will research feasibility of using MRT funds for FSRs by next meeting. If funding is possible Tom will draft a letter to the appropriate decision maker.

6. **Marketing:**

Visitor Emails are becoming more frequent. Updating the website regularly. FaceBook followers are up to 3250. We are actively promoting winter recreation & summer ideas.

7. **Treasurer's Report:** (See Attached)

8. **Adjournment:** (C Ginsburg/K Dunsworth) **CONSENSUS:** (8:45pm)

NEXT MEETING: Election of Directors Motion:

Jayme Kennedy be up for nominated for another two (2) year term

Annual General Meeting
7:00 p.m. Tuesday March 5
NES Room 205

Directors are urged to bring at least two guests to the meeting. The first meeting of the new Board will be held following a brief break after the AGM. All are welcome to attend. The Election of Officers (President, Vice- President, Secretary, and Treasurer) will be the primary agenda for this meeting.