

**MINUTES OF THE 42nd MEETING OF THE
KANANASKIS COUNTRY INTERDEPARTMENTAL
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, March 12, 2013, at 9:30 a.m.
Main Floor Boardroom
Canmore Nordic Centre Day Lodge
1988 Olympic Way, Canmore, AB**

Present:

Co-Chairs: Mark Storie Tourism, Parks & Recreation
 Ross Spence Environment & Sustainable Resource Development

Recorder: Laurie Christiansen Tourism, Parks & Recreation

Members/: Dave Hanna Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Alternates Fred Lee Transportation
 Shawn Polley CAO, Kananaskis Improvement District
 Kawser Ahmed Infrastructure, Alternate for Param Sekhon
 Rob Simieritsch Environment & Sustainable Resource Development
 Loren Winnick Tourism, Parks & Recreation (via telephone)
 Joey Young Tourism, Parks & Recreation

Absent: Param Sekhon Infrastructure
 Rob Simieritsch Environment & Sustainable Resource Development

Guests: Joey O'Brien President, Fortress Mountain
 Thomas Heath Director, Fortress Mountain
 Robert Faulkner Architect, Fortress Mountain

1) Review of the Agenda (All)

- The Agenda was revised and reordered as follows:
 - #6 – Kananaskis Trails Committee Update will be addressed as part of #3
 - #5 – KCICC/KID Working Group – closed session
 - #6 – Fortress Mountain Ski Resort – public session; discussion closed
 - #7 – Canoe Meadows – public session
 - #7 – 9 become #8 – 10 – public session

2) Review of Minutes (All)

- The January 8, 2013, minutes required a correction on page 2 of 6 – changed “allowed” to “allowable for” in last paragraph.
- M. Storie indicated that due to a scheduling conflict with Parks’ Managers Committee and Parks’ Executive Committee meetings he had been unable to attend some KCICC meetings. In future there is only one meeting conflict because the schedule for PMC/PEC has been modified to accommodate KCICC.

3) Recreational Corridor Planning Process (J. Young)

- As background, trail programs take up a lot of time at regional meetings because they are such an integral aspect of the Region. As a result the Kananaskis Trails Committee (KTC) was formed to address specific trail issues.
 - KTC seeks integrated planning processes for both Parks and Public Lands
 - There is a complexity of problems, i.e. West Bragg Creek area, and trails planning must address a variety of concerns/demands
 - Over 1000 designated trails on Parks land, which are non-OHV use trails; over 1000 OHV trails on ESRD Public Land, which must be addressed
 - Classification/designation work being done by the Provincial Recreational Corridors Committee – Michael Roycroft is the local representative on this provincial committee, as well as Chair of KTC.
- The Recreational Corridors Planning process has worked to establishing a step-by-step means of assessing trails projects for review/approval.
- There would be three types of trails projects:
 - New pathway or trail
 - Trail improvement/corrective action for a trail problem
 - Immediate issue/emergency response, i.e. blow down
- For new trails/trail improvements there are flow charts developed to identify the proposals process

- New Recreation Corridor and Network Proposals Process
- Existing Corridor and Network Improvement Process
- There are also three checklists which have been developed to assist with assessing the specific project:
 - Stage 1 – Initial Process Screening Checklist
 - Stage 2 – Conceptual Plan Consent Checklist
 - Stage 3 – Detailed Design Approval Checklist
- Projects in response to an emergency would just move ahead as required
 - A checklist has been developed but would be done in the field at the time of the remedial work
- The initial process screening checklist would be completed by KTC
- The concept plan checklist would be completed by KCICC
- The detailed design approval checklist would be completed by the appropriate land manager who would also ensure follow up is done
- **Decision: Item presented for information. A detailed review of processes and a request for decision will be on the May 14, 2013, agenda.**
- **Y. Young to forward attachments to all, including maps, for more detailed review.**

4) “Tour of Alberta” – Update/Impacts (F. Lee/All)

- There is still not a lot of information regarding this event.
- Event dates are September 3 – 7, 2013, with five days of cycling activities starting in Edmonton and moving into southern Alberta.
- Expected to be 160 – 200 cyclists plus support and media.
- Average speed to be around 40 km/hr with the group clearing specific areas within 30 – 45 minutes.
- RCMP will be dealing with traffic control.
- D. Hanna expressed concerns regarding businesses in the Kananaskis Valley, i.e. Kananaskis Country Golf Course – imperative to obtain details and communicate them to these businesses as soon as possible.
- ESRD concerns regarding fire/wildlife issues and potential need for emergency response
- J. Young suggested the Sport Development intern may be able to focus on this issue – working with each Division
- F. Lee is attending a meeting in Red Deer on April 6, 2013, to discuss this event; meeting includes RCMP
- **Decision: D. Hanna to confirm date(s) event will impact Kananaskis Region. ESRD, Trans, and TPR to meet after April 6/13 meeting to discuss impact of this event in Kananaskis Country.**

PUBLIC SESSION: Start at 10:30 a.m.

- 5) KCICC/KID Working Group (All)
- Item deferred until after the public session.
 - Closed session resumed at 12:30 with this discussion.
 - A suggestion has been received for KID Council representatives to attend KCICC meetings and dissolve the KCICC/KID Working Group.
 - Background for the establishment of this working group was provided.
 - **Decision: To be discussed at the March 12, 2013, KCICC/KID Working Group meeting.**
- 6) Fortress Mountain Ski Resort (Presentation by Fortress Mountain representatives)
- Fortress Mountain Ski Resort representatives were introduced to the Committee; Robert Faulkner, Architect; Thomas Heath, Director – Finance; Joey O’Brien, President.
 - PowerPoint presentation – history, clean up, current situation, concept, and future build-out
 - Seeking approval in concept to initiate the Phase 1 development plans for a new day lodge which will eventually be repurposed at build-out.
 - If approved at this point, then the proponents will pursue a development permit through Kananaskis Improvement District.
 - Cat skiing at Fortress has been successful and is operating at capacity. Currently turning away four cats per day of skiers. Corporate winter activity akin to summer golf days.
 - Movie productions have been consistent with 12 products filmed in the past 12 months, total of 72 days, which translates to 11,200 room nights.
 - At build-out the vision is to have:
 - Two lodges
 - Cross-country skiing
 - Traditional alpine skiing
 - Tubing/skating area
 - Accommodation buildings (2)
 - Entertainment building (corporate events, race HQ, private functions)
 - 900 acre existing footprint will expand to 3,320 acres
 - Phase 1:
 - Activate use of the two existing chair lifts
 - Use the current sewage lagoons(2)
 - Capacity is 500 people/day, or 42,000/year – same as the capacity of the old Fortress
 - Build the new day lodge for winter 2013/14:
 - Two storey lodge building with metal roof, wood and stone exterior

- Size is 10,000 square feet – fit on existing cement pad (104 x 41), with the exception of decks and exterior stairs
 - Solar panels, recycled rock, recycled beams
 - 2 decks – one off 2nd floor, one extends 40 feet out from main floor
 - 2nd floor will have elevator access – barrier free washroom facilities
 - Lodge will house ticketing, washrooms, food & beverage, but no “niceties” i.e. day care will not be developed at this point.
- Questions:
- Staff component – transport staff from Bow Valley/Cochrane in one or two transport vans, no on site accommodation as yet
 - Avalanche control will continue via TPR, tram lines built to access some areas
 - Access road – still working on this issue, \$9 million upgrade required
 - Road maintenance – done by Fortress, Volker Stevin, or combination of the two, to be determined
 - Transporting the public – utilize staff vans from parking area adjacent to the bridge, to transport skiing public up the hill
 - Water will be trucked in
 - Snowmaking will not happen until Year 3 of long term plan
 - Ecological impacts – working with ESRD regarding bear habitat
 - Lease – summer operation not approved but wish to provide washrooms, public engagement/education & public safety information to those who hike in the area in the summer
 - Communication – no cell phone coverage on site – need to work on this
 - Boundaries – standard ski resort protocols will be followed, staff will direct people, green/red flags will be used at out of bounds areas, cat skiing is guided and will remain as such
 - Assumptions being made when developing this concept: ski season will be Dec. 1 – June 1; 40 percent utilization; 5 – 7 day/week operation (still determining); 2 chair lifts; maximum 500 people/day; on-line bookings to buy lift tickets and know numbers for van transport/bussing
 - Included in ski pass: am/pm snack, lunch, equipment rentals, mountain guides, and lift ticket
 - Target audience: general public, corporate outings (cat skiing)
 - Waste lagoons – re-commission for 2013/14; at build out they will be utilized for snowmaking water
- **Decision: KCICC will discuss the presentation and will advise Fortress in a week of the KCICC decision regarding Phase 1 of the concept plan to refurbish Fortress Mountain Ski Area. Proponents thanked the Committee and left.**

- **Discussion during closed door session. Concept of Phase 1 is approved by KCICC. Proponent to continue to development permit application stage with KID Administration. S. Polley to draft correspondence to proponent indicating next steps, by March 19, 2013.**

NOTE: 12:00 - L. Winnick signed off from the teleconference call.

7) Canoe Meadows (D. Hanna)

- Alberta Whitewater Association (AWA) utilizes the Kananaskis River for training, courses, events, and has done a lot of work on the river with enhancements and race course development.
- Former Minister Hector Goudreau encouraged the AWA to operate both Canoe Meadows and Widowmaker, through Facility Operating Agreement, provided there would always be public access to the site(s).
- Parks is issuing an LOA to the AWA to do work adjacent to the Kananaskis River.
- Document “Canoe Meadows on the Kananaskis River: Whitewater Sport Centre Enhancement Plan”, produced by the AWA, November 2012, was distributed to the membership. Of note, page 3/16, ATCO trailer set up.
- There are significant findings through the Historical Resources inventory conducted between the Highway 40 “Kananaskis Country” sign and the Canoe Meadows site.
- While working with the AWA regarding operation and site plans, the river work will go ahead.
- Any development at Canoe Meadows will be directed to KID Administration and will follow the regular development permit application process and will be reviewed by the KID Subdivision and Development Authority (KID SDA).
- **Decision: Item presented for information.**

8) KCICC Annual Public Meeting – April/May (S. Polley)

- Discussion regarding the commitment that KCICC will conduct a public meeting annually.
- **Decision: Commitment made to have an annual public meeting in April/May 2014.**

9) Roundtable (All)

- o R. Spence
 - Fortress Mountain has been updated.
 - West Bragg Creek (WBC) harvest plans:

- Harvesting continues and is nearing completion. Burn is progressing with inspection to follow once completed.

- Dave Hanna

- Special Events – Schedule of events for information to the group.
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program – a personal growth/incentive program for youth. Bronze, silver, and gold awards based on time commitment and age group of youth participants. Trail work in Sheep/Blue Rock Creek for youth aged 15 and the number of days will offer a Silver Award this year. Friends of Kananaskis are assisting by running a trail crew course. Kananaskis Region will provide supervision and tools. A successful program will see valuable trail work completed with the development of youth stewards who may hopefully wish to continue their involvement with Parks.

- S. Polley

- KID Council and surrounding municipalities met with MLA R. Casey to discuss budget. Minister Griffiths joined the meeting for one hour by teleconference. Council seeks consistent communication from MLA.
- KID Governance – MGA has been modified to allow for a four-year versus three-year term.
- Kananaskis RCMP detachment will amalgamate with Cochrane. This is to get the numbers up to warrant an Inspector position, increased rank from Staff Sergeant.
- EPCOR – has a community advisory panel to address concerns, share information, and deal with complaints regarding ET water/wastewater construction project in the Kananaskis Valley

- Kawser Ahmed

- Evan-Thomas Water and Waste Water Treatment Plant – EPCOR construction has crossed Evan Thomas Creek
- Next two weeks will see work moving from Mt. Kidd to Kananaskis Village.
- Work will commence on reservoirs soon.
- Currently the project is on schedule, but they already know the completion date will be extended by a few weeks.

- J. Young

- The Elbow/Sheep areas are being looked at for potential to expand facilities/services.
- Kananaskis Country PRA and Sheep River/Blue Rock Management Plans had identified potential areas for expansion.
- TPR intern coming in the fall, with good experience from BC Parks, and he/she will be looking at potential sites for developing a

special event staging areas. Also, the intern will be developing a process to work through to determine if a special event should be permitted or not. Intern will start with Tourism, then move to Recreation and Sport, then to Parks by fall 2013.

PUBLIC SESSION: Ends at 12:25 a.m.

Closed session continued with discussion of:

5. KCICC/KID Working Group Meetings
6. Fortress Mountain Ski Resort – Discussion/decision
7. Canoe Meadows

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

- 10) Next Meeting: May 14, 2013, 9:30 start
 Main Floor Boardroom
 Canmore Provincial Building
 800 Railway Avenue
 Canmore, AB

Minutes approved by:



Mark Storie, Co-Chair, KCICC



Ross Spence, Co-Chair, KCICC