

## **Minutes of LLAPS Meeting of Thursday, Sept. 26, 2008**

Credit Union Jacklin Rd.

In the absence of President Ron, Doug R called the meeting to order at 7:05. Doug introduced our guest speaker, Jason Parks, from the City of Langford and members introduced themselves to Jason.

Jason “re-introduced” Evan Murray, a Royal Roads University student who is conducting water quality testing / nutrient flow in Langford Lake. Jason then began working his way through a list of questions that members had written on arriving at the meeting. The minutes reflect his answers to these questions:

In response to a question about Langford Landing/ Goldstream Meadows. Jason reported that the developer has indicated that trees will be re-planted. Jason and Maury Stearns did a stroll along the Ed Nixon Trail and boardwalk and identified areas that needed work and/or cleanup from previous storms. Jason also explained that the city had set money aside to increase parking near the Leigh Rd. boat launch.

When asked “who is ultimately responsible for water quality in the lakes?”, Evan said that is basically the responsibility of the Provincial Ministry of the Environment. They apparently do sampling from Langford Lake (and presumably the other area lakes) four times a year. Results/data are available from the Ministry, and Evan has talked to Kevin Reiberger and is aware of his previous study. Jason said the City is basically a property owner like many of us and does not “own” the lake.

Axel said that people who have purchased water rights for their lakes have legal standing re water quality and have a voice.

“Where does the water flow in and out of Langford Lake?” Evan is hoping to get a better handle of inflow during the rainy season but is aware of multiple sources. He and Jason said the only out flow is Amy Creek and water leaving Langford Lake ultimately flows into Goldstream.

When asked about the operation of the weed harvester, Jason said there is some money budgeted by the Engineering Dept. He is aware that the current status of volunteers operating the equipment is based on a historical agreement and that circumstances may well have changed. He felt that there should be a presentation from LLAPS to the next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting in October asking Langford to take over responsibility for the operation of the weed harvester.

“Are there changes to regulations for new development around the lakes?” Jason said that under new OCP regulations, people can get approval for smaller lot size development if they donate some/all of the lake frontage (the riparian zone which can’t be built on anyway) to the city. Florence Lake residents expressed concern that some dedicated park lands were being used for construction of a boardwalk but Jason said he was unaware of that.

“Are there plans for covered tennis courts anywhere in the works?” No, not at this time.

When asked about traffic on Goldstream Ave making it difficult to walk/cycle around Langford Lake, Jason agreed that it is not an ideal pedestrian route. When asked about installing crosswalks and/or speed bumps for safe passage from the parking lot to the Shelby Beach Park, Jason indicated he would check with the Engineering Dept. (see notes below)

Jason was asked about discrepancy in park maintenance and agreed that Veteran’s Memorial Park is a showpiece. He expressed frustration that garbage cans placed near some of the parks were often overflowing with household and construction waste that was being dropped off with the expectation that the city would dispose of it. He was told that while perhaps most acute near road access, there were garbage cans well down some of the trails that were often overflowing too, and that the water’s edge cleanup along some of the boardwalks wasn’t happening at all. Jason said that while there is a contract for cleanup, demand overwhelms what is contracted for and it is a significant budgetary issue. Jason thought it would be difficult to compare what his department spends with other similar sized municipalities as garbage pickup is usually included in their property taxes and is dealt with by a sanitation department, while in Langford, different departments had different budget allocations for this service and he wasn’t sure who would be able to provide an apples to apples comparison.

Axel asked about the Brock Avenue footpath/boardwalk indicating that in severe weather, it was often impassable and yet it was the only route in or out of the neighbourhood. Jason explained that boardwalks had to be two feet above the 200 year high water line, but not so with gravel paths. He explained that there was a difficulty building up pathways with sand/ gravel because they could wind up being several feet above grade making them difficult to access.

When asked about pedestrian crossings to allow Spencer Middle School students to safely cross the highway, Jason said the new interchange would have pedestrian pathways in both directions. There is also some discussion underway about installing an overhead pedestrian path closer to Ruth King school, but no firm details are available.

Jason was asked if an Environmental Assessment was done prior to construction of the new boardwalk on Florence Lake. He explained that he submitted the necessary paperwork to the Ministry of Environment, and they ruled that such an assessment was not necessary for this project. He indicated that there will be a fence built between the boardwalk pumping station and neighbourhood properties.

Doug R asked how Langford’s new bylaws exceeded provincial regulations for protecting riparian zones and Jason suggested Doug contact the Planning Department.

Maureen said that she had contacted the Planning Dept and that from her reading of the information provided to her, construction of the new boardwalk did not adhere to the regulations the City has set. Maureen and other Florence Lake residents voiced concern

that the construction of the boardwalk was harmful to the riparian zone, removed trees which was expressly prohibited in the bylaws, and generally disregarded the wishes and views of the local residents. Jason reiterated that the project was proceeding as planned, and that the Ministry of Environment had given approval and had not required an Environmental Assessment because, with the exception of the removal of what he believed to be diseased trees, the riparian zone would be only minimally impacted and would be essentially unaltered upon completion.

President Ron thanked Jason for attending and for answering our questions and hearing our concerns. He adjourned the meeting at 8:35.

Ann Nelms circulated a schedule for upcoming LLAPS Meetings to be held at Spencer Middle School. (see below)

If you have any thoughts or would be willing to help LLAPS make a presentation to the Parks Department regarding taking over total responsibility for the weed harvester, please email Ron at: [rmacisaac@shaw.ca](mailto:rmacisaac@shaw.ca)

LLAPS Meeting Schedule 7 – 9 Spencer Middle School  
Oct. 16 – candidates in the municipal election will be invited

Nov. 13	Dec. 11	Jan. 15 /09	Feb. 12
Mar. 12	May. 14	June 4	

Jason Parks emailed us the following information the day after our meeting:

*Hi Ron, I wanted to follow up with some answers to questions that I couldn't answer last night:*

- 1. Goldstream sidewalks and truck route:  
It is the City's goal to provide a safer route for pedestrians along Goldstream Avenue, Engineering is reviewing the feasibility of continuing sidewalks and trails to connect to Ed Nixon Trail. This work will be included in the capital project plan in the upcoming years. Keep in mind the work is very expensive due to the topographical challenges along Goldstream. The truck route is currently under review, if further information is required please contact the Engineering or bylaw department.*
- 2. Shelby Road beach:  
Council approved the installation of 30km speed zone signage – no crosswalk is planned.*
- 3. Garden Waste:  
Garden waste can be dropped off (for a fee) at Alpine and Johel (Luxton). The City of Langford encourages residents to compost grass clippings, leaves, etc. in their yards.*