



Ganges Village Area Planning Task Force Meeting Minutes

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| Date: | Thursday, November 18, 2021 |
| Location: | Mahon Hall Annex 114 Rainbow Road |
| Members Present: | Jesse Brown David Dunnison Jenny McClean Sebastian Moffatt |
| Regrets: | John Gauld Bob MacKie |
| Absent: | None |
| Resignation: | Robin Jenkinson Mike Best |
| Staff Present: | Louisa Garbo, Island Planner Geordie Gordon, Planner 2 Rob Pingle, Recorder Lisa Wilcox, Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor |
| Others Present: | Laura Patrick, Trustee |

These minutes follow the order of the agenda although the sequence may have varied.

With the Chair and Vice Chair resignations Staff Pingle called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

By general consent, Member McClean was made Acting Chair. Acting Chair McClean acknowledged the meeting is being held in Coast Salish First Nations treaty and traditional territory.

1. AGENDA

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

The following amendments to the agenda was presented for consideration:

5.1 Task Force Appointments

By general consent, the agenda was adopted.

ADOPTED

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2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Approval of Draft Minutes for November 3, 2021

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

That the minutes of the November 3, 2021 Ganges Village Area Task Force meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

3. DIALOGUE ABOUT RECONCILIATION

3.1 Lisa Wilcox, Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor

Lisa Wilcox, Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor joined the meeting by telephone at 10:33 a.m.

Planner Garbo introduced Staff Wilcox. A member began the conversation requesting for fundamental guidance on how to keep reconciliation top of mind.

Staff Wilcox introduced herself and spoke to her history and role with the Islands Trust.

Member Brown arrived at 10:38 a.m.

A member spoke to the areas in Ganges that might be of significant interest in the history of First Nations traditional use of the village. Staff Wilcox spoke to the disconnection from community that has occurred and how there must be humility and time taken to ensure further travel down the road to reconciliation. This begins with an understanding of residential schools and requires a mutual respect for the First Nations to provide feedback so they can feel safe to speak to the historic wrongs and build trust to move forward.

A member asked about the best way to reflect the history of the area and if there are examples of places that have already done this as well as requesting a practical way to create meaningful interaction. Staff Wilcox said that the best first step is to have a face to face meeting to educate the Task Force on how to hold a meeting that is respectful to the First Nations. She spoke about the need to create place based reminders of the history with signage and infrastructure improvements. The Sea to Sky Highway, Squamish and Whistler were provided as examples. These improvements help visitors to see the place with a new lens that includes the 14,000 year history.

A member asked if there were any specific claims to the Ganges area that would be similar to what has happened through the Tsawwassen Treaty. Staff Wilcox spoke to their knowledge of those changes with that treaty and others. She said discussions happening between First Nations about land rights in the area are occurring at the provincial level and are confidential. She was not aware of any specific issues with the Ganges area as most of the discussions revolve around federal or provincial lands or park lands. Park lands are typically not changed to revenue generating systems but the

management is changed to be with First Nations. She did not feel the treaty work in the area would be concluded in the next five years.

A member asked to the significance of shoreline in the First Nations perspective. Staff Wilcox spoke to the cultural heritage of the shorelines in the Ganges area. She spoke to the need to include First Nation monitors to ensure there is a promotion and protection of these areas. There should be work with First Nation knowledge holders to restore the natural shoreline to re-establish interconnections with the sea and upland areas. .

A member asked for any specific individuals that could be included in this conversation. Staff Wilcox spoke to the artistic community on Salt Spring and the ability to find connections with First Nation artists that have connection to the island. Engaging a graphic designer to reflect the vision would be an appropriate step.

A member asked about the ability to return historical artifacts to Ganges, and if there are connections with the Capital Regional District (CRD) to facilitate this as the CRD has installed infrastructure that disturbed this history in the past. Staff Wilcox spoke to the relationship she has with the CRD intergovernmental staff. She spoke to the education being provided to CRD and Islands Trust bylaw staff on how best to conduct their work on the land. Regarding the repatriation of historical items, the current practice is to ensure items unearthed today are left as close to their place of origin through discussion with the First Nation. Addressing the items removed before this practice was implemented requires the need for appropriate museum guidelines to ensure items are maintained. She said Islands Trust would work with anyone interested in re-establishing these artifacts to ensure the historical knowledge was preserved and protected.

A member asked if anything stands out in the Ganges area in terms of offensive situations and if the harbour walk would be an issue. Staff Wilcox spoke to the communication that has already been received from First Nations regarding the harbour walk. She said the best way to ensure offensive situations don't occur is to begin the conversation early and work collaboratively with the First Nations to ensure the historical issues are addressed.

A member spoke to experiences they had with similar issues in different jurisdictions and the perceived higher level of privacy. Staff Wilcox spoke to the need for Islands Trust staff to keep this information private. She said there is an agreement with the archeological branch to maintain this and that the only time it would become public is through a decision of the First Nation impacted. She spoke to the fine balance between educating and informing current landowners about the possibility of cultural finds and the need to keep them private so there is not any profiteering from these items.

Planner Garbo spoke to the work the Local Trust Committee has done through a Community-to-Community conversation with First Nations and the resolutions that have been passed to ensure reconciliation moves forward. A member spoke to their appreciation of the relationships that are being built between these governments to ensure private businesses can best address reconciliation. Staff Wilcox reiterated the need for hosting community engagement meetings with First Nations to include them in

discussions. She spoke to the removal of as many barriers as possible such as travel to address that the removal from the land that occurred in the past. A member asked about the number of indigenous people living on the island and how they could be included. Staff Wilcox spoke to the indigenous people from other places that are living here and the indigenous people who have always been here but have been excluded due to previous government rules within the *Indian Act*.

Members spoke with gratitude to the information Staff Wilcox shared. Staff Wilcox expressed gratitude for the time taken by the members to learn about reconciliation.

Lisa Wilcox, Senior Intergovernmental Policy Advisor left the meeting at 11:44 am.

Acting Chair McClean spoke to the need to include First Nation representatives on the Task Force.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

4.1 Status on two-day workshop

Planner Garbo reported that the LTC is favourable to this and that she is working towards having the consultant run the meeting.

4.2 Status on map printing

Planner Gordon offered to create larger maps and wanted to clarify size. It was noted that a 1:5000 ratio would be preferred. Sketching paper and pens were requested as well.

Discussion moved towards the way these maps can best be used by the Task Force to create a cohesive plan and create a vision that can be acted on. There was discussion about how the local area plan was a strategic plan that would be a part of the official community plan for the island. It was suggested that this could also be a parallel document that sits alongside the official community plan.

Trustee Patrick spoke to the area plan being the first step which leads to a second step of implementation.

A member asked about what the role of the Task Force was in writing the plan. Staff explained that they will seek direction to create the plan and then present it to the Task Force who provide feedback on how it should be improved.

4.3 Status on 2007 report request per Task Force

This items was not discussed due to lack of time.

4.4 Monthly update from Chair per LTC request

This item was not discussed due to lack of time.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Task Force Appointments

A member spoke to the frustration of the meeting structure and how it is potentially the reason why the Task Force is seeing resignations. A member spoke about the need to discuss the problems that are not being addressed and their concern that if they are not addressed they will create further issues. A member spoke about the need for optimism and the acknowledgment of the personal effort to be involved in the process.

A member asked for staff and trustee perspective on how to best move forward. Planner Garbo spoke to the positives being seen over this time. They suggested that the Task Force increase membership and that there are members of the community that could be nominated for appointment by the LTC. A member spoke to the appreciation of the current members and the possibility to find even more diverse members. Trustee Patrick spoke to the need for clarity to the process to ensure the work done is reflective of the community when an area plan is completed.

There was discussion about the correct number of members to seek. There was discussion about what groups might be missing from the discussion. It was identified that women, First Nations, people of colour and youth are areas missing from the Task Force with two new members sought.

There was discussion about meeting format and best next steps.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 pm.

Jenny McClean, Acting Chair

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Rob Pingle, Recorder