

Pender Island Parks and Recreation Commission

4418 Bedwell Harbour Rd, Pender Island or Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81559712681?pwd=am1qY0I5aG5ncnBjc3d6VERWRTZ3UT09>

Meeting ID: 815 5971 2681 Passcode: 980220

PIPRC Meeting Minutes: Monday May 11, 2026 @ 3:30 PM

Commissioners: Commissioners Andrea Mills, Lisa Baile, Carolyn Cartwright-Owers, Kevin Balmer, Cecilia Suh, Paul Kubik, Connie Sears, Chair Frick (via Zoom), CRD Area Director Paul Brent (via Zoom).

Staff: Ben Symons (Maintenance), Rob Fawcett (Projects Coordinator), Melody Pender (CRD), Matthew Coutts (admin), , Justine Stark, CRD (via Zoom).

1. Call to Order

2. Territorial Acknowledgement

Provided by Carolyn Cartwright-Owers.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: THAT PIPRC receives the Agenda as amended to include Gowlland Point discussion follow-up (Sec. 7.4), and the topic of volleyball courts under New Projects (10.2.2).

M - Comm Suh

S - Comm Baile

Carried

4. Approval of April Minutes

MOTION: That PIPRC approves the April minutes as presented.

M - Comm Suh

S - Comm Sears

Carried

5. Delegation(s) - none in attendance

6. SGI Parks Regulations Report

Justine Starke (CRD Senior Manager) presented an update to SGI Parks regulations and bylaws. Bylaw No. 4667 aims to bring in uniform policies across CRD parks through the Southern Gulf Islands.

Much of the changes will be related to new signage, which will provide local flexibility to region-wide rules. Signage will clarify whether a dog must be “under control” or “on leash” - if there’s no signage, the default will be “on leash”. Some parks allow bikes (such as Schooner Way - School Trail and the pump track).

The bylaw update will allow PIPRC to use signage to clarify local cycling rules, and if there is no signage then bikes are not allowed. Regulations around fire safety, cook sites, smoking, and bylaw enforcement were also discussed.

A bylaw enforcement officer will be staged on Pender Island, and beginning in 2027 PIPRC will be required to support this position with a \$2,500/year commitment (The related cost in 2026 will be covered at a regional level).

7. Correspondence and Business Arising

7.1 Chair Report - Chair Frick

7.2 Correspondence

7.2.1 Magic Lake Property Owners Society (MLPOS) re: water testing at Magic Lake

Per Chair Frick, MLPOS and Island Health will be following the issue and PIPRC remain on standby, ready to shut down affected parks should the need arise.

7.3 GINPR Community Liaison Committee Update

Commissioner Paul Kubik presented an update following April's Gulf Island National Park Reserve Liaison Committee meeting. The meeting focused on addressing invasive species removal and the local priority of building a walking trail through park land. Comm. Kubik reports that representatives from various Pender agencies in attendance were united in highlighting the need for proper trails in the affected National Park Reserve. The committee will meet again in the fall.

7.4 Gowlland Point Access Improvements

Following a CRD regional review of next steps on this project, it was recommended that an area assessment be conducted before the project moves to the next step. The cost of assessment is projected to be \$20-\$30,000, with the potential cost to increase considerably based on the findings.

Comm. Kubik believed the potential cost increase of the project shouldn't stop PIPRC from taking the first steps and reassessing as required. He suggested we ask for clarification on the requirements should PIPRC proceed and have an issue be flagged.

Director Brent highlighted PIPRC's duty to treat taxpayer money with respect, and thus starting a project with a likelihood of unclarified cost overages would be irresponsible. Other representatives highlighted other concerns with the project including the impact on local ecology (nearby eel grass bed).

Chair Frick emphasized that there is nothing actionable until September or later, and locking into a decision now is not prudent. Ben Symons (maintenance) suggested that a solution to the lack of beach access on South Pender could be finding an alternate site – suggesting Drummond Bay. He and Comm Baile will look at the site's potential as an alternative for ocean access on South Pender.

MOTION: That PIPRC explores alternative options to provide beach access on South Pender before taking the next steps on the Gowlland Point project.

M - Comm Baile

S - Comm Sears

Carried

8. Operations

8.1 Maintenance Report from Ben Symons

Ben reports much mowing and maintenance over the past month, with no major issues arising.

9. Projects

9.1 Capital Projects Report from Rob Fawcett

Updates on the progress of several projects, including final steps for Schooner Way - School Trail, progress on the Thieves Bay pavilion and bouldering wall, and consideration on offering assistance to address the outdoor court surfaces located at the Pender Islands School.

MOTION: That PIPRC approves the location of the bouldering wall project as the grassy field beyond the left field fence (next to the pump track).

M - Comm Baile

S - Comm Balmer

Carried

MOTION: That PIPRC approves submitting a grant application to the TLC Kids Fund grant on behalf of the bouldering wall project.

M - Comm Baile

S - Comm Balmer

Carried

10. Finance & Communications

10.1 Treasurer's Report

10.1.1 Recreation Grants - reminders, and included in *The Pender Post*.

Comms Cartwright-Owers and Suh tentatively appointed to lead the grant review process.

10.2 Communications

10.2.1 Social Media Update - none given

10.2.2 Pender Post report - recreation grant to be reported, and update to park bylaws. Chair Frick volunteered to write this month.

11. New Business

11.1 Moving Around Pender Trail Work

MOTION: That PIPRC works with MAP on establishing a partnership to support the construction of their trail system projects.

M - Chair Frick

S - Comm Baile

Carried

11.2 Volleyball court project

Comm Sears proposed that PIPRC consider building and maintaining two new volleyball courts, with potential locations identified near the Pender Islands School and at Shingle Bay Park.

Sears noted the popularity of volleyball on the island and estimated a low cost for the project, as most of the supplies are ready (rock available and posts have been prepared). The largest expense would be equipment rental and maintenance.

Chair Frick, Comm Sears and Ben (Maintenance) will liaise and build a proposal to consider at the next PIPRC meeting.

12. Next Meeting Date: Monday, June 8, at 3:30 pm

13. Adjournment

MOTION: That PIPRC concludes the meeting.

M - Comm Sears

S - Comm Balmer

Carried

Meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm