

Friends of the Rossland Range (FoRR)

Meeting: Tuesday January 22nd, 2008 Rossland Library 4pm

MINUTES

Present: {Les Carter, Kim Deane, Cindy Hall, Richie Mann, Suzanne Paquin, Sherry Sonfield, Stewart Spooner
Absent: Brian Steeves}

Chair: Kim Deane

Approved Minutes of December 17th, 2007 meeting.
Approved proposed Agenda.

1) Invasive Plants: CH advised that Nancie Dohan could make a presentation. Meeting suggested an open community meeting (with invitations to known user groups – motorized & non-motorized) during May. FoRR seeking specific actions we can take in the field.

CH will coordinate this – calling on others closer to the time.

2) Possible Community Tenure for Old Glory Alpine & Nancy Greene Summit Cabin Areas: SSp advised that KCTS (Trails Society) is prepared to be the initial Applicant. Very early in the process – many unknowns.

3) Presentation to City of Rossland Seeking Support for BCGov't Planning
Currently, this is the main initiative of the FoRR:

Letters being finalized. Meeting recommended brevity (bullets) - effective for busy Councillors. FoRR has booked presentation to Council February 25th, 2008.

4) Proposed Red Golf Course + Housing Project (Nov. 2007 announcement):

FoRR has significant concerns. Divergent views as to how and when to best present them. Also, if community is taking this on, how much effort should FoRR, as an organization, devote to this issue. Concluded the draft letter by SSp, advising that FoRR has concerns, was satisfactory at this stage – subject to SSp and SSo finalizing wording.

5) Annual dues by “Donation”: AGM directive that we investigate.

General discussion. Meeting decided the current \$5 fixed annual membership is satisfactory.

6) Benefit from like-minded organization(s): Wildsight and others. Wildsight is very highly organized with major programs and large staff. CH gave some examples to illustrate what is being done by others. She has contacted a person in Wildsight (in the East Kootenay's with their 5 regional branches) who thought a West Kootenay connection would be good. General discussion. Agreed the FoRR needs to explore such connections more fully – probably much to be gained. Sentiment at this stage seems to be that Wildsight would likely be very worthwhile for the West Kootenays. However, the FoRR should stay separate with its “niche” and somewhat multi-faceted role.

FoRR to remain open to opportunities with others on an ongoing basis.

7) FoRR: Discuss role: (a) specific advocacy; vs (b) broad-based facilitation?
Meeting discussion led to conclusion that FoRR is a blend with its somewhat unique multi-faceted role, and that this is appropriate for our circumstances.

8) Bear presentation to community: CH advised that Michael Proctor of Kaslo, an expert on bears and an effective speaker (based on recent events in Riondel and Yahk), could be available to make a presentation in Rossland. Meeting very interested and suggested a community event – possibly combined with the proposed Invasive Plants presentation. CH will follow up and involve others as required. (Noted that this would be an opportunity to advertise the FoRR and to sign up members).

9) Proposed Cabins on White Wolf Ridge in Red “Tenure” area: proponent has questionnaire on-line. FoRR will not respond as an organization – individuals as they see fit. One concern is exact location – hopefully not within sight of Seven Summits Trail.

9) Natural Resource Inventory: proposed by FoRR member envisaging the significant funds required being raised specifically for this project. General discussion that this would be required for the proposed planning; subject to results being useful for final users (ie: City, RDKB, BCGov’t bodies, etc.). Noted that much has already been done and needs only to be compiled. Strong support at meeting (with provisos) - agreed that FoRR could be the sponsor/applicant. To be followed up by SSp, LC and CH.

Next meeting: Tuesday February 26th 4 to 6pm Rossland Library (open to all)

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.