

Port of Hood River

WATERFRONT RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday May 9th, 8am, Port Board Room

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL until approved at the next regular meeting

Present: *Committee Members:* TJ Gulizia, Pepi Gerald, Sam Baur, Mark Hickock (Parks & Rec) Bart Vervloet (CGWA), Daryl Stafford (Port Staff), Ben Sheppard (Port Commission)

Staff Members: Michael McElwee, John Mann

Guest Speakers: Carlos Cornelis, Todd Anderson, Josh Sceva

Briefing from Each User Group:

1. *Carlos Cornelis from Kite the Gorge representing The Spit:* Concerns regarding dogs off leashes, “bootleg Kite instructors” that are not part of any of the schools soliciting lessons and general awareness of obstacles out in the water. Proposed Beach clean up to be directed by Pepi & Adam from CGKA. Carlos also requested better signage to help his customers find his location.
2. *Todd Anderson from Gorge Paddling Center representing Nichols Boat Basin:* Discussed the new parking plan and how it may affect traffic flow. Discussed kids swimming and is working with Port Maintenance Manager John Mann to put in floats identifying Danger in the water. Better signage was mentioned. Proposed one large sign that would clearly direct people driving down to the waterfront.
3. *Mark Hickock from Parks & Rec representing Proposed Dog Park:* Conveyed how difficult it has been to find contractors willing to take small jobs. He showed the group the area that the park will be and talked about the plan for it. Group feedback was positive and looks forward to having a place for people to take their dogs that would be away from the masses.
4. *Bart Vervloet from CGWA representing Windsurfing & The Hook:* Let the group know about planned events by CGWA, Beach clean-up efforts, proposed changing rooms at the Event Site with plans in the works, Focus is on spreading out recreational beach usage to various sites to take the pressure off of the Event Site, and the setup of the Gorge Grom trailers. Bart is working with Pepi from CGKA to coordinate safety efforts and beach clean-up. Requested info for parking that he could share with his database. Mention of available efforts to help other user groups.
5. *Sam Baur from the Gorge Cup representing Windsurfing and the Event Site:* Covered topics regarding Jet Ski storage, different site usage to help prevent congestion, and keeping in mind tourists who are not there to recreate. Wants group to keep focus for all users, recreation and pleasure.
6. *Josh Sceva from the Hood River Canoe Club:* Club has close to 75 members and growing, they have more people than boats. Location has moved primary area to Nichols Basin from Marina. Also provided feedback for Spit usage.
7. *TJ Gulizia from Big Winds representing the SUP & Communities:* TJ is working on driving some of the downwind crowd to use the Hook for take out to help relieve congestion at the Event Site. SUP lessons are primarily taught in the Basin and that is going well. Shared concerns with dogs running loose at the Event Site and Spit. Discussion regarding awareness and safety for all user groups.
8. *Pepi Gerald from CGKA and Second Wind:* Spearheading Spit clean up when the water level lowers. Need to coordinate efforts for that with Port, Army Core of Engineers and Sheriff. Pepi gave us an overview of what events are going on with the CGKA and monitoring the Event Site Kite launching situation. Hopes to bring back Loco Wednesdays to promote camaraderie. Mention of inviting Slider Project representative to be part of the group. Discussion on signs to help provide better customer service for visitors to the Hood River Waterfront and proposed a flyer for shops to help educate visitors.

9. John Mann Port Facilities Manager: Let group know about paving projects at the Jensen Parking Lot, curb and parking slip painting scheduled for 1st Street and Portway Ave. John was also part of the conversation regarding dogs & beach clean-up.
10. Michael McElwee Executive Director for the Port of HR: Reviewed new parking plan, thanked everyone for their feedback.
11. *Daryl Stafford Port Waterfront Manager*: Proposed that group members submit signage ideas to help provide a better experience for Waterfront users. Thanked everyone for attending and for their great ideas and feedback.