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**REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020**

SUBJECT **Response to Notice of Motion: Mountain Biking Advisory Committee –Terms of Reference**

ISSUE SUMMARY

A Notice of Motion was approved at the November 13, 2019 Capital Regional District (CRD) Board meeting directing staff to prepare a Terms of Reference for an advisory committee to develop a Mountain Biking Policy for CRD Regional Parks.

BACKGROUND

A Notice of Motion was introduced at the October 23, 2019 Parks & Environment Committee (PEC) meeting recommending that the CRD Board approve a budget, provide staffing and request that staff develop a Terms of Reference (TOR) for an advisory committee with the goal of developing a Mountain Biking policy for CRD Regional Parks within a defined timeframe.

On October 30, 2019, the CRD Board, at a special meeting, approved \$40,000 in the 2020 Financial Plan to support the creation of an advisory committee to support the development of a Mountain Biking policy. The Notice of Motion was approved by the CRD Board on November 13, 2019.

In response to the Notice of Motion, staff developed a draft TOR for an Advisory Committee (Appendix A) to help in the preparation of Mountain Biking Guidelines. The TOR identifies the Advisory Committee structure, function and timelines.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That the Terms of Reference for an Advisory Committee to inform the development of Mountain Biking Guidelines for CRD Regional Parks be approved.

Alternative 2

That the Terms of Reference for an Advisory Committee to inform the development of Mountain Biking Guidelines for CRD Regional Parks not be approved and that this report be referred back to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Social Implications

The CRD Regional Parks Regional Strategic Plan 2012-2021 identifies building healthy communities as one of its core values. Mountain biking is an activity that improves physical health, enhances mental health and wellbeing, brings people together, encourages family activity in nature, and engages the community. All of these contribute to the core values of CRD Regional Parks.

Environmental & Climate Implications

The mission of CRD Regional Parks is to protect regionally significant landscapes and ecosystems and to provide opportunities for people to connect with nature within the system of parks and trails. Providing opportunities to participate in mountain biking within the regional park system supports CRD Regional Parks' goals to provide for health, inspiration and education of visitors through human-powered outdoor experiences that foster the enjoyment and respectful appreciation of the region's natural environments. As the population within the CRD continues to grow, so does the visitation to regional parks. This increase creates greater demands for recreation opportunities on the landscape. Any mountain biking opportunities need to keep people connected to nature without compromising the natural integrity that draws people to the parks in the first place.

Intergovernmental Implications

CRD regional parks are part of a network of local, regional, provincial, and national parks within the capital regional district. These linked park systems have the potential to provide a diversity of cycling experiences for regional residents and visitors. CRD Regional Parks Mountain Biking Guidelines will provide a framework for identifying appropriate cycling opportunities within the regional park system and identify potential linkages with other cycling opportunities within the CRD.

Financial Implications

The CRD Board, at its October 30, 2019 special meeting, approved \$40,000 to be allocated to support the advisory committee in the development of Mountain Biking Guidelines for CRD Regional Parks. The development of the Mountain Biking Guidelines will be completed within this budget.

Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

The CRD 2019-2022 Corporate Plan identifies as a desired outcome to "ensure appropriate funding for parks & trails infrastructure, improvements & maintenance by updating the Regional Parks Strategy with consideration to ecological, recreation & reconciliation principles, land acquisition capacity, & expanded partnerships with First Nations & parks user groups." CRD Regional Parks Mountain Biking Guidelines can contribute to that desired outcome by identifying opportunities to improve and support mountain biking within the regional park system.

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

The 2012-2021 Regional Parks Strategic Plan identifies some of the challenges facing the regional park system. One challenge is placing the right activity in the right area, within the context of the vision and designated purpose of the regional park system and of specific parks or trails. CRD Regional Parks Mountain Biking Guidelines will help to mitigate this challenge by identifying an accountable decision-making process to address this activity within the regional park system and aligning with the park management planning process.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Motion was brought forward in October 2019 for an advisory committee to develop a Mountain Biking Policy for CRD Regional Parks. In November 2019, the CRD Board approved the Notice of Motion with \$40,000 in funding support. The Notice of Motion directed staff to develop a TOR for the advisory committee (Appendix A). The TOR identifies the structure, function, and timelines for an advisory committee to help inform the development of mountain biking guidelines for CRD Regional Parks.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Terms of Reference for an advisory committee to inform the development of Mountain Biking Guidelines for CRD Regional Parks be approved.

Submitted by:	Jeff Leahy, RPF, Senior Manager, Regional Parks
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P. Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: Terms of Reference – Mountain Biking Advisory Committee