



Regional Board Report

Request for Decision

Approved for Board Consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Reardon".

Brian Reardon, CAO

To: Regional Board

From: Wayne Darlington, Manager – Park Planning & Capital Projects

Date: April 25, 2022

Subject: Renewal of the RDCO / Clubhouse Memorandum of Understanding and Lease Agreement (2022 - 2025) – Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors – Unweighted Corporate Vote – Simple Majority – LGA 208*

Purpose: To seek Regional Board approval to renew the Memorandum of Understanding and Lease Agreement with Clubhouse Childcare Centre at Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park.

Executive Summary:

In June 2018, the Regional Board gave approval for staff to enter into a 3-year lease agreement and memorandum of understanding agreement for a nature-based preschool pilot project at Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park between the Regional District of Central Okanagan and the Clubhouse Childcare Centre, a non-profit society. The Clubhouse Childcare Centre subsequently licensed an outdoor classroom space, named “The Treehouse Forest Preschool” in Woodhaven, providing experiential learning through outdoor play and exploration. The term of the agreements and pilot project are expiring and RDCO Parks Services and Clubhouse Childcare Centre seek to extend this agreement for an additional 3 years.

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Regional Board approves renewing the Memorandum of Understanding and Lease Agreement between the Regional District of Central Okanagan and The Clubhouse Childcare Centre for a portion of Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park located at 4711 Raymer Road, Kelowna, BC for a 3-year term from May 1, 2022, to April 30, 2025, in the forms attached to the Report of the Manager – Park Planning & Capital Projects dated April 25, 2022;

AND THAT the Chairperson and Corporate Officer be authorized to execute the Memorandum of Understanding and Lease Agreement.

Respectfully Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Darlington".

Wayne Darlington, Manager - Park Planning, Capital Projects & Visitor Services

Prepared by: Isabella Hodson, Supervisor – Parks Visitor Services

Attachment(s):

1. Lease Agreement Clubhouse (Treehouse Forest Preschool Renewal 2022 - 2025)
2. Memorandum of Understanding RDCO Clubhouse (renewal 2022 - 2025)
3. 2022 – 04 – 25 Presentation Renewal of Clubhouse RDCO MoU and Lease Agreement 2022-2025
Woodhaven Nature Conservancy

Strategic Plan Alignment:

Priorities: Environment, Sustainable Communities

Values: Collaboration, Relationships

Background:

In 2017, the Regional District Parks Services received a proposal from the Clubhouse Childcare Centre (Clubhouse), a local non-profit day care and preschool organization. The proposal from Clubhouse was seeking an agreement with the Regional District to operate a new nature based preschool program within a Regional Park. Through on-going exploratory discussions with Clubhouse, it was determined that Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park, would be a good fit and would align with recommendations identified in the Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park Management Plan.

As a result, Parks Services staff met with Clubhouse to determine options and feasibility for such a request prior to bringing it to the Regional Board for approval. As part of this due diligence and exploratory process, Clubhouse developed a steering committee to explore how a nature preschool could exist and how it could be licensed, a requirement that the Regional District required.

The Clubhouse steering committee included representatives from Clubhouse, Interior Health, Okanagan College, UBC-O, School District #23, and several Early Childhood Educators. The steering committee developed a set of draft policies and procedures that would be required to operate a nature base preschool program.

With the appropriate information in hand, Parks Staff drafted a 3-year lease agreement and memorandum of understanding for presentation to the Regional Board on June 14, 2018. The Governance and Services Committee, followed by the Regional Board during the regular meeting, supported the pilot project in principle and approved staff entering into the lease and memorandum of understanding with Clubhouse.

On April 11, 2019, the Regional District and Clubhouse both signed the 3-year lease and memorandum of understanding agreements to permit the nature based preschool pilot project to proceed in Woodhaven. The agreement permitted utilizing the Raymer Cabin and a portion of land around the cabin for delivery of the nature preschool program, aptly named the "Treehouse Forest Preschool".

This nature-based early learning program provides safe, affordable, and reliable pre-kindergarten curriculum in an optimum learning environment using inquiry-based, emergent, and experiential learning

opportunities. The Clubhouse became the first childcare facility in British Columbia to offer a licenced outdoor preschool, receiving the approval of the Interior Health licencing department on January 1st, 2020.

The 3-year pilot project with Clubhouse is nearing its expiry date of April 30, 2022. As a result, Parks Staff have reviewed the pilot project and have determined that the project has met and continues to meet the intent of the program. The operation of the "Treehouse Forest Preschool" in Woodhaven is consistent with the Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park Management Plan objectives and overall RDCO Corporate Strategic Initiatives.

In conclusion, Parks Staff, are requesting that the Regional Board approves renewing the Lease and Memorandum of Understanding agreement with Clubhouse for another 3-year term for the delivery of a nature-based preschool in Woodhaven, named the "Treehouse Forest Preschool". The term for the renewed lease and memorandum of understanding would be from May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2025.

Considerations:

Organizational/External:

Parks Services staff are continually seeking out partnerships to assist with the delivery of Parks Visitor Services programming in an efficient and respectful manner which assists to engage not only residents but our local, provincial, indigenous, and non-profit partners.

Financial:

There are no further financial implications. The delivery of the Parks Visitor Services portion of Regional Parks is accounted for within the RDCO 5 Year Financial Plans approved by the Regional Board each spring.

Legal/Statutory Authority:

The delivery of the Regional Parks service and associated programming and services follows the Letters Patent for the Regional District.

Considerations not applicable:

- Policy
 - Organizational
 - Alternate Recommendation
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