



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: June 27, 2022
Subject: Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park – UBC/RDCO Memorandum of Understanding and Lease Agreement Renewal

Voting Entitlement: All Directors – Stakeholder Weighted Vote – Majority (LGA s.209)

Purpose: To consider renewing the Memorandum of Understanding and Lease Agreement with the University of British Columbia for the Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park.

Executive Summary:

In 2013, the Regional District began a partnership with the University of British Columbia (UBC-Okanagan) for the delivery of an Artist-in-Residence Program and Community Programming in Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park on the 969 Raymer Road property in partnership with Regional Parks. This partnership integrates the practices of academia into Regional Parks and expands opportunities for residents to connect with nature alongside accomplished work being undertaken by post secondary students and faculty. Since 2013, the Regional District has renewed the Memorandum of Understanding and Lease agreements twice, staff are now seeking to renew these agreements for a third time. RDCO Parks Department staff continue to support this partnership and are encouraged to enable this ongoing relationship and are requesting that the Regional Board approve entering into a new 5-year Memorandum of Understanding and Lease agreement with UBC which now also includes an option to extend both of the agreements for an additional 5 years.

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Regional Board approve renewing a Memorandum of Understanding and Lease Agreements with the University of British Columbia for a 5-year term and an option for an additional 5-year term, for the delivery of an Artist-in-Residence Program and Community Programming within a portion of Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park located at 969 Raymer Road;

AND THAT the Board Chairperson and Corporate Officer be authorized to execute the Memorandum of Understanding and Lease Agreements on behalf of the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

Respectfully Submitted:

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

Wayne Darlington
Manager – Park Planning & Capital Projects

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Murray Kopp".

Murray Kopp
Director – Parks Services

Attachment(s):

- RDCO-UBCO – Woodhaven-Lease Agreement – 2022 to 2027
 - RDCO-UBCO – Woodhaven-MoU Agreement – 2022 to 2027
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Strategic Plan Alignment:

Priorities: Environment, Sustainable Communities

Values: Relationships, Collaboration

Background:

The Regional District and UBC have had a long-standing relationship with Woodhaven which dates back to 2010 where a number of Eco Art Incubator projects were delivered in a manner that left no impacts to the park and environment. This relationship then grew to include a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Lease arrangement in 2013 for a portion of Woodhaven's 969 Raymer Road property. These agreements provided details on the rationale for the partnership and the ability for UBC to operate their programming.

Since 2013, UBC has named the facility at Woodhaven the Woodhaven Eco Cultural Centre a moniker for the programs and events that are being delivered in partnership with the Regional District, centred on Eco Art and an Artist-in-Residence program. Over the 9 years of partnership, a number of programming activities has taken place, everything from poetry readings to music events, public art workshops and elementary school programming.

The program model relies on suitable graduate students to be a part of an Artist-in-Residence program on the property. These students as part of their curriculum will have the expectation of including public programming and education in their residency, following the overarching main objectives for both UBC and Regional District.

The main objectives of UBC for delivery of the program are to:

- (a) develop and highlight the Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies MA and PhD as well as MFA graduate programs;
- (b) contribute to UBC Okanagan Campus sustainability initiatives;
- (c) contribute to UBC Okanagan Campus research into eco-cultures; and
- (d) build connections between UBC and the local community.

The main objectives of the Regional District for supporting and delivery of the Program are to:

- (e) utilization of RDCO facilities in the Park that is consistent with RDCO and RDCO Parks Services overall strategic objectives;
- (f) engage the public in environmental education through ECO-Art;
- (g) aid in expanding a greater diversity of programming for the residents of the RDCO;

- (h) build connections between RDCO and the higher-level educational community; and
- (i) foster continued local community support for RDCO Park Services initiatives.

In addition to the main objectives identified for both the Regional District and UBC, both parties have agreed that over the next 5 years we will focus on improving the partnership and delivery of community programming and develop cross faculty connections for potential expansion of the connection to academia to Woodhaven and the greater Regional Park system.

In conclusion, the MoU provides guidance to the Regional District and UBC on the purpose, objectives, and activities related to the Artist-in-Residence partnership. The lease agreement provides the legal mechanism and identifies the responsibilities for both parties over the lease area. This partnership directly links to both the corporate and departmental strategic objectives for the Regional District and to other national initiatives such as Parks for All and connecting our residents to nature. As a result, Parks Staff are requesting that the Regional Board approve renewing the MoU and Lease Agreements with UBC for a term of 5 years and the option of an additional 5 years for a portion of Woodhaven located at 969 Raymer Road in Kelowna.

Considerations:

Financial:

The Regional District has negotiated with UBC regarding responsibilities for maintenance expenditures. The Regional District still maintains responsibility for the asset located on the property and costs associated with ensuring the asset is in good condition. UBC will be responsible for maintenance costs of up to \$2,500 for a single expenditure. This puts regular minor maintenance responsibilities onto UBC and minimizes RDCO staff and budget resources.

Legal/Statutory Authority:

The Memorandum of Understanding and Lease Agreement are in compliance with the requirements of the Province of British Columbia's Land Title Act.

Considerations not applicable:

- Alternate Recommendation
 - Organizational/External
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