
PARKS COUNCIL AGM CELEBRATES MAJOR MILESTONES.

The Parks Council's annual general meeting, held on April 11, 2011, celebrated the formal approval of the Park Management Plan, the election of a new Executive Committee, as well as presentations by staff which focused on the implementation of new projects and initiatives.

Drayton Valley, Alberta (Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council) April 12, 2011 –

In attendance at the Parks Council's annual general meeting was the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Parks Division of Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation, Jay Nagendran. Mr. Nagendran was at this meeting to formally present the Parks Council with a letter confirming that the *Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Park System Management Plan* has been approved by Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation. Congratulations and praise were provided by Mr. Nagendran on behalf of the Government of Alberta in reference to the hard work, commitment and innovative approach led by the Parks Council in this unique, community-based park planning initiative.

Mr. Nagendran was careful to clarify that the approval of this park management plan does not suggest the acceptance of all proposals outlined within the document. He stated that the final decision on the Blue Rapids Motorised Recreation Association's motocross facility proposal is deferred until the various inventories and assessments to determine the feasibility of this location are completed. The approval of the plan does outline the Parks Council's work plan and direction for the future, as it clearly identifies the objectives of the organization as a whole.

Each year, board members of the Parks Council are elected internally to represent the 'Executive Committee' which consists of four officer positions, namely the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Last calendar year, these positions were filled by Leonard Claffey, Brent Hodgson, Jeff Wardlow and Dollard O'Connor respectively. Newly elected representatives include; Rob Macintosh (Chair), Dollard O'Connor (Vice-Chair), Elaine Tamboline (Treasurer) and Tammy Orban (Secretary). Says Ryan Edwards, Executive Director; "We are excited to see new representation at the executive level as this will bring new vitality and renewed passion to our board table."

All four previous members of the executive will continue to represent their organisations as board members on the Parks Council, which helps maintain organizational consistency and historical knowledge. Stated Brent Hodgson when asked why he decided to relinquish his duties as Vice Chair; "It is just about 7 years since Rob and I started working on creating this park and I believe it is now time to step back and allow others the opportunity to serve the community and fellow council members."

Copies of the Management Plan are available for viewing in the Parks Council's office, or ready for download on our website at www.epbrparksCouncil.org. For additional information on the subject of this release, contact Kaylyn Airey, Public Consultation and Communications Coordinator for the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council.

About the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council:

The Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council is a unique, non-profit organization that utilizes a creative approach towards innovative and community-based park and recreation planning, funding and management. This collaborative multi-stakeholder organization works with representatives from local municipalities, volunteer-based recreation and service organizations, industry, an environmental organization and the Government of Alberta. This project is sponsored in part by Rural Alberta's Development Fund. Together, the Eagle Point – Blue Rapids Parks Council strives for a sustainable balance of diverse recreational opportunities and environmental protection for all to enjoy in Eagle Point Provincial Park and Blue Rapids Provincial Recreation Area.

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