

Great Blue Heron Way Team Meeting Notes from December 10, 2019

Time: 1:00 pm. Tuesday, December 10.

Where: Tsawwassen First Nation Lands Department Office. 2460 Falcon Way

Attendees:

Elder Ruth Adams, TFN

Karl Morgan, TFN Artist and GBHW logo creator

Rasika Acharya, TFN Senior Planner

Kris Patel, TFN Planner

Roel Schootman, [HUB Cycling Tsawwassen Delta](#), Chair for GBHW team

Léon Lebrun, Trails BC / TCT

David Grigg, Arbutus Greenway Improvements Society

Sandra Jones, GBHW team resource person

Carol Vignale, GBHW team historian

Paul Janzen, HUB Cycling educator for children and youth bike safety programs

Neil Pope, Chair HUB Cycling Tsawwassen Delta

Hilary Cole, HUB Cycling Tsawwassen Delta secretary

John Woolliams, HUB Cycling Tsawwassen Delta

Phil Horan, HUB Cycling Tsawwassen Delta

Regrets:

Jesseca Adams, TFN Language and Culture Coordinator

Steve Stark, member of TFN Legislature and of the Port Authority Community Liaison Committee

NOTES

Thank you to Oliver of TFN Lands Dept. for setting up the computer-to-screen connection to display documents and Léon's web-based mapping.

Welcome by Elder Ruth Adams. and round-table introductions

Karl Morgan welcomed by the GBHW Team and thanked for his artwork. Karl endorses the use of his artwork on the signage as presented, both a small marker sign that is based on that used on TCT routes, and a large welcome info. sign that includes the text by Elder Ruth.

Rasika Acharya described how the GBHW signage project is timely as a Place-making project is underway at TFN as endorsed by the TFN Executive Council. A few overlaps with GBHW can be integrated as TFN cultural identity elements.

Signage discussion included:

- A need for safe and accurate wayfinding for all ages
- Potentially use reflective paint on the artwork
- Placement suggestions included where the boardwalk path joins the breakwater trail, a point needing wayfinding for locals and ferry travellers
- Design elements for sign placement such as those presented by David G.
- Good examples of interpretive and wayfinding signage are in Port Coquitlam and on the Spirit Trail in North Vancouver
- A meeting (August) has happened with Chief Ken Baird, who gave his support for GBHW signage. The most recent signage designs will now be provided to the Chief
- Require a presentation on the GBHW project to Chief and Council

David Grigg presented his December 6 submission to the Port (it had already been provided to Elder Ruth) on the need to restore connection between the dike to Canoe Pass (north of Deltaport Way) and the breakwater at TFN (south of Deltaport Way). The connection has been cut at the Robert Bank causeway rail tracks.

- Follow-up has been requested so that accompanying photos and maps can be provided (the on-line submission format didn't allow this).

- No solutions to be proposed. The Rail Gap must be resolved safely.

Cycling measures

Cyclists use a 4 km detour around the Rail Gap on poor condition roads used by heavy commercial trucks with no room for cyclists. The road route uses 41B St and is not suitable for families or riders only comfortable on off-road facilities. There is no useable access back to the dike at 34 St.

- Any interim routing measures could incorporate bright yellow delineator poles to separate cyclists from other road traffic such as recently installed on Boundary Bay Road near Boundary Bay Regional Park.

Léon Lebrun of [Trails BC](#) outlined the Great Trail (Trans Canada Trail TCT) routing, it's connection with the GBHW and the major Gaps needing to be filled.

- The new southern TCT route goes through TFN using the new multi-use paths, new boardwalk, and the breakwater trail
- At the boardwalk / breakwater junction, TCT and GBHW can either head east towards the Fraser Valley or north towards Vancouver and the North Shore
- The proposed BC Ferries causeway route is on the south side of the causeway, using the traffic signal at Tsawwassen Drive / Hwy 17 to cross Hwy 17.
- Routing east requires crossing Hwy 17 at 52 St.

There is a great deal of interest from provincial tourism organizations and on Vancouver Island potential rail to trail (with no motorized use allowed), for a complete circle tour on and around the Salish Sea. Members spoke with Brian Brennan who helped facilitate the Okanagan rail to trail project and advocates tourism in strong partnership with First Nations. Preliminary info. is being sought about the Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council that has member nations on island and mainland.

Action Items

- Provide signage layout to Chief Ken Baird
- Request a presentation opportunity on the GBHW to Chief and Council

Items provided at Dec 10 meeting. Thank you to the TFN Lands Department (Rasika and Kris) for photocopying and distributing items during the meeting on December 10.

- Signage design (welcome sign with text by Elder Ruth and marker sign)
- Port submission by David Grigg sent Dec 6
- Draft map of FN communities along the mainland GBHW route
- Salish Sea circle; from Elder Ruth's GBHW presentation to BC Active Transportation Summit
- Signage post and placement design suggestions
- Route mapping displayed on screen
- Presentation slides displayed on screen

Items that may be provided after the meeting

- Photo of Boundary Bay Road yellow delineator poles
- A draft Visioning the Lead via First Nations document
- December 16, 2019 letter to Chief Ken Baird