



## TOWN OF LAKE COWICHAN

**Economic and Sustainable Development Committee**  
*Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. – Council Chambers*

### AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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**INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS** (if applicable)

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

3. **BUSINESS ARISING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

(a) **Recent Items:**

- (i) Sustainable Waste and Composting – Next Steps.
- (ii) Alternate Boat Launch Location and Boat Trailer Parking.

(b) **Ongoing Items Still Being Addressed:**

- (i) Business Walkabout.
- (ii) Future Campground Addition.

4. **DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS**

- (a) Kate Miller, CVRD, re: CVRD Climate Projections Report.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Bruce McGuigan, re: Letter of Support for the Hill 60 Flying Site.

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6. **STAFF REPORTS**

None.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

8. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

9. **PUBLIC RELATIONS ITEMS**

10. **MEDIA/PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

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## Joseph Fernandez

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**From:** Ross Forrest  
**Sent:** August 2, 2017 3:59 PM  
**To:** Joseph Fernandez  
**Subject:** Fwd: LETTER FO SUPPORT FOR THE HILL 60 FLYING SITE.  
**Attachments:** Doc2 (2).docx; ATT00001.htm

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Bruce McGuigan <[executivedirector@bcfit.org](mailto:executivedirector@bcfit.org)>  
**Date:** August 2, 2017 at 3:01:22 PM PDT  
**To:** <[rforrest@lakecowichan.ca](mailto:rforrest@lakecowichan.ca)>  
**Subject:** LETTER FO SUPPORT FOR THE HILL 60 FLYING SITE.

Thank-you for taking my call today Mayor Forrest.

Please find attached a draft letter of support. Please do alter it in any way you see fit.

I am Past President of the Island Soaring Association and Past President of the British Columbia Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association. I work in both Victoria and Nanaimo.

What may be surprising to you is that as a 58 year old college professor (at VIU) and social work administrator, I am fairly representative of members of our sport. It is a somewhat costly hobby and not necessarily an "adrenaline" sport.

I have been paragliding locally for 18 years. Recent logging by Timber West has allowed us to explore the potential for the site. We launch (legally) from a Forest Service Road on Hill 60 about 300 meters from an area available to be leased from the province. Since this is a road launch and since landing is challenging only local experts have flown from there. The development of a conventional site would allow intermediate and beginner pilots to fly there and allow competitions. This would result in a significant increase in use.

As an experienced paraglider pilot I can say without reservation that Lake Cowichan could become one of the premier sites in the world. The long ridge with a southern exposure generates reliable lift. Its wilderness quality would be appealing to American, European and Asian Pilots. There is also significant possibility for very long cross country flights. The Canadian National Championships held last month in Pemberton did attract pilots from all over the world and brought at least 500 people to the Pemberton Valley spending money on food, accommodation and entertainment(<http://canadiannationalspg.weebly.com/>). Flying events in Lumby (The Lumby Air Races: <http://lumbyairraces.weebly.com/>) and Golden (The Willi XC Challenge: <http://thewillixc.com/>) had similar impacts in their communities. These competitions are cross country, requiring racing from GPS point to point.

Pilots don't just come for competitions. Hang Glider and Paraglider pilots enjoy traveling to try new sites. Consequently, Golden features the sport on their town website

(<https://www.tourismgolden.com/activities/summer/paragliding>) and so does Lumby (<http://lumby.civicwebcms.com/content/outdoor-adventures>). Lake Cowichan has the additional benefit of the lake. At this time, there is no regular acrobatic competition in Canada or for that matter in the United States. This requires a large lake. These competitions draw large crowds and are very exciting spectator sports (<http://wpac-annecy-2016.com/>).

The weather, local mountains and lake make this area potentially among the best in the world.

You quite rightly asked about risk to your community. Pilots in Canada are insured for 3<sup>rd</sup> party liability to 5 million dollars by the Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association of Canada (HPAC). So for example, if we were to land in a Lake Cowichan park, with or without the expressed permission of the Town, the town would be covered for any liability claims. HPAC also runs pilot and instructor certification programs. Mountain Biking, water sports, and other locally enjoyed recreation does not generally come with this kind of insurance.

Since speeds at the point of contact with the ground are about the same as bicycling the risk of physical injury is, in my opinion similar (my identical twin brother is an avid cyclist and seems to get hurt more than I do!).

I would be please to meet with you and Council to discuss this opportunity further.

Sincerely:

Bruce McGuigan.