



Nose Hill

News and Views
fonhs.org



Number 54

The Friends of Nose Hill Newsletter

Spring 2016

President's Message

by Anne Burke

Our 2015 Annual General Meeting was well attended. Three members stepped forward to become acting members of the Board: Dorothy Haeberle, Tara Little, and Jason Frederickson. Tara does administration work on our Facebook page, and Jason is designing our new web site. Polly Knowlton Cockett reports on the City's Biodiversity Committee meetings (see the Brentwood Bugle). Thank you to all the board members!

The "News from the Friends of Nose Hill" appears monthly in several Northwest Community Newsletters. The issues are distributed to households by Canada Post and posted online. If you would like to see the column published in your community newsletter, just ask its editor to include it and we will follow up.

The staff of Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) Calgary has presented FONHS with a grant for \$500 "which recognizes the great work you do in protecting this natural grassland area." Nose Hill was voted everybody's favourite park. Thank you to Glenda Rowley, Manager, and the staff who supported us. Since 1987, MEC has invested over \$30 million in the outdoors environmental community.

Cultural Landmarks

There is a new, cultural landmark on Nose Hill Park: a Siksikaitsitapi medicine

wheel offering site. The medicine wheel represents all four member tribes: Siksika, Blood, and the Northern and Southern Peigan. You can find it on the top of the hill, in the SE corner of the park. Use the park entrance off 14th Street NW.

The circle was arranged by the Blackfoot Confederacy next to the ancient, half-buried circle of stones. "It is meant to be an offering site. When people walk or cycle, they can stop and make a small offering to our creator and be blessed. It's an opportunity for us as people to take a few moments from our daily routines to thank the creator."

The park contains significant archaeological sites, including stone circles, where First Nations scouted for campsites. The area, with a view of the valley, was a look-out for summer and winter camps, to spot game or members of other tribes.

Federal Funding for Nose Hill Park

A media release about connections from Nose Hill Park to the Trans-Canada Trail was incorrect. After we followed up, we learned that the federal funding of \$225,000 was for construction of new trails and restoration of existing trails within the Park:

"The City of Calgary is pleased to be able to participate in the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program. Nose

Hill Park is a major regional park serving all Calgarians. It represents a significant part of our region's history, Aboriginal heritage and use within the Calgary region, and is one of the largest contiguous Natural Environment Parks within a major city, and will benefit greatly from the preservation and trail management initiatives that will be funded through the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program."

(from *Doug Marter, Parks Manager, The City of Calgary*)

Biodiversity

The City's Biodiversity Advisory Committee, Chair Alex Kent, Secretary Laura Nixon, will report to City Council in the spring. The Committee will meet the second Wednesday of every month from February to December in 2016, 5 - 7 p.m. in the Heritage Boardroom, 6th floor Calgary Public Building, 205-8th Ave SE. Board member Polly Knowlton Cockett and our Past President Rob Longair are Committee members appointed by City Council.

Vegetation management requirements are different for the Parks Department and the Transportation Department, e.g. for John Laurie Boulevard, a native seed mix was requested by Parks because native

plants are more appropriate near Nose Hill.

Anne Charlton, Director of Parks, has pointed out the value of citizen groups, which act as sounding boards for ideas and bring information to members' respective groups.

Steven Snell, Parks Planner e-mailed us:

Thanks for the email and your interest in the committee. The committee launched last year and members were selected then for a one- or two-year sitting; meetings, however, are open to the public. We're still working on a work plan so there isn't yet too much to contribute to. I imagine once projects start to get identified there will be a desire to work with volunteers. Perhaps stay on top of the committee agendas and let me know if any of the items look of interest to you. I will reach out to volunteers that have expressed interest in the committee in the next few months to look at opportunities for involvement. Agendas can be found at www.calgary.ca/biodiversity

For more information or to give your input, you can contact Steven Snell at "Snell, Steven" <Steven.Snell@calgary.ca>

Request from the CBC for Photos of Wildlife in Calgary

"We're just in the process of collecting wildlife photographs and if people are interested they should email them to me. We hope to have our online photo gallery put together and posted within the next couple of weeks. We are featuring photos that were taken in Calgary. The idea is to show people all of the wildlife that can be found within city limits. We will credit the photographers, identify the animal/bird in the photo and let people know where in the city it was photographed. I hope this helps. If you need more information please let me know.

Thanks.

Heather Moriarty heather.moriarty@cbc.ca"

Parks Volunteer Opportunities

P.U.P.P.Y. events are where volunteers assist Parks staff to do Nose Hill Park cleanups with dog waste pick-up bags. There will be cleanups on June 18 and July 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet at the Edgemont parking lot (Edgemont Blvd. and Shaganappi Tr. N.W.)

Individuals who can work 6 shifts per season can volunteer as park interpreters at Nose Hill Park. Time commitment: 12 hours per month, June to October. Activities are greeting park visitors, providing information, interpretive activities for visitors, and promoting Parks programs. The job does involve walking on uneven trails; carrying a program backpack or pulling a program cart; and staying outside for 3+ hours.

Candidates should be outgoing, park-loving volunteers who are passionate about nature and love to tell a good story. Foster environmental stewardship, if you have an interest in natural and cultural history.

To apply, you can phone 311, email parksvolunteer@calgary.ca, or go online at: <https://311online.calgary.ca/pdcsrweb/ServiceRequest>.

An announcement of possible interest to members

The Calgary Institute for the Humanities 37th annual Community Forum

“CALGARY: CITY OF ANIMALS”

April 29, 2016.

“Calgary: City of Animals,” will bring three scholars from the fields of history, animal studies, and geography together with members of the Calgary community, to discuss the role that non-human animals have played and continue to play in the life of our city.

The seminar will think about how our interaction with animals has shaped Calgary, and the traces they have left on the city’s geography and identity.

We will consider the routes that animals have taken through the city, and the places where they currently live.

We will think about the different ways we categorize urban animals -- wild and domestic, livestock and entertainers – and consider the implications of these categories.

Most importantly, we will think about the implications of seeing the city as an ecosystem that includes animal life, and the implications of seeing humans as one animal among many in the urban biome.”

Visit the website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/cih/community/community-forum>. Call 403-220-7238 or email cih@ucalgary.ca.

Executive & Board 2016

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Nose Hill News and Views

is published by

The Friends of Nose Hill Society
Suite 171, 130 – 5403 Crowchild Trail NW
Calgary, Alberta T3B 4Z1

Website: fonhs.org

Editor: Robert van Everdingen

Design & Layout: Robert van Everdingen

Printing: Brentwood Printing Inc.

The Friends of Nose Hill invite submissions of articles, poems, thoughts, drawings or photographs from members, visitors and others who have experienced the Hill. We will do our best to print all submissions, but because of space limitations, we reserve the right to edit as necessary.

Please include your name and phone number with submissions.

The views expressed are those of individuals and do not necessarily reflect those of the FONHS



The Friends on Facebook

The Friends of Nose Hill have a Facebook Group. If you are a Facebook member, check out the group: "Friends of Nose Hill Society". Feel free to post your stories, photos, comments and questions about the Park.

Members who would like to receive future issues of the Friends of Nose Hill Newsletter by e-mail should send an e-mail message with their request to: ervan@ucalgary.ca

New members can join the Friends of Nose Hill by mailing \$10.00 to:

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