Recommendation:

That Council respond to the letter dated March 31, 2010 from Susan Steen of the West Coast Railway Heritage Park that the District does not have funding in the 2010 budget to move the pages of the Log Books or to undertake any maintenance of the Log Books and that the future of the Log Books be deferred to the 2011 budget process.

CAO Recommendation:

THAT the report from the Director of Recreation, Parks and Tourism be approved.

K. Ramsay, CAO

1. **Purpose:**
   
   To assist Council in determining an appropriate response to the West Coast Railway Heritage Park staff regarding their letter of March 31, 2010 (attached) requesting the use of the logbooks.

2. **Time Critical:**

   The West Coast Railway Heritage Park staff has requested a response in the immediate future.

3. **Background:**

   Susan Steen, Vice President of the West Coast Railway Heritage Park (WCRHP) sent a letter to Mayor Gardner dated March 31, 2010 informing the Mayor that the WCRHP is interested in relocating the log books to their property in an area they are titling the Forestry Interpretive Area. Within the letter Ms. Steen indicates that the WCRHP would be interested in paying for the moving and set up of the “huts” for the log books as long as the District pays for the moving of the pages from storage on the SODC lands. The WCRHP also requests that the District commit to all maintenance of the log books once they are placed at the Heritage Park.
4. **Project Information:**

Staff has reviewed the proposal from the WCRHP and has the following comments:

- At the present time there is no funding within the 2010 budget for the District to pay for moving of the pages, which could cost between $10,000 and $20,000 to move and install.
- There is the need to determine whether the District wishes to take on the responsibility of maintaining the pages and huts into the future. As these are pieces of art that could involve some costly maintenance after they are fully exposed to the elements, discussion needs to take place with Council if the District wishes to take on this liability.
- Council also needs to determine if the WCRHP is the preferred long term location for the log books.

Considering the lack of funding in 2010, the need to discuss whether the WCRHP is the proper location for the log books and whether the District wishes to take on the liability of maintaining the log books, further time is necessary to discuss this matter. Therefore, staff is recommending that this decision be delayed until the 2011 budget discussions and that the reply to the WCRHP informing them of this decision.

Staff has put forth an alternative recommendation for Council’s consideration should Council wish to pursue the request from the WCRHP. Staff believe, if Council believes f the WCRHP is the preferred location for the Log Books, that they be turned over to the WCRHP in their entirety, at the full expense, including maintenance, of the WCRHP.

5. **Alternatives to Staff Recommendation:**

**Staff Recommendation:**

That Council respond to the letter dated March 31, 2010 from Susan Steen of the West Coast Railway Heritage Park that the District does not have funding in the 2010 budget to move the pages of the Log Books or to undertake any maintenance of the Log Books and that the future of the Log Books is being deferred to the 2011 budget process.

**Alternative Recommendation:**

That Council agree that the West Coast Railway Heritage Park is the preferred location for the log books and respond to the letter dated March 31, 2010 from Susan Steen, informing the Heritage Park that the Log Books, in there entirety, will be turned over the West Coast Railway Heritage Park with all expenses for moving of all aspects of the Log Books and future maintenance be at the Heritage Parks expense, and that staff be requested to bring forward a legal agreement that transfers the Log Books to the Heritage Society.

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Bob Kusch, Director of Recreation, Parks and Tourism
March 31, 2010

Mayor Greg Gardner
District of Squamish
Box 310
Squamish, BC
V8B 0A3

Dear Mayor Gardner

Re: Log Books

As a follow up to my letter of October 6, 2009 and subsequent conversations regarding the relocation of the log books to the Railway Park, we are interested in proceeding at this time.

We have enlisted the services of the Squamish Historical Society and they have developed a plan for this project. I have attached a drawing of the proposed site on our property known as the Forestry Interpretive Area. The area is located in the northwest corner of the Park out by the Mason Station and the Eagle Viewing Tower.

The drawing shows the fourteen log book huts along a path starting at the Mason Station, proceeding to and around the Eagle Viewing Tower and back to the Mason Station. It is our plan to accommodate the log book huts as well as logging equipment in this area. This area is well attended by our visitors as they travel by mini rail to the Mason Station.
We are prepared to enter into a long term relationship with the District as we see the log books as a valuable community asset.

We believe the next step would be to enter into an agreement with the District that the Log books remain the property of the District and that the District agrees the Log Books are to be displayed in the Park. The District acknowledges the risks associated with being in an outside exposed environment at the proposed location.

We understand and appreciate that the 28 pages are carved from wood and may require some special maintenance to retain their beauty due to our climate. We also ask that the District assume that responsibility. This also applies to the huts. We will undertake to maintain the grounds and liability issues.

In terms of project costs, we believe we can cover the moving of the huts, their installation and the landscaping required. We will need assistance from the District to cover the costs of moving the pages to the Park.

I hope that gives you a clear picture of our proposal.

As stated at the beginning of this letter, we are ready to proceed and look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards

Susan Steen, Vice President
West Coast Railway Heritage Park

cc: Squamish Historical Society