

From: Sylvie - Sweet Skills [REDACTED]
Sent: January 14, 2025 9:04 PM
To: Corporate <Corporate@pemberton.ca>
Cc: Christine Burns <cburns@pemberton.ca>
Subject: Letter regarding park fee structure

Dear Pemberton Recreation & Council Team,

I am writing to share my thoughts and concerns regarding the booking requirements for park spaces. As the owner of Sweet Skills Mountain Bike Coaching, a small, locally owned business in Pemberton for the past 10 years, I provide mountain bike coaching services for women, with a focus on locals and a few out-of-town visitors. My programs run from April to June, and I have greatly enjoyed using the new Pemberton Skills Park, which is by far the best in the Sea to Sky region!

I'm proud to offer coaching in my own hometown, and I am thrilled to see the community make use of this fantastic facility. Over the years, I have worked hard to build a program that addresses a real demand in the community: providing women with the skills and confidence to ride safely on the trails (and in the jumps). I have also worked through all the necessary channels to secure commercial tenure for operating my business in the Sea to Sky region which was a massive amount of hours and dollars. As a small business owner, I am fully aware of the costs associated with maintaining good standing with all local organizations - \$850 annual tenure fee + \$5/pp, \$6,000 insurance costs that rise each year, donations to both PORCA and PVTA, business licenses, and park permit fees. Despite these costs and continuing economic challenges that are decreasing participant numbers, I remain passionate about continuing my business and supporting the local biking community.

With that context in mind, I would like to raise some questions and concerns about the current permitting fees and structure. I have also run similar camps in Whistler at their skills park, and while I prefer Pemberton's higher-quality jumps and pump track, I've noticed significant differences in the fees charged.

Here's a comparison of what I pay in Pemberton versus Whistler:

- **Non-refundable permit fee:** Pemberton - \$75; Whistler - \$0
- **Rental Fee/hour for Adult Commercial:** Pemberton - \$25.45; Whistler - \$21.35
- **Deposit Fee:** Pemberton - \$1,000; Whistler - \$0

I'm particularly curious about the \$75 permit fee for booking a park space for even just a single session, especially given that I am a local business with an active business license. Since staff administering the bookings are paid by the municipality (similar to Whistler), I'd

like to understand exactly what this fee covers and why we are charged this fee on top of the hourly rental rate.

Additionally, I am concerned about the \$1,000 deposit fee for park bookings like mine. I understand a larger deposit might be necessary for large events or activities that could cause significant wear and tear, but my bookings are small—up to 15 women for 1-3 hours, and we leave zero mess behind. I typically only make 1-3 bookings per year, so this deposit seems disproportionate.

Given the relatively small scale and infrequency of my bookings, I am finding that the costs associated with these park reservations no longer make sense for my business, especially as I am trying to keep my pricing affordable for locals. For example if I only did 1x 2hr Jump session for the year, the hourly cost would amount to \$62.95 (rental rate plus admin fee) plus a \$1000 deposit.

I would greatly appreciate your consideration of a more flexible fee structure for small businesses like mine that operate on a smaller scale. Thank you for taking the time to read this, and I hope we can find a way to make these fees more manageable for small local operators.

Sylvie



Sylvie Allen

Founder & Coach, Sweet Skills



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