

FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE & PUBLIC REALM ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FIPRAC)

June 17, 2021

**Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192 and
the current Order of the Provincial Health Officer - *Gatherings and Events***

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Patrick Johnstone	- Chair, City Council Member
Mathew Brito	- School District #40
John Davies	- Community Member
Vivian Garcia	- Lived Experience Representation
Gary Holisko	- Community Member
Andrew Hull	- New Westminister Business Community
Danielle Karlsson	- Community Member
Martin Lowe	- Community Member
Sonam Swarup	- Community Member

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Anne Bélanger	- Lived Experience Representative
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GUEST:

Derek Lee	- PWL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc.
Michele Cloghesy	- PWL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc.
David Stein	- PWL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc.

STAFF PRESENT:

Tobi May	- Manager, Civic Buildings & Properties
Erika Mashig	- Manager, Horticulture Services and Parks and Open Space Planning
Christy Mereigh	- Manager, Strategic Projects
Eugene Wat	- Manager, Infrastructure Planning
Nicole Ludwig	- Assistant City Clerk
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Facilities, Infrastructure and Public Realm Advisory Committee agenda of the June 17, 2021 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of February 18, 2021

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Facilities, Infrastructure, and Public Realm Advisory Committee minutes of the February 19, 2021 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Hume Park Masterplan: Overview

Derek Lee, Michele Cloghesy, and David Stein of PWL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc. attended the meeting and Mr. Lee reminded Committee members that Hume Park is currently undergoing a planning process to determine the future plan and use of the Park. He provided a presentation that outlined key findings and objectives from phase one of public engagement and a preliminary site plan for the Park for which they are currently seeking feedback.

Committee members were asked following question with respect to Upper Hume Park:

- In Upper Hume Park we are balancing multiple active uses. How do you feel about the tradeoffs between a more flexible space with multiple activities layered as opposed to a focus on regulation size facilities and single use activities?

In response to the question, Committee members provided the following suggestions and comments:

- The kinds of development in Sapperton Green with respect to single family homes, condominiums, etc., would help determine the different types of users visiting the park and would have bearing on how the park is designed and what amenities are offered;
- The number of participants in organized sports is declining; therefore, a more flexible space would be appropriate;

- Established single sports facilities such as the lacrosse box and pool, should be maintained as there are not a lot of similar amenities like these in the city;
- While Coquitlam is currently unclear about what may be planned for their site near the river, it would be good information have so that the additional stresses from a possible increase in nearby homes can be prepared for; and,
- A plan to repair the significant riparian area and to continue the existing pathway should be included in the conversation.

In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. Lee advised that approximately 20 mixed-use towers are expected to be built in Sapperton Green over the next decade, including townhouses, commercial, and office space.

In response to the questions from the Committee, Erika Mashig, Manager, Horticulture Services and Parks and Open Space Planning, advised that feedback is being received from a variety of sports groups through public engagement indicating that two baseball fields may not be necessary as they cannot be used for other sports such as soccer or rugby; however, they would not impact Ultimate Frisbee play.

Committee members were asked following questions with respect to Lower Hume Park:

- In Lower Hume Park, how do we balance increasing capacity without compromising the ecology/natural features of the Park? and,
- How can we improve circulation in the bluffs while creating equitable experience that address a diversity of modes of transportation and user groups while providing a rich experience traveling through this area?

In response to the questions, Committee members provided the following suggestions and comments:

- Create a circuit that will direct people in a specific direction to lessen the need for wider paths;
- The BC Rehab Foundation and the Rick Hansen Foundation may be able to assist with funding for accessibility;
- It is important to provide viewpoints that everyone can participate in, including those in wheelchairs and bridging from the bluffs would allow people in mobility devices to see the lower view of the Park;
- Picnic areas with views would be nice;
- The idea of naturalized trails and the boardwalk designs are great;
- The conversation about connecting the upper and lower aspects of the Park must include how to be creative in keeping steep grades accessible to all;
- Desire lines will exist if key connections are not provided; therefore, we need to determine what people want and work with it;
- Terracing is also good to provide accessible pathways; and,
- While the City's Development Cost Charges are currently being updated, they only address smaller developments. Large developments, such as

Sapperton Green, should contribute more to support the surrounding infrastructure.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Lee provided the following comments:

- Based on research completed by Diamond Head Consulting Ltd., there is a native bird habitat that must be protected; and,
- It would have to be determined if tying the Brunette-Fraser Trail into the pathway is a viable option.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Mashig provided the following comments:

- The inventory analysis provided by Diamond Head Consulting Ltd. which lists the birds, fish species, and megafauna in the area can be seen on the City's Be Heard New West website;
- Staff can reach out to the BC Wheelchair Sports Association for input;
- The strategy includes providing wayfinding that will show various ways to move through the park with strollers, mobility devices, etc.; and,
- Staff will engage with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

Mr. Lee advised that next steps include a public open house on June 22, 2021, pop up events throughout the summer and fall, a fall/winter open house and, lastly, presentation to Council in winter 2021/2022 for final approval.

3.2 City-Wide Dog Strategy: People, Parks and Pups

Erika Mashig, Horticulture Services and Parks and Open Space Planning, provided a presentation, prepared by Space2Place Landscape Architects, which included feedback received during phase one of public engagement for the City-Wide Dog Strategy.

Committee members were asked following questions with respect to the City-Wide Dog Strategy:

- How might New Westminster share park space among visitors with and without dogs, to improve comfort and safety for everyone? and,
- With respect to fully-fenced, designated off-leash dog areas in public parks or shared space for more flexibility, especially when space is limited, what is the best fit for New Westminster? Should the City explore the option of shared park space (designating hours or seasons for off-leash use) and what, if any, would be concerning with this approach?

In response to the question, Committee members provided the following suggestions and comments:

- A single purpose park may be most appropriate as dog waste may become an issue in shared space;
- Agility logs and other activities for dogs in off-leash parks could be provided;
- Queens Parks is the home to the first wheelchair accessible dog park in Canada, unfortunately the others are not completely accessible to wheelchair users;
- A hose at the entrance to dog parks would be ideal for people to rinse their shoes, wheelchairs, etc.;
- A small, off-leash dog run for one to two small or unsocialized dogs by the Quay, where there are a lot of condominiums, would be welcome;
- Perhaps an upper or street-level area of the Front Street Parkade could be creatively turned into a dog park; and,
- It would be helpful to conduct mapping exercises to see how people get to parks and build smaller relief parks along those routes, especially in the Downtown area.

In response questions from the Committee, Ms. Mashig provided the following comments:

- The City is looking to include dog relief areas in zoning for condos owners which would be the responsibility of the strata to maintain; however, this may be challenging with lack of space; and,
- Dog owners who do use non-designated park space to exercise their dogs were among those who provided feedback during the engagement process.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Updated Draft Green Building Policy

Committee members were invited to comment or ask questions about the report; however, there were none.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, October 21, 2021

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Certified correct,

Original Signed

Councillor Patrick Johnstone
Chair

Original Signed

Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk