

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 27, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Queen's Park Arena – Powerplay Room

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Co-Chair, City Council Member
Shawna Barkley	- Community Member
John Davies	- Community Member
Gary Holisko	- Community Member
Andrew Hull	- Community Member
Tonianne Mynen	- Community Member
Maryam Naser	- SD40 Representative
Sydney Sullivan	- Community Member
Deanna Tan	- Community Member

MEMBER REGRETS:

Councillor Chinu Das	- Co-Chair, City Council Member
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GUEST:

Stephen O'Shea	- Executive Director, Arts Council of New Westminster
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STAFF PRESENT:

Dean Gibson	- Director of Parks and Recreation
Steve Kellock	- Senior Manager, Recreation Services & Facilities
Erika Mashig	- Manager, Arboriculture, Horticulture Parks & Open Space Planning
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Procedural note: Item 3.1: Oaths of Office and Item 3.2: Parks and Recreation Committee Orientation were addressed prior to the start of regular agenda Items.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 Additions/Deletions to Agenda

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda for the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting scheduled February 27, 2019 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 January 30, 2019

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting held November 28, 2018 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Oaths of Office – Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk

After a brief roundtable introduction, Ms. Cook commenced with her presentation which included the role of advisory committees, the terms of reference, meeting attendance and quorum, meeting conduct, City policies & freedom of information, and, lastly, oaths of office.

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, requested that members email him if they had anything they would like to see addressed at a meeting, leaving enough time for him to review the request with the Chair prior to dissemination of the agenda package.

Mr. Gibson also shared that the Committee's Terms of Reference is distinct in that the Committee offers advice regarding the operations of the Parks and Recreation Department, setting it apart from other city committees and, in addition, the Committee has the benefit having a director attending meetings, which most other committees do not.

3.2 Parks and Recreation Committee Orientation – Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk – See Item 3.1: Oaths of Office

3.3 Esplanade Tugger Replacement Proposal – Erika Mashig, Manager Arboriculture, Horticulture, Parks & Open Space Planning

Ms. Mashig commenced with her presentation advising members that the Esplanade Tugger Replacement Proposal report going to Council on March 11, 2019 would include feedback provided from the Committee this evening.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- There are no plans to repurpose Tugger, which weighs 13 tonnes and will be moved by crane onto a barge and taken away;
- Currently, the plan allows for multidirectional facing seating; however, consideration will be made for implementing seating that is away from, but facing the play area. It was also noted that due to safety concerns, seating cannot be placed adjacent to the handrails;
- In partnership with the two local Rotary Clubs, the project will honour Dr. Irwin Stewart’s service to the community, medical field, and commitment to children and youth. Rotary’s participation in the project be acknowledged by means of a project plaque and Dr. Stewart will be acknowledged by attaching his name to one of the new “mini tuggers”;
- If the budget allows, additional buttons, dials, etc., that draw younger children to play areas may be added in the future; and,
- The play area will be distinctive to set it apart from the regular walkway;

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Speaking tubes could be placed inside of the ship to tie in with nautical theme;
- Name suggestions for the other play tugboats include “86” after Expo 86 and “Tugger” after the original play tug;
- More play aspects for hearing-impaired children should be considered;
- The tugs could be pointed towards the real tugboats on the river;
- Braille could be included for children who cannot use the sound devices; and,
- As the barge aspect may be underwhelming, perhaps there should be more tuggers and less of the barge play surface.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee support, in principle, the new Tugger Playpark concept as presented this evening.

CARRIED.

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

3.4 Arts Council of New Westminster – Stephen O’Shea, Executive Director

Mr. O’Shea commenced with his presentation on the Gallery at Queen’s Park and described the ongoing struggle with the lack of wayfinding to the Gallery. He advised that, due to the lack of signage, many people are unaware that the Gallery is located in Queen’s Park and that the existing signage in the Park is inaccurate. He advised that the Arts Council is working with the City’s transportation staff to have signage erected on McBride Boulevard so those headed towards the Pattullo Bridge are made aware of the Gallery.

Ms. Mashig informed the Committee that a productive stakeholder workshop was held with respect to the wayfinding signage and different ways to express where the art gallery and theatre are within the Park, including wayfinding “finger-pointing” signs directing visitors to the Gallery and Bernie Legge Theatre.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. O’Shea provided the following information:

- The Gallery’s online presence is being worked on, however, the physical directions need to be improved as well;
- The Gallery is on the City’s cultural map but is separate from the City’s website;
- The Gallery has been in the same location since 1985 with the lease being renewed every five years; and,
- The Arts Council of New Westminster (ACNW), a strategic non-profit organization, which operates the Gallery, recognizes that the community is desirous of more art and art galleries in the City.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- Signage and street names in the Park are being worked on for a variety of reasons including having a physical address for each building to facilitate first responder response times and ease in locating the various buildings located within the Park;
- The Queen’s Park Wayfinding Signage Plan (“Plan”) is very comprehensive and evolved; however, it has not yet come to the Committee as staff are awaiting the finalization of the location of the new Sportsplex as well as other changes occurring in the Park;
- The Plan will address vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists throughout the Park and include bollard-scaled arrows and signs that will provide direction and distance to the Gallery;
- As all the information will not fit on one sign, there may have to be more general signs through the centre of the Park and more specific, “finger-pointing” signs at key directional decision points;

- Wayfinding professionals have been hired to help re-design the outdated map located within the Park, at various scales. Once complete, it will go to Council for endorsement and then for tender; and,
- Staff will bring the Queen’s Park Wayfinding Signage Plan to the Committee at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Gibson advised that staff will take comments provided this evening, continue the dialogue with the ACNW, and come back with Mr. O’Shea to provide an update to the Committee on the progress of this issue. He noted that it will need to be balanced with all the other destination points within the Park.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- The Gallery at Queen’s Park should be showcased on the City’s website;
- Signage could be placed downtown to direct people uptown to the Park and the Gallery;
- Directional signage to the Gallery should be erected in accordance with the Master Transportation Plan and how it addresses wayfinding to key destinations;
- A member shared that he found the Gallery by accident, noting that the current signage is challenging; and,
- Advertising in places such as the bulletin board in the arena, etc., may be a way of informing people that this is an inclusive community art gallery, it is open to the public, and children are welcome.

3.5 New Westminster Aquatic and Community Centre Update – Steve Kellock, Senior Manager, Recreation Services & Facilities

Mr. Kellock commenced with his presentation update of the New Westminster Aquatic and Community Centre.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- The existing facilities will remain operational during the building process;
- Site constraints dictated where the City could build the new facility without compromising the Metro Vancouver sewer line;
- The City’s transportation team have completed a study in the area and are working to realign some of the bus stops and general service routes to this site and the Justice Institute as they are currently underserved by transit;
- The active and passive outdoor spaces could include outdoor equipment for the general public and Hyack Swim Club to use for warm ups, etc.;
- The gravel field, which is the most underutilized field in the City, is expected to be replaced by an artificial turf field, potentially at the high school during its redevelopment;

- The Engineering Department will be providing public information on the relocation of the recycling depot in the coming months;
- The site plan includes over 400 parking stalls and is being addressed as a 50 year facility with consideration of ride sharing, transit, EVO cars, etc. It is possible that, in the future, underutilized parking stalls could revert back to green space; and,
- Greenspaces will help create clarity and desire lines for pedestrians to connect with the front of the facility.

Further discussion ensued and a Committee member requested that staff remain cognizant of the reconfiguration of parking during major meets which will include parking of tour buses, etc.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No items

5.0 REPORTS

No items

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

No items

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Election of Alternate Chair – Committee

This item was not addressed.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 24, 2019, 6:00 pm. Location: Queensborough Community Centre

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

CARRIED.

Certified correct,

Original Signed

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair

Original Signed

Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk