

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 30, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Queen's Park Arena – Powerplay Room

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Councillor Jaimie McEvoy | - Chair, City Council Member |
| Aran Armutlu | - Community Member |
| Shawna Barkley | - Community Member |
| John Davies | - Alternate Chair, Community Member |
| Andrew Hull | - Community Member |
| Deanna Tan | - Community Member |

MEMBER REGRETS:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Brynn Bourke | - Community Member |
| Maryam Naser | - SD40 Representative |
| Ronnie Nicolosora | - Community Member |

GUESTS:

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Lauren Holmes | - Local Resident |
| Andrew Culp | - Local Resident |

STAFF PRESENT:

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Dean Gibson | - Director of Parks and Recreation |
| Ron Booth | - Manager, Queen's Park Facilities |
| Nell Gasiewicz | - Parks and Open Space Planner |
| Carilyn Cook | - Committee Clerk |

Note: Ron Booth, Manager, Queen's Park Facilities, conducted a tour of the Queen's Park Arena for Committee members prior to the start of the meeting.

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

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 January 30, 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 November 28, 2018

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 Queen's Park Facilities Operations Overview – Ron Booth, Manager of Queen's Park Facilities

Mr. Booth introduced himself and provided the following overview:

Queens Park Arena (QPA)

- The QPA has ice for seven months of the year which is mostly used for minor hockey and ringette. The dry floor is used for lacrosse, from Senior A down to the minors;
- Special events held at the QPA include memorial services as well as the New Westminster Secondary School graduation ceremonies;
- The walkway around the top of the arena is often utilized by people as a walking track and for other forms of exercise;
- Both the QPA and the Moody Park Arena have electric ice resurfacing (Zamboni) machines, resulting in no air pollution in the rinks from combustion engines;
- Staff are continuously working to ensure that both of the arenas' systems and machinery are properly serviced and remain in good working order;

- The City has a three-year plan to replace some major components and move into new technology which will significantly reduce the amount of ammonia used at both of the arenas;
- While a consultant has shared that, structurally, the QPA is in great condition, the City continues to update and replace elements that require attention such as exterior stucco, etc.; and,
- Staff strive to maintain a balance between filming usage and park users as the facilities are often booked for film parking and, occasionally, for actual filming which is arranged through the City's Filming Coordinator.

Moody Park Arena (MPA)

- General public use includes all city-run skate lessons, school bookings, special events, and the skate shop;
- The arena serves as a home rink for the Metro Minor Ball Hockey League;
- New Westminster Secondary School students, along with special needs kids, participate jointly in a community development program at the arena;
- The lacrosse partnership program enables staff to visit local elementary schools to teach basic lacrosse skills to students as part of their physical education curriculum. This initiative is funded by the Metro Minor Lacrosse League and often remains an ongoing school gym activity;
- Approximately 22,000 people attend the public skates annually, with about 60 percent of those patrons participating in the Loonie skate; and,
- Approximately 100 pairs of skates are rented out each day.

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, took a few minutes to acknowledge Mr. Booth's hard work over the years, noting that the City was very fortunate to have Mr. Booth as the manager of the arenas and Queen's Park as he has been with the City for many years and brings an abundance of knowledge to his position. Mr. Gibson also commended Mr. Booth's excellent support staff, as well as the great leadership provided over the years by both Mr. Booth and Mark Stevens, Queen's Park Maintenance Supervisor.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- There are over 100 photographs that could be included in a history project of the QPA and the Queen's Park facilities. Last year a Jane's Walk tour was conducted which included the history of the development of the Park and the origins of New Westminster; and,
- Ammonia is used for heat transfer from the ice rinks in order to maintain the ice surface.

Procedural note: Mr. Booth left the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

3.2 Off Leash Dog Area Lighting – Lauren Holmes, Local resident

Ms. Holmes commenced with her on-table presentation of New Westminster dog park facilities and the possibility of implementing in-ground solar lighting to extend daily park usability during the winter months.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- Currently, the City does not have a tool to record the timing and usage of the dog parks; and,
- User activated lights on a timer may be the most practical way to provide lighting at the dog parks as this system is currently utilized at various sports courts located in Moody Park. This may also provide additional safety benefits for park users.

Further discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) guidelines recommend to not to have nighttime lighting in parks, however, they do recommend having dog walkers in parks, so there could be opportunity for compromise; and,
- The lights should be located above ground so they are not damaged by dogs running and playing.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT staff report back on the feasibility of lighting in the City's dog parks.

CARRIED.

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

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 REPORTS

5.1 Downtown Off Leash Dog Area Relocation – Nell Gasiewicz, Parks and Open Space Planner

Ms. Gasiewicz provided a presentation on the Downtown Off Leash Dog Area Relocation.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- The decline in tree health in the Moody Park dog area is a condition related to the ongoing compaction of the soils, and while this is not an overwhelming factor, it is considered in future off leash area planning;
- While there is a strong desire from small dog owners to have a small dog area in order to avoid conflict with larger dogs, staff are considering all options in order to satisfy everyone's needs;
- Although off leash dog area planning already sees a fairly high response rate from residents, the City is always seeking new ways to reach out to citizens;
- The City needs to keep in mind that, in the longer term, land area uses in the Albert Crescent Park area will be impacted by the new Pattullo Bridge and the resulting change of road network; and,
- With respect to developers and owners renting vacant land to the City for temporary dog park use, specifically beside the Hyack Excel Tire store at 66 Sixth Street and next to New Westminster Station at 812 Columbia Street, staff advised that, while this may be taken into consideration, it should be noted that historically the public will forget that the land use was for a temporary period of time and the land owner may end up being viewed in an unfavourable light when the contract ends.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Staff proceed with the recommended Option A, Simcoe Park north, with the inclusion of a small dog off-leash area at the site.

CARRIED.

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

5.2 Connaught Heights Park Playground Redevelopment - Nell Gasiewicz, Parks and Open Space Planner

Ms. Gasiewicz commenced with her presentation.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- Community gardens received an unenthusiastic reception by those who attended the open houses;
- A school requesting to use park space for gardening as part of the academic program would typically have to present a formal application to the City, outlining why they are unable to have a garden on school property;

- The City’s arborist has been on site and all healthy trees will remain, while the other trees will be replaced;
- Staff had difficulty getting responses to the survey and those that did respond, preferred Option C first, Option A second, and Option B third; and,
- The same number of swings will be installed at the Park as what is currently there, including a special needs swing. However, many people have requested the installation of additional swings, and since they require a lot of space for safety reasons, the City may consider a design option that can accommodate more than one swing and hold a number of kids at once while at the same time encouraging them to interact with one another. This matter will be addressed at the next open house.

Further discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Based on the popularity of ziplines at Queen Elizabeth Park in Vancouver and Lion’s Park in Port Coquitlam, it was suggested that a zipline be included in the new park. It was noted that smaller ziplines do not require supervision as compared to commercial ziplines in forest settings;
- The addition of a zipline could be prioritized due to their popularity at other parks, even though staff have not completed a costing for the inclusion of such an apparatus;
- The City needs to also consider planting additional trees in the greenspace as we need to think about how our parks are going to be in years to come and not just over the next few years; and,
- It is nice that the newer parks in the City contain elements that have distinctive looks and features and will not be married to a specific era as we have seen with parks in the past.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee supports, in principle, the preferred Option C for the Connaught Heights Park Playground Redevelopment as presented.

CARRIED.

Deanna Tan voted in opposition of the motion.

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Riverfront Park Workshop Volunteers – Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation

Mr. Gibson advised the Committee that the City is gearing up to host a 3rd open house for Riverfront Park, an expansion of Westminster Pier Park. He shared that due to the significance of the Park and the prominence it will have in the community, the City will host a workshop session that includes invited stakeholders who will work through what the preferred option for the Park would look like and asked for three volunteers from the Committee to attend the Tuesday, February 12th workshop from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at City Hall. A follow up email will be sent to members and this item will come back to the Committee for further discussion.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 27, 2019, 6:00 pm. Location: Queen's Park Arena

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