



## **FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE & PUBLIC REALM ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FIPRAC)**

**Thursday, February 18, 2021**

**Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192/2020 and  
Order of the Provincial Health Officer *Gatherings and Events – February 5, 2021***

### **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 Westminster 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:**

Brian Johnston	- RC Strategies + PERC
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#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Tobi May	- Manager, Civic Buildings & Properties
Steve Kellock	- Sr. Manager of Recreation Services & Facilities
Nell Gasiewicz	- Parks and Open Space Planner
Rob McCullough	- Manager, Museums and Heritage Services
Eugene Wat	- Manager, Infrastructure Planning
Ron Booth	- Manager, Arenas and Queen's Park
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 February 18, 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 November 19, 2020

### MOVED AND SECONDED

*THAT the Facilities, Infrastructure, and Public Realm Advisory Committee minutes of the November 19, 2020 meeting be adopted with the amendment that Andrew Hull was not in attendance at the meeting.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## 3.0 PRESENTATIONS

### 3.1 Arena Strategy

Brian Johnston of RC Strategies + PERC provided an Arena Strategy presentation which outlined the purpose of the Strategy, the market place, historical context, capacity, trends and service, the stakeholder review, and recommendations moving forward. Final steps include submitting the Strategy to Council for consideration and for the City to refer to the Strategy for future long range asset planning

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

- In order to determine what future use of a facility will look like, trends of use and capacity over the previous five to ten years are referred to;
- Raising the facility to provide lower level parking would be too technically challenging and necessitate the use of many support beams, rendering the level beneath the raised portion unusable;
- Marketing the facility will be inclusive and outlined in a future report;
- Dry floor may be achieved by putting a wood lacrosse floor over concrete or ice; however, that can be determined closer to construction time as the technology may have changed by then. Currently, it is easier technically and more cost efficient to remove the ice;
- New equipment, such as generators, etc., is being installed in the Moody Park Arena under the assumption it can be relocated to a newer facility in the future;

- Trends see less Canadians participating in structured sports and more in pick up/drop in sports; and,
- The report advises of the importance of restoration and that when work is done on the facility, that heritage value, such as original windows, is retained.

### **MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the Facilities, Infrastructure and Public Realm Advisory Committee endorses the Arena Strategy as presented at the February 18, 2021 meeting of the Committee and recommends it be presented to Council for their consideration.*

**CARRIED.**

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

### **3.2 Naming of a City Asset in Commemoration of the Komagata Maru**

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, shared a presentation on the history of the Komagata Maru incident and the request that was received by the City from the Descendants of the Komagata Maru Society on October 28, 2019 asking that the City consider naming a street, park, or other city asset after the Komagata Maru.

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

- Neither of the suggested locations, the dock at Port Royal nor the circumference trail of the Port Royal River Walk, has an official name with the City;
- The Gurdwara is supportive of the suggestions; however, staff have not spoken with other members of the South Asian community nor those who may not attend the Gurdwara;
- The name of any memorial acknowledging the Komagata Maru has yet to be determined;
- Consideration could be made to honouring the Komagata Maru at the memorial garden which will be located on the old New Westminster Secondary School site;
- It may be difficult to honour a specific person in a memorial as there is no conclusive evidence of who it is that should be honoured; and,
- Along with other mainland locations, Simcoe Park could also be considered for a memorial as that site holds historical significance for South Asian Community.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Queensborough is an appropriate place for a memorial and the wharf would be easily recognizable;

- Historically, South Asians were prevented from owning property on the mainland; therefore, having a memorial on the mainland would reinforce that we all belong everywhere in New Westminster; and,
- The Queensborough Recreation Centre or another city asset which the City has control over may be more appropriate places for a memorial as the old high school memorial park is under the school district's jurisdiction.

**MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT the Facilities, Infrastructure and Public Realm Task Force recommend that Council support naming the dock and/or walkway at Port Royal in memory of the Komagata Maru;*

*THAT Council consider locations on the mainland of the city as well; and,*

*THAT Council also consider recognizing local members who may have participated in supporting passengers of the Komagata Maru.*

**CARRIED.**

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

**3.3 Riverside Park Playground Replacement**

Nell Gasiewicz, Parks and Open Space Planner, provided a presentation on the Riverside Park Playground Replacement which outlined the project background, site location and details, project timeline, feedback received, and concept designs.

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

- Ground cover will be a wood fibre which has been used previously to provide a pathway to play features;
- Current focus is on replacement of the playground structure; however, other considerations for additional amenities include things such as picnic tables;
- Local residents who have young children and utilize the park, participated in the first virtual open house which was held in December 2020; and,
- Signage, park features, and land forms will draw people into the park.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Gravel and wood chips do not provide accessibility to wheelchair users;
- A public art piece or another feature would make the park more visible to passersby on Stewardson Way and Sixth Street;
- Grade renderings would be helpful;
- The Sea Star looks fun; and,
- Public consultation reminders to Committee members would be appreciated.

### **3.4 City-Wide Dog Strategy: People, Parks and Pups**

Nell Gasiewicz, Parks and Open Space Planner, shared a presentation which outlined the planning, design, and management for the city-wide dog strategy.

In response to the questions of what is or is not working well or what improvements can be made in dog park design, the Committee provided the following comments and suggestions:

- Install rinsing stations just outside of dog parks for people to clean off their wheelchairs, shoes, and dogs;
- The park at the end of the Quay would benefit from a “play pen” for dogs;
- Designate areas for specific types of play, such as a skinny run, wide enough for two wheelchairs, that would provide space for a game of chuck it;
- Put dog parks near strips of stores so dogs can be taken everywhere;
- Ensure that there are enough dog waste receptacles placed throughout the City including in the downtown area and paths that people use to get to parks;
- Employ underutilized spaces such as bulletin boards to educate and share city information and dog tips;
- Dog owners may take their pets to play outside of designated dog areas if that area is muddy or their dog is not friendly and this may contribute to undisposed of dog waste;
- Avoid conflict by offering both large dog parks and a small dog parks; and,
- The area along the dyke north of the Walmart in Queensborough is a good place to walk and runs dogs and may provide a good opportunity for the City.

### **3.5 Hume Park Master Plan: Overview**

Nell Gasiewicz, Parks and Open Space Planner, shared a presentation on the Hume Park Master Plan which outlined project process and information, consultation process and timeline, and work to date.

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

- The land space outlined in the Plan will be reviewed to ensure that it does not include land owned by the school district; and,
- This is a 20 year master plan that includes a fulsome vision for the park and facilities as they age out of their life span.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Developer contributions at Sapperton Green should be reviewed as funds collected from developers could pay for upgrades to Hume Park, dog parks, etc; and,

- The Plan should include active transportation routes to get into Hume Park such as via Central Valley Greenway.

John Davies, community member, agreed to forward information about the Tetra Society of North America, which provides solutions for those with disabilities overcome environmental barriers, to Steve Kellock, Senior Manager of Recreation Services and Facilities, as they may be able to assist the City.

#### **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There were no items.

#### **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

##### **5.1 Alternate Chair**

###### **MOVED AND SECONDED**

*THAT John Davies be elected as the Alternate Chair for the 2021 term of the Facilities Infrastructure and Public Realm Advisory Committee.*

**CARRIED.**

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

#### **6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

There were no items.

#### **7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items.

#### **8.0 NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, April 15, 2021

#### **9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Certified correct,

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Original Signed  
**Councillor Patrick Johnstone**  
**Chair**

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Original Signed  
**Carilyn Cook**  
**Committee Clerk**