

FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE & PUBLIC REALM ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FIPRAC)

October 21, 2021

Meeting held electronically and in Meeting Room G, City Hall

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

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Anne Bélanger	- Lived Experience Representative
Sonam Swarup	- Community Member

GUESTS:

Michele Cloghesy	- PWL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc.
D'Arcy Hutton	- PWL Partnership Landscape Architects Inc.

STAFF PRESENT:

Sloane Elphinstone	- Coordinator, Park Services
Tobi May	- Manager, Civic Buildings & Properties
Erika Mashig	- Manager, Parks and Open Space Planning, Design and Construction
Eugene Wat	- Manager, Infrastructure Planning
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk
Katie Stobbart	- Committee Clerk

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

*Denotes electronic attendance.

1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Facilities, Infrastructure and Public Realm Advisory Committee agenda of the October 21, 2021 meeting be adopted with the addition of Canada Games Pool Closure Update as Item 5.1.

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 June 17, 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

Michele Cloghesy and D'Arcy Hutton of PWL Partnership provided a presentation on the Hume Park Masterplan. The Committee provided the following comments:

- This plan is the right kind of rejuvenation for the area and balances enhancement of existing amenities with making changes;
- It might be worthwhile to have children's play areas closer to playing fields, to accommodate the needs of parents with children of different ages;
- The green space around the aquatic zone is a popular picnicking spot and does not seem very large;
- There should be provision for dog areas within Sapperton Green;
- Suggested an outdoor handwashing station;
- Could have a solar charging station for cell phones within the covered area adjacent to concession;
- Could have power and a handwashing station near the picnic shelter in Lower Hume Park;
- Should be considered that people bring barbecues to the picnic shelter;
- Consider maintenance of playing field with three sports taking place there;
- Consider height of fence around dog park to allow wayward balls; and
- Consider a covered lacrosse court.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Cloghesy, Mr. Hutton, and Councillor Johnstone advised:

- There are three entrances to the dog park area;
- Structures (e.g. fence for lacrosse) are moveable to accommodate different activities;
- The aquatic zone is vaguely named as there will be another process for the recreation department to discuss whether there will be a pool, spray park, urban beach component, etc.;
- There will be quite a bit of green space designated within Sapperton Green. Part of the plan is also to have a greenway connection from Hume Park to the Skytrain station, but there will be no direct trail connecting Lower and Upper Hume Park on the eastern side of the park;
- There has been detailed discussion with the School District, who have been invited to put forward ideas for areas of the park they use heavily and amenities that would benefit education for children; and
- There are bathrooms in Upper and Lower Hume Park, with the Upper bathroom located closer to the playing fields.

3.2 Queen's Park Farm Transition

Sloane Elphinstone, Coordinator, Park Services, presented on the Queen's Park Farm Transition. The Committee had the following comments:

- Incorporating Indigenous plant knowledge is important;
- Could have animals brought in temporarily, as a guest appearance;
- Would like to evolve the space while keeping some elements;
- If there was a vertical garden to grow food and a community table, we could make and eat food as a community and offer classes;
- Making the garden "smart" with technology would help set an example for people to follow at home; and
- There is an urban farm in Dartmouth, Halifax with a small orchard and cob oven with classes to learn about food, community gardens, etc., which might be a good example to look at.

In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Elphinstone and Erika Mashig, Manager, Parks and Open Space Planning, Design and Construction, advised:

- Would like to provide new opportunities to learn about farming for children, e.g. having chickens, so that children do not lose out on their use of the space;
- It may not be possible to do both livestock and growing food, as there would not be enough space for the animals to roam;
- There is not much capacity to expand the footprint of the space, as it is constrained by mature trees and the well-used parking lot; and

- While COVID-19 was an accelerant, there were already thoughts about altering the use of the space as it was becoming constrained with more humans visiting the animals.

Ms. Elphinstone will report back to the Committee in December.

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

Erika Mashig, Manager, Parks and Open Space Planning, Design and Construction, provided a presentation on the City-Wide Dog Strategy. The Committee provided comments in response to the following questions:

Do you have concerns with the current unsanctioned off-leash activity in parks? And, do you have suggestions for a model of “shared use” that you would support?

- COVID-19 has created a major change in people’s lifestyles in terms of working at home and being more able to acquire dogs as pets; it is unknown what will happen as people return to work and may not be able to care for those dogs anymore;
- The City will need to have staff to ensure that parklets are kept clean between uses;
- Having drinking fountains for people may mean people use it for their taller dogs, which is unsanitary;
- Parklet placement needs to be carefully considered, for instance away from restaurants or areas where businesses or residents might be annoyed by the sounds of barking dogs;
- Consider having motion lights in some dog parks for users after work;
- Not supportive of off-leash activity in parks unless it is in a properly fenced area; and
- The existing parklet downtown needs some maintenance.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Mashig advised:

- The City only started requiring a 100-square foot relief area for dogs in the past few years, so newer constructions will have them. As well, the expansion of New Westminster Pier Park westward has a planned off-leash area for dogs; and
- People are asked to identify in the survey if they are dog owners; approximately 50% of respondents to date are dog owners.

3.4 Quick Project Updates

Erika Mashig, Manager, Parks and Open Space Planning, Design and Construction, provided a presentation with updates on the Queen’s Park Playground, Queen’s Park Bike Skills Park, Riverside Adventure Park Playground, and Tugger Replacement.

There were no questions or comments from the Committee.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Canada Games Pool Closure Update

In response to questions from the Committee, Tobi May, Manager, Civic Buildings and Properties, advised:

- There is a press release update on the Parks and Recreation website;
- The pool is closed, including recreation activities;
- There was a confluence of a number of events: heavy rainfall, power outage, a discovery that the water drainage design for the construction site was under-designed. This resulted in a flooding of the below-grade mechanical vault for the existing facility, which led to the failure of the pool equipment;
- The City is replacing equipment as well as testing and verifying that the construction site drainage design will not fail again; and
- The reopening date is currently unknown, but will be shared with the public.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

There were no items.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 16, 2021

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Certified correct,

Original Signed
Councillor Patrick Johnstone
Chair

Original Signed
Katie Stobbart
Committee Clerk