



PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, November 26, 2014, 6:30 p.m.
ABC Room, Century House, 620 Eighth Street**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jonathan Cote	- Chair, City Council Member
Melissa Balfour	- Community Member
Shawna Barkley	- Community Member
Jacqueline Buchanan	- Community Member
Ted Garbutt	- Community Member
Catherine Ouellet-Martin	- Community Member

REGRETS:

Casey Cook	- School District #40 Representative
John Davies	- Community Member
Andrew Hull	- Community Member

GUESTS:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Chair, Environment Advisory Committee
Brent Bowker	- Environment Advisory Committee member
Giuliana Graves	- Environment Advisory Committee member
Gordon Hobbis	- Environment Advisory Committee member
Maria Marcakis	- Environment Advisory Committee member
Robert McGregor	- Environment Advisory Committee member
Karla Olson	- Environment Advisory Committee member
Trevor Cox	- Diamondhead Consultants
Edward Porter	- Diamondhead Consultants
Mary Wilson	- Resident
Ingrid Tymm	- Resident (arrived at 6:44 p.m.)

STAFF PRESENT:

G. Dean Gibson	- Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation
Jennifer Wilson	- Assistant Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation
Diane Perry	- Manager of Community Development
Claude LeDoux	- Parks Horticulture Manager
Jennifer Lukianchuk	- Environmental Coordinator
Erika Mashig	- Parks and Open Space Planner
Lauren Blake	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions.

2.0 PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Urban Forest Management Strategy

Trevor Cox and Edward Porter, Diamondhead Consultants, provided a presentation, dated November 26, 2014, on their firm's work on the City's Urban Forest Management Strategy noting the following information:

- New Westminster currently has 18% canopy coverage while the goal for overall canopy coverage is 27%;
- Protecting trees located on single family home lots could provide an increase in the overall canopy coverage;
- It was suggested that a lack of regulation for trees on private property may have led to a decrease in canopy coverage; and,
- Design guidelines could include zoning for green roofs and roof top gardens for multifamily and single family developments to increase the canopy coverage.

The Committees established groups and completed a visioning exercise. Mr. Porter and Mr. Cox advised that the results of the exercise will be utilized to draft a vision statement for the strategy based on the comments provided by the Committee.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Porter and Mr. Cox provided the following information:

- Other municipalities have implemented urban forest plans, including the NeighbourWoods program, which provides trees for free of charge to homeowners, and requiring storm water management methods as part of development permits;
- It was recommended that industrial, commercial and multifamily areas be incorporated into the strategy by enhancing the existing canopy located on those properties;
- The model identifies multi-layered canopies, including shrubs, bushes and grasses. Canopy mapping only includes the tree canopy coverage.
- Neighbourhoods containing slopes have less canopy coverage than flat neighbourhoods.

Erika Mashig, Parks and Open Space Planner, advised that an open house regarding the Urban Forest Management Strategy will be held on December 9, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at Century House. Additional comments regarding the strategy

can be directed to Ms. Mashig or Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation.

Procedural note: Councillor Jaimie McEvoy, Brent Bowker, Robert McGregor, Karla Olson, Trevor Cox and Edward Porter exited the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1 Adoption of the Minutes of October 2, 2014

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the October 2, 2014 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee be amended by adding the following bullet to the motion under item 5.1:

- *THAT Option C move forward, if feasible.*

AND THAT the minutes be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

All Committee members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Cyclo-cross Bike Event

Gordon Hobbis, Resident and owner of Caps Bicycles, summarized the correspondence regarding the Cyclo-cross Bike Event, noting that there are opportunities for the City to host a Cyclo-cross event in the fall of 2015.

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, advised that Queen's Park would be the preferred location for the event due to the terrain required, access to parking and washrooms, as well as its proximity to other facilities that could provide support for the event.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Hobbis advised that the bikes used for the race vary depending on skill level, noting that professional racers must use bikes with a drop handle bar and tires less than 34 millimetres wide.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee noted that it would be a positive experience to introduce a new event to the city, and that the event would have a low impact on the local neighbourhood.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Committee support the program in principle.

CARRIED.

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

Procedural note: Gordon Hobbis exited the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

5.2 Preservation of West End Neighbourhood Green Space

The Chair recognized Mary Wilson, Resident, who spoke to the letter dated November 4, 2014, regarding the preservation of West End Neighbourhood green space, and requested that the City investigate implementing a policy with respect to selling, protecting and conserving City owned remnant lands.

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, advised that requests to purchase City owned remnant lands are directed to Council for approval, noting that there are currently no guidelines regarding the retention or disposition of remnant land.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee suggested that the remnant green space in the West End could be developed as a garden or as a location for public art. It was further suggested that the City inventory all City owned remnant lands. It was noted that remnant, City owned green spaces have little protection from being paved to enlarge residential driveways, suggesting that this issue could be addressed through City enforcement.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the City identify where City owned remnant lands exist;

THAT the City develop policies to protect and preserve City owned remnant lands; and,

THAT the City explore opportunities to enhance City owned remnant lands, specifically in neighbourhoods that are underserved by City parks.

CARRIED.

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

5.3 New Westminster Police Department Strategic Plan

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, spoke to the letter of November 6, 2014 from Inspector Phil Eastwood, New Westminster Police, noting that the letter has been circulated to the Committee for individual response.

6.0 REPORTS

6.1 Moody Park Off-Leash Dog Area

Diane Perry, Manager of Community Development, provided an on-table PowerPoint presentation regarding the Moody Park off-leash dog area.

While it was suggested that Option A could be the best option spatially, concerns were expressed for the noise and congestion of Sixth Avenue.

Ms. Perry advised that the entrance to the park would not be located directly along Sixth Avenue and will be well screened from the traffic and noise.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Option A be recommended to City Council as the site for a new fenced off leash dog area in Moody Park.

CARRIED.

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

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, January 29, 2015, 5:30 p.m. – Century House, Douglas Room

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was concluded at 9:09 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Councillor Jonathan Cote
Chair

Lauren Blake
Committee Clerk