



PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 2, 2014, 5:30 p.m.

Anvil Centre – Room 401

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jonathan Cote	- Chair, City Council Member
Shawna Barkley	- Community Member
Jacqueline Buchanan	- Community Member
Casey Cook	- School District #40 Representative
John Davies	- Community Member
Ted Garbutt	- Community Member
Andrew Hull	- Community Member
Catherine Ouellet-Martin	- Community Member (arrived at 5:45 p.m.)

REGRETS:

Melissa Balfour	- Community Member
-----------------	--------------------

GUESTS:

Christopher Bell	- Moody Park Residents' Association (departed at 7:51 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
Erika Mashig	- Parks and Open Space Planner
Lauren Blake	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of August 12, 2014.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the August 12, 2014 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee be amended by correcting the second reference from “coaches” to “swimmers” on the fourth bullet under the first paragraph on page 2; and,

THAT the minutes be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Moody Park Playground Design

Erika Mashig, Parks and Open Space Planner, reviewed the two design options for the Moody Park playground and spray park as outlined in the PowerPoint presentation and noted the following additional information:

- The City hosted an open house at Moody Park in July 2014 which allowed the community to provide feedback regarding the park design options;
- An additional open house will be held in late October 2014 to provide opportunity for additional comment regarding the preferred option; and,
- The top design features based on public feedback are the ability to manipulate water, slides, climbing features/toddler swings, and integrated seating.

Ms. Mashig distributed a feedback survey regarding the project, and advised that the survey is also available online.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided the following information:

- The sand required for “Option B” would have additional daily maintenance requirements, while the resilient rubber ground covering for “Option A” would have a higher initial cost. Sand has the added benefit of providing both play value and fall protection;
- Both options as outlined in the presentation have been priced to fit into Moody Park’s total budget;
- Construction for the park is expected to begin in early spring of 2015; and,
- A water play feature with integrated water channels would extend the time period that the park water play elements can be utilized during the year.

Staff advised that the Committee will be notified of the date and location of the next open house where the preferred option will be presented.

Discussion ensued and the Committee provided the following comments:

- It was suggested that traditional swings be utilized instead of nest swings;
- It was suggested that alternate methods of collecting rain water run-off, such as permeable pavers be investigated; and,
- It was noted that a third option would be developed based on community feedback and feedback from the Committee .

3.2 Urban Forest Management Strategy: Process & Timeline

Erika Mashig, Parks and Open Space Planner, summarized the PowerPoint presentation regarding the Urban Forest Management Strategy, noting that a consultant has been hired to assist with the technical analysis and background research elements of the project. Ms. Mashig advised that an open house regarding the Urban Forest Management Strategy will be held on October 8, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at Century House.

Discussion ensued and the Committee provided the following suggestions:

- The term “canopy” be clearly defined;
- Tree canopies be incorporated into the development of streetscapes and parks;
- There should be a balance between trees and shrubs to allow for growth; and,
- Various models for tree preservation be reviewed.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 REPORTS

5.1 Moody Park Off Leash Dog Area Proposal

Diane Perry, Manager of Community Development, summarized the report dated October 2, 2014, noting that “Option A” is the preferred location for a fenced off-leash dog park as it is adjacent to the core area of the park, located near a lit pathway, does not encroach on other established park uses, and has the ability to be enlarged. Ms. Perry advised that staff recommends further enlarging the area as outlined in “Option A” by relocating the impacted picnic tables.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided the following information:

- Decorative fencing would be utilized to create a more attractive looking enclosure;

- There are concerns that would need to be addressed with respect to placing an off-leash dog park behind the lacrosse box, such as the existing slope and pedestrian pathway;
- The New Westminster Secondary School site is not being considered as a location for a future dog park due to the pending redevelopment of the school and due to the fact that the City owned lands are occupied by the Mercer Stadium track and grandstand; and,
- The area adjacent to the Moody Park lacrosse box was not brought forward as a recommended location as staff believe the site area is too small.

The Chair recognized Christopher Bell, Moody Park Residents' Association President, who expressed concerns related to the recommended location of the fenced dog park, noting that the Moody Park Residents' Association unanimously voted against the recommended location. Mr. Bell suggested that an alternative location for the park could be the northeast corner of the park adjacent to lacrosse box.

Discussion ensued and the Committee provided the following comments:

- "Option A" does not appear to be the most popular or optimal location for the park;
- Concerns were expressed regarding the potential noise issues from the dog park;
- It was noted that the local Residents' Association does not support the recommended dog park; and,
- Concerns were expressed regarding the attractiveness of the dog park.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT staff develop an Option C located in the northeast corner of the park adjacent to the lacrosse box; and,

THAT Option C move forward, if feasible; and,

THAT all three options be brought forward for further public comment.

CARRIED.

Andrew Hull voted in opposition.

5.2 Vancouver Whitecaps – Queen’s Park Stadium Proposal Update

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, advised that City Council did not move forward with the proposal to bring the Whitecaps' FC USL Pro team to New Westminster.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Gibson advised that Queen's Park Stadium could be considered as a potential location for the team next season although the team would have likely found another venue by that time.

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, November 27, 2014, 5:30 p.m. – Location TBA

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was concluded at 7:56 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Councillor Jonathan Cote
Chair

Lauren Blake
Committee Clerk