



PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

**Thursday, December 3, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
Centennial Community Centre, Room #2**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Chair, City Council Member
Casey Cook	- School District #40 Representative
John Davies	- Community Member
Shawna Barkley	- Community Member
Bruce Clark	- Community Member (arrived at 7:42 p.m.)
Michael Folka	- Community Member
Ted Garbutt	- Community Member
Michel Roy	- Community Member
Karl Sturmanis	- Community Member

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Jacqueline Buchanan	- Community Member
Andrew Hull	- Community Member
Melissa Maltais	- Community Member

GUESTS:

Kristian Davis	- Supervisor, Solid Waste and Recycling Branch
James Doan	- Supervisor, Towing, Parking, Animal Services, Cemetery and Field Maintenance

STAFF PRESENT:

G. Dean Gibson	- Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation
Claude Ledoux	- Manager of Parks Horticulture
Diane Perry	- Manager of Community Development
Lauren Blake	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of September 30, 2015.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the September 30, 2015 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting minutes be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Parks Maintenance Operations

Kristian Davis, Supervisor, Solid Waste and Recycling Branch, and James Doan, Supervisor, Towing, Parking, Animal Services, Cemetery & Field Maintenance, summarized the on-table documents regarding Parks Maintenance Operations.

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

- There are currently three private, paying customers that have been incorporated into the City's garbage route;
- Contractors are usually utilized to remove invasive species;
- Sports fields tend to be less susceptible to European Chaffer beetle infestations due to the City's higher maintenance standards;
- In past years, Council has approved funding to provide nematode subsidises to assist with European Chaffer beetle control as an alternative to other chemical means of fighting this pest;
- The City has bylaws which prohibit the use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes; and,
- It is anticipated that sections of the railing at the esplanade along the Quay could be improved or modified over the next few years.

4.0 REPORTS

4.1 BC Cycling Queen's Cross Cyclocross Event Update

Diane Perry, Manager of Community Development, summarized the report dated December 3, 2015 regarding the BC Cycling Queen's Cross Cyclocross event. Ms. Perry advised that there was one complaint received prior to event, expressing concerns with respect to the potential of the event ruining the grass in Queen's Park.

In response to questions from the Committee, Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, Claude Ledoux, Manager of Horticulture, and Ms. Perry provided the following information:

- The Cyclocross organizers have not formally approached the City to schedule another event for 2016;
- Staff anticipates that another event could be scheduled for February or March of 2016;
- Parks staff reviewed the site with the City Arborist to develop a track route which would have the least impact on Queen's Park; and,
- Cyclocross organizers restored the site to its previous condition as per the terms of their use agreement.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the report dated December 3, 2015 be received for information; and,

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee support the continued development of the Cyclocross event in Queen's Park in future years.

CARRIED.

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

4.2 New Westminster Minor Baseball Sponsorship Banner Project

Diane Perry, Manager of Community Development, summarized the report dated December 3, 2015, regarding the New Westminster Minor Baseball Sponsorship Banner project. Ms. Perry advised that the Department has received one complaint regarding commercial advertising in city parks.

In response to questions from the Committee, Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, and Ms. Perry provided the following information:

- The City has final approval regarding the types of advertising used for the Minor Baseball undertaking;
- New Westminster Baseball is responsible for selling and maintaining advertising space;
- It is anticipated that New Westminster Baseball would earn additional revenue during the second year of the program, as most of the advertising signage has already been created; and,
- The approval of the program for an additional year is time sensitive.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee expressed the following concerns:

- The aesthetics and purpose of the park could be undermined by the presence of advertising;
- Implementing an advertising program for minor league baseball may not allow for a principled approach to allow the City to deny advertising abilities for other sports groups;
- There is value in preserving natural elements of the park and refraining from cluttering the natural viewscapes with advertising; and,
- Guidelines could be developed regarding what the community values in park space.

The Chair recognized Sloane Drennan, New Westminster Baseball, who advised that the goal of the advertising program is to provide the necessary funding for New Westminster Baseball to allow as many kids as possible to participate, and not pass the cost of the game onto players. Ms. Drennan noted that the advertising panels are non-permanent, and are removed at the conclusion of the baseball season.

The Committee also discussed the benefits of the program, and noted the following comments:

- The advertising program provided revenue for the City, as minor baseball was required to pay a fee to the City;
- It was suggested that advertising on a fence may have a more pleasing aesthetic than a plain chain link fence, and could provide additional ambience to the athletic venue; and,
- The advertising revenue allows minor baseball to provide the opportunity for more children to participate in the game.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT staff bring forward to the Parks and Recreation Committee options for limits and guidelines that consider:

- *Aesthetics in the park;*
- *Equity among groups;*
- *Financial consideration; and,*
- *Natural landscape values.*

CARRIED.

Ted Garbutt and John Davies voted in opposition to the motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the report dated December 3, 2015 be received for information;

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee support the continuation of the New Westminster Minor Baseball Sponsorship Banner project; and,

THAT staff be directed to work with the City's other minor sport organizations to identify similar sponsorship/advertising opportunities.

CARRIED.

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

The Chair clarified that the previous motions taken together now reads as follows:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the report dated December 3, 2015 be received for information;

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee support the continuation of the New Westminster Minor Baseball Sponsorship Banner project for another year;

THAT staff be directed to work with the City's other minor sport organizations to identify similar sponsorship/advertising opportunities; and,

THAT staff bring forward to the Parks and Recreation Committee options for limits and guidelines that consider:

- a. Aesthetics in the park;*
- b. Equity among groups;*
- c. Financial consideration; and,*
- d. Natural landscape values.*

CARRIED.

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

4.1 Motion to Reconsider Item 4.1

Karl Sturmanis, Committee Member, suggested that a decision regarding the Cyclocross be reconsidered, noting the following comments:

- An ecological undertaking could assist the Committee with providing a more informed decision;
- Guidelines regarding the use of Queen's Park, including the retention of its natural features, could be created; and,
- There may be alternative locations in the city that are better suited for a Cyclocross event.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Gibson advised that the City's Ecological Inventory is in draft form and has not yet been received by City Council.

The Chair called for a motion of reconsideration of the original motion passed earlier in the meeting.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Committee reconsider the motion regarding Cyclocross event in Queen's Park.

CARRIED.

Casey Cook and John Davies voted in opposition to the motion.

The motion as presented to the Committee regarding the BC Cycling Cyclocross event is as follows:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the report dated December 3, 2015 be received for information;

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee support the continued development of Cyclocross events in New Westminster in future years; and,

THAT staff obtain additional information regarding ecological impacts of the event at Queen's Park.

CARRIED.

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

4.3 Canada Games Pool / Centennial Community Centre Strategic Priority Capital Project – Council Resolution to Replace the Canada Games Pool (November 16, 2015 Report to City Council)

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture & Recreation, summarized the Regular Council report dated November 16, 2015 regarding Canada Games Pool (CGP).

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Gibson provided the following information:

- Federal Infrastructure Grant funding may be available on a first come, first serve basis, so it would be important for the project to be ready for application as soon as funding becomes available;
- A program for a new facility would be created in consultation with the community, including pool users and non-users, residents and non-residents, and stakeholders, such as Hyack Swim Club;
- An architect would develop a proposal that meets the City's requirements as determined by a functional program which is developed in consultation with the community; and,
- It is anticipated that public consultation for a new facility would begin in the early spring of 2016.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee noted the following comments:

- It was suggested that alternative sites and/or building footprints could be considered for a new pool facility so that CGP may remain in use while a new pool is being built;
- Consider notion of comprehensive site planning and opportunities to daylight the former ravine and streams;
- It is important to undertake appropriate due diligence and maintain transparency regarding potential site selection process;
- Issues related to the adequacy of parking and the management thereof will be important;
- A new pool facility could provide additional amenities for families; and,
- It was suggested designs for a new facility include features to accommodate competitive sports.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 27, 2016 – Location TBD at 6:00 p.m.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was concluded at 8:46 p.m.

Certified Correct,

**Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair**

**Lauren Blake
Committee Clerk**