



PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

**Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
Century House**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Chair, City Council Member
Casey Cook	- School District #40 Representative
John Davies	- Community Member
Michael Folka	- Community Member
Ted Garbutt	- Community Member
Melissa Maltais	- Community Member
Michel Roy	- Community Member
Karl Sturmanis	- Community Member

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Jacqueline Buchanan	- Community Member
Andrew Hull	- Community Member
Eman Ismail-Elmasri	- Community Member

GUESTS:

Christopher Bell	- Moody Park Residents' Association
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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
Jay Young	- Manager, Queen's Park Arenex
Lauren Blake	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m.

Administration of Oath of Office

Lauren Blake, Committee Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to the Committee members.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 7.2: Saint Mary's Park Update
- 5.1: Appointment of an Alternate Chair

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of January 29, 2015

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the January 29, 2015 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Moody Park Off Leash Dog Area

The Chair recognized Christopher Bell, Moody Park Residents' Association President, who expressed concerns related to the proposed recommended location of the off leash dog area (an amended Option A), and noted the following comments:

- At the Moody Park Residents' Association Annual General Meeting held on February 19, 2015, the residents voted against the proposed amended Option A with similar reasoning as outlined by Mr. Bell at the October 2, 2014 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting;
- The amended Option A extends onto lawn space that is utilized by various local community groups;
- A larger dog park could cause issues in the community such as increased traffic, dog waste and noise;
- It was suggested that Moody Park is heavily utilized by the community, and there should be a balance of use between dog owners and non-dog owners; and,
- The Moody Park Residents' Association has requested additional public review of the amended Option A, as well as a complete review of existing dog parks in the city, including existing enforcement issues.

3.2 Parks, Culture & Recreation Department Overview

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the function of the Parks, Culture and Recreation Department, noting the following additional information:

- The level of traffic influences program membership due to ease of ability to arrive at a facility, both for residents and out-of-town program users;
- The figures for bookings and rentals do not include the Anvil Centre as it opened in September 2014; and,
- The City's filming sector is affected by the value of the Canadian dollar, as well as the availability of Downtown and Front Street.

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

- The city has less park space relative to its population compared to other cities;
- Council is currently developing a Land Use Policy which would outline the policies for acquisition and disposition of City owned land;
- The Royal City Curling Club facility is not part of the Canada Games Pool facilities, but is owned by the Club and located on lands leased from the City; and,
- It is unlikely that an expansion of the Canada Games Pool would utilize space from the curling facility.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 REPORTS

5.1 Committee Orientation

Lauren Blake, Committee Clerk, distributed and reviewed the following documents with Committee members:

- Rules of Conduct: Advisory Committees & Bodies of Council
- Social Media Policy
- Permission Forms

Should a Committee member be unable to fulfill their duties, they are requested to notify staff as soon as possible so the position can be refilled.

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, spoke to the Parks and Recreation Committee Terms of Reference, noting that part of the mandate of

the Committee is to provide advice and support to the Parks, Culture and Recreation Department.

Procedural note: Bruce Clark exited the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

John Davies, Community Member, was selected to serve as the Alternate Chair.

5.2 2015/16 Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Schedule

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, distributed and reviewed the 2015 Committee meeting schedule, noting that Special meetings may be called for time sensitive issues.

Mr. Gibson reported that meetings had previously been held at various community centers. Discussion ensued, and the Committee supported the proposal to hold meetings at various community centers. A Committee member requested that a slightly later start time be considered.

5.3 Moody Park Off Leash Dog Area

Procedural note: Item 5.3 was discussed following item 3.1.

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, reported the following information regarding the Moody Park Off-Leash dog area:

- The enlarged Option A was included as part of the review as per the Moody Park Residents' Association's suggestions;
- Council endorsed the recommendation for Option A, and requested additional information regarding the final design of the park;
- The size of Option A has been increased by approximately 20% to 2,430 square meters in response to community feedback;
- The enlarged area of Option A was not initially considered due to the location of the picnic tables;
- The existing picnic tables would either be incorporated into the dog park or relocated within Moody Park. Additional tables would be added to ensure the net number of tables outside of the enclosure remains unchanged;
- The fence line has been implemented to avoid the pathway and drip line of existing trees;
- There are three entry points to the dog park located along the main arrival points of Moody Park;
- The entry points would maintain a double gate system which is the standard practice for dog parks in the Lower Mainland;
- City dog parks do not service specific neighbourhoods; and,
- Uncollected dog waste is not noted as a significant issue at other City dog parks and it is not anticipated to be an issue at the Moody Park Off Leash Dog Area.

Procedural note: Casey Cook exited the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

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

- Council would be advised of the opportunity to increase the size of Option A;
- There is an elevation change on the sidewalk along Sixth Street so an entrance to the park from that location would not be accessible to all individuals;
- It has been suggested that a path to the park could be created from Sixth Street and Eighth Avenue;
- There would not be any pathways directly from the playground to the off-leash dog area;
- There would be approximately 25 to 30 meters between the off-leash dog park and the playground;
- The equivalent of four picnic tables would remain in the main area of Moody Park;
- The City cannot regulate who utilizes the dog park; and,
- There would be adequate on-street parking surrounding the park for the anticipated increase in use.

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following comments:

- Concerns were noted regarding the two entrances provided for Option A that are directed towards Moody Park playground;
- It was suggested that the enlargement to Option A be brought forward for public consultation; and,
- It was suggested that a renewed Moody Park Master Plan be created to determine the proper balance of uses in the park on a go forward basis.

The Committee requested additional information regarding the Off-Leash Management Plan.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council consider the Moody Park Residents' Association's concerns regarding the proposed increase of size to "Option A" of the Moody Park Off-Leash Dog Area.

CARRIED.

Ted Garbutt voted in opposition.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT should Council consider an increase in the size of "Option A" of the Moody Park Off-Leash Dog Area that additional public consultation be undertaken.

CARRIED.

Michel Roy voted in opposition.

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 British Columbia Recreation & Parks Association Membership

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, reported that the membership structure of the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association has been amended to provide complimentary membership to municipal volunteers. Mr. Gibson advised that registration information regarding the membership is available on the newsletter contained in the Committee agenda package.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Parks & Recreation Committee 2015 Priorities

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy, Chair, advised that City Council will engage in a strategic planning session to discuss City priorities over the next four years.

7.2 Saint Mary's Park

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, advised that construction of Saint Mary's Park has commenced, and is approximately 10-15 weeks away from its anticipated completion.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 29, 2015, 5:30 p.m. Century House

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was concluded at 8:25 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair

Lauren Blake
Committee Clerk