



PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

**Thursday, January 29, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
Century House**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Chair, City Council Member
Melissa Balfour	- Community Member
Shawna Barkley	- Community Member
Casey Cook	- School District #40 Representative
John Davies	- Community Member
Andrew Hull	- Community Member
Jacqueline Buchanan	- Community Member
Ted Garbutt	- Community Member
Catherine Ouellet-Martin	- Community Member

GUESTS

Ray Porcellato	- New Westminister Minor Baseball
----------------	-----------------------------------

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
Lauren Blake	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 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 November 26, 2014

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the November 26, 2014 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 Justin Morneau Field Enhancements & Outdoor Park Advertising Proposal

Diane Perry, Manager of Community Development, introduced Ray Porcellato of New Westminster Minor Baseball. Mr. Porcellato summarized the on-table letter regarding New Westminster Baseball's proposal to implement advertising panels in the outfield of Justin Morneau field. Mr. Porcellato advised that panels could be sold to large businesses, such as Save-On Foods and Pepsi, and small, local businesses. Mr. Porcellato further advised that the red and blue trim at the top and bottom of the panels represents the colours of New Westminster Minor Baseball.

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

- Organizations that book a City field for a tournament have historically been permitted to install temporary advertising for the duration of the tournament;
- The City has sold and managed advertising space throughout indoor arenas;
- The advertisements would be contained within the ball diamond and would face Tenth Street;
- The City has a policy regarding advertising at indoor locations;
- Should the City retain any funds raised by the program they would be contributed to general revenues, and would not be specifically applied to Moody Park upgrades; and,
- The Parks Regulation Bylaw outlines the process for advertising in City parks.

The Committee expressed concerns regarding the possibility for the proposal affecting local associations that utilize other outdoor facilities, and noted the following additional comment:

- The proposal appears esthetically pleasing;
- It was suggested that the City should manage the advertising program, and the advertising panels should maintain the official City colors;
- It was suggested local small businesses could benefit from advertising opportunities;
- As families utilize the field, there could be conflict with some of the stated advertisers, such as Pepsi;
- It was suggested that the program be operated similar to the City's indoor advertising program; and,

- Appreciation was expressed for the proposal's provision to apply funds to allow underprivileged youth to participate in the baseball league at no cost.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee endorse the Justin Morneau Baseball field advertising project in principle subject to the development of site specific policies and procedures that are satisfactory to Parks, Culture and Recreation; and,

THAT the project be trialed as a one year pilot; and,

THAT staff report back to the Parks and Recreation Committee at the conclusion of the one year period.

CARRIED.

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

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 REPORTS

5.1 Moody Park Playground Status Update

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, provided an update regarding the Moody Park Playground, and reported the following information:

- The project has been refined and endorsed by Council;
- The sewer line must be separated to distinguish sanitary lines from storm lines to divert the flow to Annacis Island;
- Separating the sewer system has impacted the construction timeline of the park, as the in-ground services must be addressed prior to construction commencing; and,
- There are currently no safety risks at the park.

Mr. Gibson advised that it is likely that construction will begin in the fall of 2015 and that the park could be completed within approximately twenty weeks.

5.2 Albert Crescent Park (Referral from City Council)

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks, Culture and Recreation, spoke to the staff memo dated January 29, 2015 regarding the formal dedication of Albert Crescent Park as a City park.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Gibson advised that distinctions are not made between a park with amenities and a park without amenities, such as Albert Crescent Park.

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following comments:

- The importance of protecting park spaces and the City's objectives related to increasing the urban forest tree canopy cover;
- Albert Crescent Park provides excellent views of the Fraser River during the fall and winter;
- Concerns were expressed regarding the future of the park with respect to the implementation of a new Patullo Bridge;
- The addition of green spaces which contribute to a desirable city;
- Green spaces will be increasingly valuable in the future due to population growth;
- It was suggested that a metric be established regarding the maximum distance a resident could live from a green space to allow the City to plan for deficiencies; and,
- It was suggested that the City review and inventory all City-owned green space as the specific issues at Albert Crescent Park require a more comprehensive look at all areas across the City.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT staff report back to the Parks & Recreation Committee on the City's inventory of park space and associated Official Community Plan land use designation, zoning and any other protection measure; and

THAT staff report back on additional tools available to the City to enhance the protection of existing park lands.

CARRIED.

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

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 25, 5:30 p.m. – ABC Room, Century House

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was concluded at 7:02 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair

Lauren Blake
Committee Clerk