



## **REGULAR MEETING OF PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, April 18, 2018, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Queensborough Community Centre (Poplar Room)**  
**920 Ewen Avenue**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Chair, City Council Member
Aran Armutlu	- Community Member
Shawna Barkley	- Community Member
John Davies	- Community Member
Andrew Hull	- Community Member

#### **MEMBER REGRETS:**

Brynn Bourke	- Community Member
Karim Hachlaf	- Community Member
Ronnie Nicolasora	- Community Member

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Dean Gibson	- Director of Parks and Recreation
Jason Haight	- Manager, Business Operations
Steve Kellock	- Senior Manager, Recreation Services and Facilities
Erika Mashig	- Parks and Open Space Planner
Cheryl Brewster	- Recording Secretary, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

#### **GUEST:**

Sarah Siegel	- Sr. Landscape Architect, Hapa Collaborative
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The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

## **1.0 ADDITIONS / DELECTIONS TO THE AGENDA**

### **1.1 MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Agenda for the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting scheduled April 18, 2018 be amended to include the Proposed Active 365 Membership Pass Report as New Business; and*

*THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **2.1 MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting held February 28, 2018 be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

### **3.1 824 Agnes St. Park Design Concept Option**

Erika Mashig, Parks and Open Space Planner reviewed the report 824 Agnes Street Park, Parks and Recreation Committee Presentation, dated April 18, 2018, and highlighted:

- Overview, site history and context, summary and principles, preferred design, questions and comments
- The project originally started with a workshop group in September 2017 comprised mainly of members of the Chinese community, in addition to the New Westminster Business Improvement Association, Parks and Recreation Department and City staff
- Three options that went to public open house have been narrowed down to a final preferred concept, which will be presented at the May 2018 public open house
- Earlier estimates of breaking ground in the fall 2019 are being affected due to processing time of permits, zoning and planning
- Due to site topography, the design includes terraces in addition to elements that honour and celebrate the contribution of the Chinese community and immigrants, who founded the site in 1858.

Sarah Siegel, Sr. Landscape Architect, Hapa Collaborative, reviewed the proposed changes, with a pictorial presentation that included rough outlines, scale comparisons and a sun study. She highlighted:

- The park is about the same size as a tennis court and given the context of the property, edges are important, defining it as an inward-looking park; a seven metre grade change that goes down from Agnes Street to Victoria Street is comprised of 46 steps;
- Directly relating it to the previous Chinese buildings on the site, the design concept draws out the feel of the open-porch concept that invites social interaction and a sense of community;
- Elements that came out of the first stakeholder meeting included:
  - Make the space feel larger;
  - Maximize the use of the space;
  - Define the space by creating edges;
  - Create a strong indoor/outdoor connection with the amenity building;
  - Reach out to the surrounding public realm;
- The conceptual design principles being used are to:
  - Tell the story of the site and make it universal for all immigrants;
  - Create a rich “sense of place,” with character that feels special, has texture and creates interest without being exclusively traditional;
  - Make the site accessible to all;
  - Design the park so that it can be both ‘open’ or ‘closed’;
- Urban design strategies will be incorporated to alert the public of the park’s existence;
- The public response provided good feedback, and indicated preference for features including water elements, bamboo, separate areas, and lighting for security;
- The preferred design concept includes an entrance off Agnes Street to the amenity building and park; a grand seat-step opens up to the major space inspired by the CBA building; the space is large enough to facilitate events, contain a small stage, and landscaping will hide the existing concrete wall, with exits located at the bottom of the park at Victoria Street; active programming to engage the participation of nearby residents includes space for various games tables; and,
- Grade changes, paving stones, architecture and furnishings will create a sense of an open yet framed space; accessibility to avoid steps is provided by an elevator that goes from Agnes Street to the main space, and then through to Victoria Street; screen walls at both ends create definition and can be opened a variety of different ways; the bamboo will be managed to ensure it does not become overly dense and the water elements still under consideration may include a combination of a very simple water feature and a storm water feature that is dry unless raining.

Discussion ensued, with the committee noting the following:

- The amenity is being built by the development but belongs to the City;
- Committee feedback is required to identify what the City needs in this multi-family dense area, while also considering the history of the site;
- Elements to consider: bamboo containment, review by the police department to ascertain safety, storm water if used, using a filtration system;
- Consultants are trying to balance the tree canopy and hard space to make it usable; this is not a traditional park space; it is very urban, providing a social aspect, urban oasis, an important thoroughfare and pleasant walk-through to sky-train and downtown; the process has steered the project in this direction, with the heightened sensitivity of respecting the history of the site;
- Considering the whole area is highly developed with several towers and high-rise condos enclosed by large buildings, enjoyment and heritage are paramount;
- It would be interesting to see the water from high to low not just for the people, but also for the birds and bees; the vegetation could be an oasis that attracts for pollenating purposes;
- Since the terrain is steep, bamboo, screens and overhead lighting should help to provide a suitable overhead canopy;
- Public artists will be engaged to work with the consultant; the screens are permeable/see-through but functional so that they can close the space at night; it is still being determined if and at what times the park will close in the evening;
- The first open-house, discussed where the dog park should be located, and the Committee's feedback on this will be required at a later point;
- Interpretive signage should be planned to make apparent the history of the site as the centre of the Chinese community;
- Flowing water can change the soundscape, reducing the sound of traffic, buses, etc., and is worth considering at this site;
- It is important that the amenity entrance be seen as public and not private strata property; and,
- Building a model would be helpful to put things into perspective.

### **3.2 Queensborough Off Leash Dog Area Relocation Update**

Erika Mashig, Parks and Open Space Planner, reported that finding a piece of land as big as the existing Mercer triangle location has been challenging. Three potential sites that have been considered are the Stanley Greenway, Ryall Park and Port Royal. Meetings with the public are pointing towards Ryall Park as being the

best option, specifically the north part of the BMX track as recommended at the last meeting. The proposed modular housing project at 838 Ewen Avenue (fronting Ryall Park) may have an impact of the final location for the relocated off-leash dog area.

Design ideas agree that the dog park location should be fenced. The type of fence is still being decided. Agility training features are part of the proposed plan and will be tested to see how well the space will be used. The portion closer to Ewen Street could be a good location for the area designated for smaller dogs, and the site can be amended as needed.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the proposed location in Ryall Park for the relocated Off Leash Dog Area be supported subject to communication with adjacent property owners, and*

*THAT the proposed location in Port Royal Park for a new small dog off leash area be supported in principle.*

**CARRIED.**

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

### **3.3 Mercer Skatepark Relocation Update**

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, reported that the Committee's recommendations from the last meeting had been forwarded to Council. Recommendations concerned establishing the skate park near the Queen's Park Arenex; and the feasibility of the old reservoir site within Queen's Park. Council sentiments are to proceed if feasible.

It was noted that the existing Mercer site went out of commission in April 2018, and that technical design work for its replacement continues. With the advantages of the former Arenex site factored into the new location, some of the challenges to that site, with the adjacent theatre, would be mitigated to a degree with a move to an alternate location.

In response to questions, staff confirmed:

- To mitigate noise from the skatepark, an acoustic engineer performed an analysis and recommended that the interior doors to the theatre be upgraded; in addition, the substantial earth berm and trees between the two sites should provide further sound attenuation;
- Ongoing analysis continues; Council has been kept updated with a few unexpected cost developments.

## **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

4.1 No items presented.

## **5.0 REPORTS**

5.1 No items presented.

## **6.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

6.1 No items presented.

## **7.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Proposed Active 365 Membership Pass Report**

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, reported that in response to community feedback on the Department's new multi-session drop-in pass programs, staff have looked into the range of current offerings to ensure that financial means is not a barrier to access the pass programs as described in the "Proposed Active 365 Membership Pass Report".

Jason Haight, Manager, Business Operations, highlighted the following:

- Pending the Committee's support, the new program will be rolled out, with formal adoption in the fall and fees schedule adjustment in January of 2019;
- This option has never been offered before as many people with less discretionary income could not afford the discounted annual pass, however with the availability of new software, consolidating fees into a universal plan concept with no restrictions is now possible;
- The software is designed to accept scheduled payments that can be distributed equally over 12 months, resulting in a new annual pass opportunity;
- The Canada Games Pool was used as a benchmark and in some cases, the fees came down; there were some modest increases and a fee correction in the seniors rate; the trade-off in the lower fees requires a user's commitment to more participation; the benefits are unrestricted use and from a pricing perspective, the 365 Active Pass fees are lower than the 10 and 30-day passes, making them fully accessible and affordable;
- The fee structure chart simplifies the choices available; commitment is for at least six months, after which a refund is possible; and,
- The Active 365 Pass is one solution, followed by the option of additional discounts and subsidy programs for those with low income levels, as outlined in the report;

- The Active Infinity Pass will become null and void after the rollout of the Active 365 Pass; and,
- Staff will be helping to educate customers on the new changes.

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee endorse the introduction of the proposed Active 365 pass and price; and,*

*THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee endorse the inclusion of the proposed Active 365 pass within the financial assistance program.*

**CARRIED.**

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

**8.0 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Queen’s Park Arena.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION,** the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

**CARRIED.**

Certified correct,

**Original Signed**

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**Councillor Jaimie McEvoy,  
 Chair**

**Original Signed**

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**Cheryl Brewster,  
 Recording Secretary,  
 Raincoast Ventures Ltd.**