

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 6:00 p.m.
Poplar Room, Queensborough Community Centre

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	- Chair, City Council Member
John Davies	- Alternate Chair, Community Member
Shawna Barkley	- Community Member
Andrew Hull	- Community Member
Maryam Naser	- SD40 Representative
Ronnie Nicolasora	- Community Member
Deanna Tan	- Community Member

MEMBER REGRETS:

Aran Armutlu	- Community Member
Brynn Bourke	- Community Member

GUEST:

Jeffery Staates	- Principal, PFS Studio
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STAFF PRESENT:

Dean Gibson	- Director of Parks and Recreation
Steve Kellock	- Senior Manager, Recreation Services & Facilities
Jay Young	- Manager, Recreation Services
Nell Gasiewicz	- Parks and Open Space Planner
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

Procedural note: As Councillor McEvoy was delayed in getting to the meeting, John Davies assumed the Chair.

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 Additions/Deletions to Agenda

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda for the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting scheduled November 28, 2018 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of September 27, 2018

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting held September 27, 2018 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 REPORTS

5.1 New Riverfront Park at 660 Quayside Drive – Jeffery Staates, Principal, PFS Studio (On-Table Presentation)

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, introduced Nell Gasiewicz, the City's new Parks and Open Space Planner, who will continue with the planning of new Riverfront Park.

Ms. Gasiewicz advised members that two acres of park space is being proposed as a continuation of Westminster Pier Park in conjunction with the upcoming Bosa projects, and that staff are looking for feedback from the Committee on the project.

Jeffery Staates of PFS Studio began his presentation and shared that to date a lot of feedback has been received with respect to covered, diverse, and fun seating in the park, as well as interest being shown in performance spaces for Front Street

and Westminster Pier Park. Three concept options were reviewed. The goal is to have transformative, multi-use spaces within the park. There has also been an expressed interest in the landscape diversity and pollinator garden aspects of the park.

Procedural note: Councillor McEvoy arrived at 6:13 p.m. and assumed the Chair.

In response to questions, staff advised:

- Consideration needs to be taken with respect to the size of trees, etc., that are planted on the site, as the membrane of the parkade may need to be replaced at some point;
- In response to feedback received, trees and other shade providing overhead structures are being contemplated;
- The assumption is that activities happening between the towers will be quieter, as all events would be taking place on the larger aspect of the pier;
- As new towers are built, there will be a requirement that dog relief areas are provided within private properties so dog owners are not completely reliant on public spaces;
- Staff recognize the need for a larger off-leash dog area along the riverfront;
- Transportation to and around the new development and park site was one of the first aspects reviewed during the early planning process and the park space options are designed with that in mind;
- Bosa Pier West construction will take place over 5 years with park development starting once construction is complete;
- Work on the 6th Street pedestrian overpass will begin in the spring. The developer will be responsible for maintaining pedestrian access from Front Street to the overpass to Westminster Pier Park. However, once site excavation begins, there will be limited access to the Westminster Pier Park from the riverfront for a period of time; and,
- A pleasure craft wharf was not included in the plans due to the Port Authority's concerns about the considerable navigational issues associated with the river.

Further discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- It is appropriate to have a dog park included in the plans given all the residents in the towers who will have dogs;
- The water aspects in Option C are very nice. It would be great to mix and match aspects from all the options;
- Habitat needs to be considered as the City moves forward on this project; and,

A short questionnaire for members to indicate their favourite features of each of the options was handed out for members to complete and return to the Parks and Recreation Administration office.

Procedural note: Mr. Staates and Ms. Gasiewicz left the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

5.2 Small Dog Off-Leash Area Trial in Moody Park - Jay Young, Manager of Recreation Services

Mr. Young summarized above staff report dated November 28, 2018.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee further discuss the recommendation as outlined in the Small Dog Off-Leash Area Trial in Moody Park report as presented tonight.

CARRIED.

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

In response to questions, staff advised:

- The recommendation is to keep the size of the off-leash area as it is since the majority of those who completed the survey are small dog owners;
- Dust clouds which often occur during the summer, may be a bigger issue for the smaller dogs who are more likely to be kept indoors. It was noted that over 90 percent of the people who took the survey are small dog owners;
- The survey was available for all residents, however, the Moody Park vicinity was targeted in response to the petition from those dog owners; and,
- It is anticipated that the off-leash dog park in Ryall Park will be open permanently by the end of December.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee recommend to City Council that a permanent small dog off-leash area be incorporated into the existing Moody Park Dog Enclosure as outlined in the Small Dog Off-Leash Area Trial in Moody Park report as presented to the Committee on November 28, 2018.

CARRIED.

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

5.3 New Westminster Aquatics & Community Centre Update - Steve Kellock, Senior Manager of Recreation Services and Facilities

Mr. Kellock began his presentation, announcing that the Aquatic & Community Centre Advisory Panel has been established with representation for all activities that occur within the current Canada Games Pool and Centennial Community Centre. The inaugural meeting is set for early December.

In response to questions, Mr. Kellock advised:

- Signage in the new facility may be in a variety of languages, welcoming everyone to the facility;
- Other facilities in the region do not necessarily meet the full scope of needs for swim competitions and New Westminster could service a regional draw; and,
- The Federal/Provincial grant application looks at how the facility will benefit the broader community.

6.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 30, 2019, 6:00 pm. Location: Century House

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

CARRIED.

Certified correct,

Original Signed

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair

Original Signed

Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk