



PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 21, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
Centennial Community Centre

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Councillor Jaimie McEvoy | - Chair, City Council Member |
| Brynn Bourke | - Community Member |
| Casey Cook | - School Board Representative |
| John Davies | - Community Member |
| Michael Folka | - Community Member |
| Ted Garbutt | - Community Member |
| Vince Kreiser | - Community Member |
| Michel Roy | - Community Member |

MEMBERS REGRETS:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Shawna Barkley | - Community Member |
| Andrew Hull | - Community Member |

STAFF PRESENT:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Dean Gibson | - Director of Parks and Recreation |
| Jason Haight | - Manager of Business Operations |
| Rob McCullough | - Manager of Museums and Heritage Services |
| Jay Young | - Manager of Queen's Park Arenex |
| Janet Zazubek | - Planning Analyst |
| Lauren Blake | - Committee Clerk |

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 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 June 22, 2016

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the June 22, 2016 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 Our City 2041(Official Community Plan Update)

Janet Zazubek, Planning Analyst, provided an on-table PowerPoint presentation regarding the Official Community Plan (OCP) update. Ms. Zazubek noted that comments regarding Our City 2041 can be provided via email to ourcity@newwestcity.ca.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Zazubek advised that the City consults with neighbouring cities to see how they anticipate their communities will be changing in the future. With respect to the redevelopment of the Pattullo Bridge, Ms. Zazubek advised that TransLink will conduct public consultation in the future.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 REPORTS

5.1 Interpretive Signage Proposal – Albert Crescent and Westminster Pier Parks

Rob McCullough, Manager of Museums and Heritage Services, summarized the on-table report dated September 21, 2016 regarding two proposals that have been received for commemorative plaques.

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

- It has been suggested that the proposed plaque at Albert Crescent Park could be located near the public walkway, as there is a stone wall that was

part of St. Ann's Academy. This location could also have the most exposure;

- The memory band at Westminster Pier Park may be expanded in the future;
- Improvements to the Albert Crescent Park pathways have been included in capital upgrade plans;
- Historian Jim Wolf has conducted comprehensive research of Albert Crescent that can be incorporated into the proposed plaque; and,
- Drafts for the proposed plaque could be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Committee, the Community Heritage Commission, and the Museum Advisory Committee.

The Committee expressed support for staff's proposal of a single interpretive plaque located at Albert Crescent Park.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Committee support the placement of interpretive signage, related to historic landmarks around Albert Crescent, as part of the upcoming Albert Crescent Park capital improvements; and,

THAT the Committee support the inclusion of the natural and social history related to Albert Crescent Park and surrounding area, including St. Ann's Academy and the northern terminus of the Western Union Telegraph line on future interpretive signage.

CARRIED.

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

5.2 Small Dog Off-Leash Area Trial in Queen's Park

Jay Young, Manager of Queen's Park Arenex, summarized the report dated September 21, 2016 regarding the small dog off-leash area trial in Queen's Park.

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

- Should the small dog off-leash area be made permanent, there would be separate entrances to each dog park;
- Specific data regarding where small dogs live in the city is not currently available; however, small dogs are generally concentrated in locations where there are high rises, such as Downtown;
- The trial small dog off-leash area was restricted to dogs 25 pounds or less;
- Enforcement of dogs using the small dog off-leash area was not an issue during the trial period;
- Small dogs were permitted in both dog parks at Queen's Park while large dogs were not permitted in the small dog off-leash area;

- Staff received some comments regarding small dogs being permitted in both dog parks; and,
- The survey results regarding the small dog off-leash area indicated there was a lack of demand for an additional or expanded dog park at Hume Park.

The Committee expressed support for the small dog off-leash area, and suggested that separate small dog areas could be implemented at all dog parks.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT a new permanent small dog-off leash area be created in Queen's Park as outlined in the report dated September 21, 2016.

CARRIED.

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

5.3 Universal Access and Facility Washrooms & Change Areas

Dean Gibson, Director of Parks and Recreation, advised that a bill prohibiting local governments from discriminating against transgendered people has been given three readings by the BC Legislature. The bill could impact how municipalities label and design washrooms, making these facilities more inclusive. The proposed replacement of the Rainbow Playground washrooms located in Queen's Park could incorporate a gender neutral design. Mr. Gibson noted that staff will move forward with updated signage where appropriate, and will draft policy that can be brought forward to the Committee for consideration.

The Committee expressed support for the gender neutral design proposal, suggesting that the Rainbow Playground washrooms could be an ideal pilot program due to its proximity to other washroom facilities. In addition, the Committee noted the following comments:

- The proposed design opportunities, such as floor to ceiling doors, would be beneficial regardless of gender;
- There could be consideration for lighting to discourage drug use, if floor to ceiling doors were to be implemented;
- There transgendered community could be consulted to ensure that the proposed washrooms are able to meet their needs. School District #40 has a Gender and Sexual Identity Committee that could be consulted for policy development;
- Accessibility groups could be consulted to ensure that the proposed washrooms are universally accessible;
- It was questioned if the proposed design could limit the ability of specific individuals, such as Muslim women, to utilize the washrooms; and,

- It was suggested that the design could implement a door-less entry into the facility.

5.4 Amendment to the Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Bylaw

Jason Haight, Manager of Business Operations, summarized the report dated September 21, 2016 regarding amendments to the Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges Bylaw.

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

- The City provides low cost activities such as the proposed dollar swim, and many low cost drop-in admissions. The outdoor pools provide low cost swimming sessions, and are free on weekends;
- The Affordable Active Living brochure highlights free or nearly free activities;
- The City offers a financial assistance program, and information regarding the program is available on the City's website;
- New Westminster's fees are generally on par or below neighbouring cities;
- It is anticipated that the proposed dollar swim at Canada Games Pool will be well attended, as it will be offered 52 times per year instead of the 12 free swims previously offered under the Westminster Saving sponsored program;
- The proposed increases would be revenue neutral; and,
- The rates for registered programs offered at the Anvil Centre are determined using the Park and Recreation department's fee formula.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee noted the following suggestions:

- Customers purchasing individual recreation passes may be more in need of the price decreases provided to customers purchasing recreation passes in bulk;
- A more transparent process could be implemented for the financial hardship program; and,
- Staff could report back to the Committee prior to setting the fees for 2018 to determine if there was an impact on participation from changing the free swim to a dollar swim.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Parks and Recreation Committee endorse the proposed changes to Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 6673, 2001, and recommend the changes to Council for adoption.

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, November 30, 2016, 6:00 pm. Location to be announced.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was concluded at 8:14 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair

Lauren Blake
Committee Clerk