



## **PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION MINUTES**

**Wednesday, 2017 May 17**

An 'Open' meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission was held in the Multi-Purpose Room, Edmonds Community Centre, 7433 Edmonds Street, Burnaby, B.C. on Wednesday, 2017 May 17 at 6:35 p.m. followed immediately by a 'Closed' meeting from which the public was excluded. At the conclusion of the 'Closed' meeting, the 'Open' meeting was reconvened at 7:00 p.m. in the Active Studio.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Paul McDonell, Chair  
Commissioner Karin Alzner  
Commissioner Guyle Clark  
Commissioner James Jang  
Councillor Dan Johnston  
Commissioner Barbara Larkin  
Commissioner Lance Matricardi, Deputy Chair  
Commissioner Dan Staschuk  
School Trustee Katrina Chen

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Lee Loftus

**STAFF:** Mr. Dave Ellenwood, Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services  
Mr. Don Hunter, Assistant Director - Parks  
Mr. David O'Connor, Assistant Director - Golf Operations  
Mr. Denis Nokony, Assistant Director - Cultural Services  
Mr. Dean Pelletier, Manager - Business Operations  
Mr. Eric Bientjes, Manager Recreation Services  
Ms. Heather Edwards, Manager - Parks, Planning, Design & Dev.  
Mr. Johannes Schumann, Senior Current Planner - Planning & Building  
Ms. Kathryn Matts, Commission Secretary  
Ms. Theresa Cheng, Recording Secretary

The 'Open' Commission meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JOHNSTON  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LARKIN

“THAT the Open Commission meeting do now reconvene.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Open Commission meeting reconvened in the Active Studio.

**2. MINUTES**

**a) Open Commission meeting of 2017 April 19**

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JOHNSTON  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LARKIN

“THAT the minutes of the Open Commission meeting held on 2017 April 19 be now adopted.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**3. CORRESPONDENCE**

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JOHNSTON  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LARKIN

“THAT the following items of correspondence be received.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**a) United Way 2017 Committee Chair**  
**Re: 2017 City of Burnaby Employees Workplace United Way Campaign**

Ms. Anne Cole, City of Burnaby United Way 2017 Committee Chair, requests contribution of admission passes from the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission in support of the fund raising campaign.

Item 1 of the Director’s Report refers to this matter.

**b) Afghan Benevolent Association  
Re: Spelling Bee Competition Fee Waiver Request**

Mr. Yosof Hakimi, Afghan Benevolent Association, requested a waiver of rental fee for the Spelling Bee Competition at Bonsor Recreation Centre.

Item 4 of the Director's Report refers to this matter.

**c) Playground Project Committee Chair, Glenwood Elementary School  
Re: Thank You for Playground Project**

Ms. Laura Iwan, Playground Project Committee Chair, Parent Advisory Council, Glenwood Elementary School, thanked the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for the support and sent a photograph of the official opening of their adventure playground.

**4. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

**a) Director's Report No. 5  
2017 May 17**

The Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services submitted his Report No. 5, dated 2017 May 17, covering the following items listed i-vi.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JOHNSTON  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MATRICARDI

"THAT the Director's Report be received."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**i) 2017 Annual United Way Campaign – Request for Support**

The City of Burnaby 2017 United Way Steering Committee requested a contribution of passes and restaurant gift certificates as incentive prizes to support the staff fund raising campaign.

It was recommended:

1. THAT Commission support the City of Burnaby 2017 United Way Workplace Campaign and that a donation of recreation passes, cultural services admissions, rounds of golf and a lunch or dinner for two at Burnaby Mountain valued at \$50 be contributed.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Anne Cole - Chair of the City of Burnaby United Way Campaign Committee.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JOHNSTON  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MATRICARDI

"THAT the two recommendations be approved."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ii) Willingdon Heights Park – Demolition of City-owned Structure at 1448 Gilmore Avenue**

The subject property was acquired for Willingdon Heights Park and has been held as an interim residential rental property. The Chief Licence Inspector has advised that the interim rental property is presently in need of some repairs. A financial analysis has determined that it is not considered economical to upgrade the house for continued rental purposes.

It was recommended:

1. THAT Council be requested to authorize the sale for moving or salvage or demolition of the structures, including all outbuildings at 1448 Gilmore Avenue.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER STASCHUK  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MATRICARDI

"THAT the recommendation be approved."

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**iii) Lease Agreement Renewal - Volleyball BC**

The City has had a lease agreement with Volleyball BC for the operation and management of the Harry Jerome Sport Centre since 2002 October. Volleyball BC is responsible for all on-going operating costs of their building, as well as general upkeep, in return for an annual rent of \$1. A large number of Burnaby residents utilize

the facility and their complimentary extension of recreation services benefits the community. The facility has also been home to the Burnaby Velodrome Club which has had an agreement for use with Volleyball BC.

It was recommended:

1. THAT approval be given for the renewal of the lease with Volleyball BC for a further three year term beginning 2017 July 01 and ending 2020 June 30 with two one-year options including changes to the terms and conditions as outlined in this report.
2. THAT Council be requested to approve the renewal of the lease with Volleyball BC for the Harry Jerome Sport Centre as outlined in this report.
3. THAT the City Solicitor be authorized to execute a lease agreement with Volleyball BC for the Harry Jerome Sport Centre as outlined in this report.
4. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Chris Densmore, Chief Executive Officer of Volleyball BC.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER ALZNER  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LARKIN

“THAT the four recommendations be approved.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **iv) Fee Waiver Request for the Use of Bonsor's Banquet Room**

The Afghan Benevolent Association requested a fee waiver for the use of Bonsor's Banquet Hall to host their Spelling Bee Competition. The Association has been charged the non-prime time, preferred rate for non-profit groups. Allotment fees are in place to offset a portion of the operational costs of the facility and set at a reasonable level to encourage community group use.

It was recommended:

1. THAT a request from the Afghan Benevolent Association, for a fee waiver for the Spelling Bee Competition to be held in the Bonsor Banquet Hall at the Bonsor Recreation Centre on Monday, 2017 May 22, be denied.
2. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Yosof Hakimi, Afghan Benevolent Association.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER STASCHUK  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CLARK

“THAT the two recommendations be approved.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**v) Covered Sports Box**

The initial investigations for constructing a covered sports box in the Burnaby Lake Sports Complex precinct are underway and a geotechnical engineering firm has been engaged to assess the sub-surface condition. With the geotechnical assessment, the structural engineer will determine foundation types and structural options for the sports box structure and establish a preliminary construction budget. Approvals and funding will need to be obtained through Council to develop a preliminary design. A report will be submitted to Commission and Council for approval and funding for the project.

It was recommended:

1. THAT Commission receive this report for information.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JOHNSTON  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MATRICARDI

“THAT the recommendation be approved.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**vi) 2017 May – Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Capital Funding Bylaw**

The 2017-2021 Provisional Financial Plan for Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services contains one project to be funded from Capital Reserves. To enable work to go ahead on the project, approval is requested to bring down a bylaw for funding.

It was recommended:

1. THAT the expenditure of \$30,000 from the 2017-2021 Annual Financial Plan for the project outlined in this report be approved.
2. THAT Council be requested to bring down a bylaw to appropriate \$31,400 (inclusive of GST) from Capital Reserves to finance this project.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER LARKIN  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MATRICARDI

“THAT the two recommendations be approved.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items raised under New Business.

6. **INQUIRIES**

Commissioner Jang advised that Expedia.com had a travel blogger who did an article about the best art towns in Canada and Burnaby was among the towns recognized. Burnaby's musical events such as Burnaby Blues Festival and Symphony in the Park were applauded, as were the works on display at the Burnaby Art Gallery.

The Chair advised that in addition to our arts programs and events, the City has a festival grant program to encourage community events and festivals.

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS / QUESTIONS**

The Chair recognized Mr. Jim and Mrs. Lindy McQueen in the audience. Mr. and Mrs. McQueen have been named Burnaby's Outstanding Citizens of the Year for 2016 for their volunteer efforts.

The Chair announced the beginning of the public comment/question period. The audience was encouraged to speak to the Commission on matters of interest or concern.

Mr. Jeremy Roberts advised that he has lived in Burnaby for almost 40 years. There had been three gun ranges in Burnaby but there are none now. Mr. Roberts suggested that the site of the Burnaby Fish and Game Club is the only safe area for a gun range. Mr. Roberts asked if it is the feeling among Commissioners that target shooting is an unsuitable activity and that participants are potential criminals. There was a protest when Council decided to close the local gun ranges. The RCMP officers and other organizations also trained for target shooting at the local gun ranges. Some of the area once occupied by the gun clubs has been turned into a mountain biking facility which is closed part of the year.

The Chair advised that the gun ranges were closed because the amount of lead from the gun ranges on Burnaby Mountain leached and polluted the water system. The urbanization of the City increases people's desire for more green space. Council has no plan to bring gun ranges back.

Councillor Johnston advised that he was on Council and the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission when the decision was made 23 years ago. Council and the Commission decided that the gun club was not a suitable use of the park. There was a lot of public input in the planning of the Burnaby Mountain Park master plan and gun clubs are not congruent to the peace and quietness of the park.

Ms. Heidi Eisenberg, New Westminster resident, advised she is a special needs tutor. Ms. Eisenberg was asked by a parent to inquire about setting up a learning program for children with learning disabilities.

The Director advised that we have a range of programs for children and youth at the community centres and in cooperation with the School District. Ms. Eisenberg could discuss this matter with staff after the meeting.

Mr. James Bud and his friend, Ms. Savithri Soorga, both Burnaby residents, requested that a safety review be made on personal properties at the Fred Randall Leisure Pool in Edmonds Community Centre. Ms. Soorga advised that on 2017 April 17 her locker was broken into when she was in the pool. Her clothes, cell-phone, sunglasses, including her car key were stolen and her \$24,000 new car was driven away. Staff advised that in 2016 three lockers were broken into. From January to April this year, two lockers have been broken into. Ms. Soorga expressed concerns that there were no signs around the pool to tell the public that the lockers are not safe. It took 13 days for the video footage to go to the RCMP officer who then found it was not good enough to identify suspects.

The Chair advised that the lockers are not guaranteed to be perfectly safe. Security cameras are not allowed in the changerooms. It is not viable to allocate staff to watch over the lockers. It was noted that some 2,200 people pass through the centre every day.

The Director advised that staff have spoken to Ms. Soorga, made an investigation of the incident and apologized for the technical issue of the video footage. A review of locker safety is being undertaken. Staff always try to make the facilities safer by increasing random security patrols. There is a cyclical spike of criminal activities. A general trend shows a decline of criminal activities over the years. Unfortunately, staff are not able to eliminate criminal activity. Staff appreciate Ms. Soorga's feedback and will continue to review safety procedures.



The Chair advised that staff constantly review security procedures for improvement. The Commission will receive a report shortly and a copy will be forwarded to Ms. Soorga.

Ms. Soorga suggested that security cameras be installed in the corridor and the exits. The signs advise people to lock up their belongings but it should reflect that the lockers are not safe.

Mr. Bud inquired if they could contact who is writing the report or have a look at the report before it goes to the Commission.

The Director advised that staff will provide the contact.

Ms. Jaclyn Kirby, Burnaby resident, advised that she is one of the lead volunteers with the Burnaby Education Product of the Burnaby Regional Allotment Gardens Association (BARAGA) and they are training a lot of teenagers who have never eaten food directly from the ground. There seems to be a growing interest in more community plots. She would like to contact staff about starting community gardens. Ms. Kirby inquired if compost could be donated to community gardens as they have difficulty sourcing compost.

The Director advised that BARAGA is the largest community garden in Western Canada. Ms. Kirby was advised to speak to Planning Department staff about the application process for community gardens.

Mr. George McLaughlin, Burnaby resident, advised that they had made a presentation to the Commission at the April meeting and the minutes stated that "THAT the presentation be referred to staff to work with the Burnaby Velodrome Club and Volleyball BC to try to reach an amicable agreement." However, there has been no subsequent meeting to resolve their issue. Correspondence from Volleyball BC urged the Burnaby Velodrome Club to sign the renewal sub-lease agreement or the track will be ripped out. Mr. McLaughlin requested assurance from the Commission that the track will not be ripped out and inquired regarding staff's role when they meet with Volleyball BC again.

The Chair advised that the City has the authority on the track. He understood that the new agreement allows for more allotment time and attempts to work out the differences between the lessee and the sub-lessee.

The Director confirmed that the authority on the track is vested in the City. The lease with Volleyball BC is that the track remains. The onus is on Volleyball BC and the Burnaby Velodrome Club to negotiate an access agreement which has been successful in the past.

Mr. McLaughlin expressed his concern with the non-negotiable sub-lease and the inadequate maintenance of the facility. Volleyball BC asked them to apply for a grant of \$80,000 to fix the washroom and this amount will be taken out of the rent. They pay a rent of \$15,000 a month but they do not have a key to the facility. If they have private bookings, they have to pay Volleyball BC to bring in an attendant to open the door.

The Chair commented that staff will look for a mechanism to balance the negotiations. The City owns the facility and we ensure that the lease terms are upheld.

Mr. McLaughlin inquired if it is a licence or a lease for Volleyball BC on the Harry Jerome Sports Centre.

Staff advised that given the exclusive use between the two groups, it is a lease agreement recommended by the City for renewal and it is an extension of the existing lease with some change to the terms and conditions.

Mr. McLaughlin asked for a copy of the lease agreement.

Staff advised that when leases are signed and executed, it is fully open to the public.

Mr. McLaughlin inquired if staff will contact them to be involved in their sub-lease renewal discussions.

The Chair advised that if the Burnaby Velodrome Club runs into a problem in negotiating the sub-lease, staff will see what needs to be done to ensure that both parties will bargain in good faith.

Mr. McLaughlin advised that they cannot see a future for their club based on the sub-lease terms stipulated by Volleyball BC.

The Chair advised that the City expects the two groups share the facility and hope they will work out their issues to the best of their abilities.

Mr. Behrad Rezaie, North Vancouver resident, proposed an indoor water park in Burnaby. They have owned a water park for over 10 years in Iran. The proposed water park will accommodate 1,000 to 1,600 people a day. They require a piece of land between 40,000 and 60,000 sq. ft. The building is about 4,000 to 5,000 sq. m. They want to make sure that the community supports this business and investment. The City of Surrey had indicated support for this business but they would like to start it in Burnaby because of the access to the Skytrain and transit. The water park will be for kids between 3 to 18 years old. For the safety of kids, the water park will have only one level and there will be no stairs. They have contacted WhiteWater in Vancouver which builds slides.

The Chair inquired if Mr. Rezaie contacted City staff about his plan.

Mr. Rezaie has had two discussions with Planning staff and sent four emails but received no reply.

The Chair suggested that Mr. Rezaie speak to Planning staff after the meeting about zoning.

Commissioner Matricardi inquired and was advised that the proposed water park will be for fun and thrill.

Mr. Bob Nixon, Burnaby resident, Vice President of Caprice Synchronized Swimming Club. The club was started in 1967 and has been in Burnaby since 1972. Mr. Nixon inquired about the progress of the new pool project. Mr. Nixon wants to ensure the pool water will be clear enough for synchronized swimming.

The Director advised that the request for proposal document is ready. Then the design concept will start. Council has approved \$350,000 to fund the study. The pool will meet the need for additional pool time and enable the City to host events. There will be opportunities for sport groups and the public to give input. The new pool will be ready in a few years.

The Chair advised that there will be open houses for public input. We want to make sure the new facility will meet our future needs.

Mr. Shiraz Nathwani, Citizen Representative of Sustainable City Advisory Committee, inquired regarding the progress of the Aga Khan Park project on Sprott Street and Kensington Avenue and when will it start. The park has been in the plan for 10 years.

The Director advised that staff are working with Mr. Malik Talib and Mr. Samir Manji who has retained a project manager for the project. Their consultants have completed sound studies to mitigate the sound from the highway. A core sampling was done this week. Our staff have been working with them. They now focus their attention on this project. The engineering studies are the beginning of the process to build the park.

Mrs. Lindy McQueen, a Burnaby resident, inquired regarding the covered stage shown in the drawings at the open house of the Edmonds Community Centre.

The Director advised that the park is in development phases. The power supply and servicing required for a major stage are ready. The need for a covered stage will be assessed in the third and final phase of the park development.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chair thanked the audience for their attendance.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR JOHNSTON  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LARKIN

“THAT the Open Commission meeting do now adjourn.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Open Commission meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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Kathryn Matts  
COMMISSION SECRETARY

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Councillor Paul McDonell  
CHAIR

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