



PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMISSION M I N U T E S

**Tuesday, June 8, 2021, 5:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, City Hall
4949 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC**

PRESENT: Councillor Sav Dhaliwal, Chair
Commissioner Barbara Larkin, Deputy Chair
Councillor James Wang, Member *(participated electronically)*
Commissioner Claire Preston *(participated electronically)*
Commissioner Dan Staschuk *(participated electronically)*
Commissioner Stace Dayment *(participated electronically)*
Commissioner Rainy Kent
Commissioner Gary Cheng
Commissioner Mikelle Sasakamoose *(participated electronically)*
Trustee Christine Cunningham, School Board Representative
(participated electronically)

STAFF: Mr. Dave Ellenwood, Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Mr. Dean Pelletier, Assistant Director Business Operations
Mr. Denis Nokony, Assistant Director Cultural Services
Mr. David O'Connor, Assistant Director Golf Services
Mr. Steve Bruneau, Assistant Director Parks
Mr. Eric Bientjes, Assistant Director Recreation
Ms. Heather Edwards, Manager Parks Planning, Design and Development
Ms. Karin Hung, Senior Planner
Ms. Kathryn Matts, Commission Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the Open Commission meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Due to the pandemic the following members attended the meeting virtually: Councillor Wang, Trustee Cunningham, Commissioner Dayment, Commissioner Preston, Commissioner Sasakamoose, and Commissioner Staschuk.

The Chair, Councillor Sav Dhaliwal, recognized the ancestral and unceded homelands of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ and Skwxwú7mesh speaking peoples, and extended appreciation for the opportunity to hold a meeting on this territory.

2. MINUTES

2.1 Minutes of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission Open meeting held on 2021 May 11

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER LARKIN

SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KENT

THAT the minutes of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission meeting held on 2021 May 11 be now adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Parks Operations Division Update Presenter: Steve Bruneau, Assistant Director Parks

Mr. Steve Bruneau, Assistant Director of Parks Services, provided an update on Parks Operations. The speaker advised that Parks Services Division is comprised of a very large team that covers a variety of areas and skill sets such as park research, park design, planning, park environment, GIS mapping, park fleet, hard surfaces, horticulture, forestry, grass, garbage, playgrounds, custodial, parks patrol etc. Mr. Bruneau advised that there are 152 parks encompassing 2,221 hectares of park land and 196 hectares of water.

Mr. Bruneau noted that throughout the pandemic staff responded to changing Provincial Health Orders. Staff looked at individual amenities and facilities and prepared safety plans for all, closing amenities and facilities as required. Provincial Health Orders continually changed and safety plans changed with them. While amenities such as swings, fitness equipment, playgrounds, basketball courts and washrooms were closed, the parks remained open and people were encouraged to get outside. As a result, an increased use of parks was seen with overall park attendance up 25-40%, and a substantial amount of the increase occurring on evenings and weekends. 242,880 kg of garbage was picked up by parks.

The speaker advised that during the pandemic there were compliance issues such as illegal parking, removal of and pirating of barriers in place on closed playgrounds such as snow fences being removed and sometimes taken. This required constant review and replacement of signage and barriers.

The speaker noted that several changes have been implemented due to the pandemic that will positively affect the division in the summer of 2021. QR codes have been placed on signage to assist the public and provide another layer of communication. Additional weekend and afternoon shifts have been added to ensure required coverage at busy park times. Barnet Marine Park has seen a Barnet Accessibility Program launched, which allows patrons with mobility issues to register and pre-book a parking spot. Finally, the addition of Park patron counters at several parks will allow for better statistical collection for planning and maintenance issues.

In conclusion, the speaker advised that the Parks Operations Division is looking forward and will continue to be flexible in its approach to meet the current demands on Parks and the needs and requirements of the public.

The Commission expressed appreciation for the informative presentation.

4. DELEGATION

4.1 Burnaby Lake Sports Complex

Mr. Ian Gordon, appeared before Commission and provided a presentation entitled A Vision for Development of the Burnaby Lake Sports Complex. Mr. Gordon advised that a steering committee had been formed consisting of the following groups:

- Burnaby Lake Rowing Club
- Rowing BC
- Rowing Canada Aviron
- Burnaby Canoe & Kayak Club
- Canoe Kayak BC
- Canoe Kayak Canada
- UBC and Simon Fraser Rowing Clubs
- Sport Burnaby
- Tourism Burnaby

Mr. Gordon advised that the intent of the delegation is to present a collective vision for future development of watersports at Burnaby Lake, determine the desirability and feasibility of such a development and work with Burnaby planners and sport and recreation personnel to develop the vision further.

The speaker provided slides showing renditions of the rowing and canoeing site development concept for the site and visuals of a similar course design at the

University of Washington Boathouse. The speaker advised that the committee envisions a new boathouse finish tower and course facilities as the training competition and administrative home for local, regional and national rowing and canoe/kayak clubs and associations. The vision includes a standard course length (2,170 metres) with 8 lanes. The current course does not meet these requirements but could be lengthened with approximately 140 metres of dredging of the course.

The speaker noted that there would be a marked increase in community participation in watersports for athletes, school and other cultural and Indigenous groups if such a facility existed. An international certified course would enable the hosting of all levels of competitions, creating tourism, and economic development opportunities. As this facility would be unique to Canada, it would be a national and provincial team year round training and administration centre. The speaker further advised that the project as envisioned would improve access to the lake for public walking, running, and enhance support services for the public.

In conclusion, Mr. Gordon advised that the Steering Committee would like the Commission to consider the issues arising from the vision, including:

- The desirability of this vision for community sport and recreation;
- Whether the proposed additional dredging can be accommodated;
- Whether such a proposed development is compatible with environmental geotechnical and other requirements;
- Creating financing for such a development;
- Creating a community-use growth plan for the current clubs; and,
- Creating a business plan to support ongoing operations and maintenance.

Arising from discussion and without objection by any member the following motion was introduced:

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WANG

SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAYMENT

THAT this item of business be **REFERRED** to staff for a report on the feasibility and advisability of the proposal.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Correspondence from Susan Nance - Re: Burnaby Mountain Trails

Correspondence was received from Ms. Susan Nance, expressing concerns regarding Burnaby Mountain trail use and asking for a revision of trail signage and the restriction of at least one Burnaby Mountain trail to foot traffic only. A note on

the correspondence advised that staff have contacted the writer and advised that at the 2021 May 18 Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission Open meeting, Commission received correspondence on the same subject and it was referred to staff for a report. Staff advised that they are in the process of consultation and review and a report providing information on the process will be presented at a future meeting.

Commission expressed concern with the environmental impact of traffic on the trail but also the increase in conflicts arising between the different user groups on Burnaby Mountain.

Staff advised that the upcoming report will lay out the process for the comprehensive review and consultation that will be undertaken.

5.2 Correspondence from J. Smith - Re: Appreciation of Eco-Sculptures

Correspondence was received from Ms. Jan Smith expressing appreciation for the Eco-Sculptures throughout the City, and in particular the sculptures located at McGill Library. Ms. Smith inquired as to the addition of the cow, "Bessie", and the reason for the colourful coat it is wearing. A note on the correspondence advised that staff contacted the writer and advised that the "yarn bombing" of the Eco Sculpture "Bessie" at McGill Library was a result of a request by the Canadian DeafBlind Association as part of DeafBlind Awareness Month (June). Ms. Smith's appreciation of the Eco Sculptures and the gardens at Kensington Park were passed on to Parks staff involved in the projects.

5.3 Memorandum from the Administrative Officer - Re: World Rivers Day

A memorandum was received from the Administrative Officer of the Environment Committee advising that Council at the Open Council meeting held on 2021 May 31, received and adopted the recommendations as outlined in the above noted report. A copy of the report was provided to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for information.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

6.1 Parks Operations during the Pandemic and Future

The Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services submitted a report providing information on the Parks Operations presentation.

The Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services recommended:

1. THAT the report be received for information.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER KENT
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHENG

THAT the recommendation of the Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. NEW BUSINESS

Seniors Advisory Committee

Commissioner Larkin, the Committee Liaison for the Seniors Advisory Committee, advised that at the 2021 June 8 meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee, seniors expressed appreciation for staff who have done a fantastic job throughout the pandemic of keeping them informed and providing opportunities to connect virtually. Commissioner Larkin noted that the Senior Community does have concerns in regards to the Provincial Restart Plan and participating safely in programs.

Live Streaming Concerts

Commissioner Kent expressed appreciation of the Thursday night livestream performances.

Staff advised that the live streaming concerts produced at Shadbolt Centre for the Performing Arts, without a live audience, will continue until the end of July.

8. INQUIRIES

Rick Hansen Foundation

Commissioner Preston inquired if the City of Burnaby has a relationship with the Rick Hansen Foundation and if we receive certification through them.

Staff undertook to follow up as to the current connection with the Foundation.

Trail North of Penzance

Commissioner Kent inquired if an additional garbage can could be placed at the connector trail.

Staff undertook to investigate the feasibility of locating a garbage can as requested.

Camrose Park

Commissioner Sasakamoose inquired as to the process for replacement of playground equipment at parks.

Staff advised that consultation with the community generally involves a series of open houses and the feedback from the open houses provides staff with direction.

Staff undertook to provide further information on the direction taken at Camrose Park.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, the Open Commission meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

COUNCILLOR SAV DHALIWAL

CHAIR

KATHRYN MATTS

COMMISSION SECRETARY