



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

### **MINUTES**

**Tuesday, June 13, 2023, 5:00 p.m.**  
**Council Chamber, City Hall**  
**4949 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Sav Dhaliwal, Chair  
Commissioner Rainy Kent, Deputy Chair  
Councillor James Wang, Member  
Commissioner Leaf Alifu  
Commissioner Marie Basse  
Commissioner Hillary Bergshoeff (*arrived at 5:01 p.m. and participated electronically*)  
Commissioner Gary Cheng  
Commissioner Stace Dayment  
Commissioner Robin Dhir

**ABSENT:** Trustee Mikelle Sasakamoose, Burnaby School Board

**STAFF:** Mary Morrison-Clark, General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture  
Carmen Gonzalez, Deputy General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture  
Eric Bientjes, Director Recreation  
Greg Cecchi, Acting Director Parks  
Andre Isakov, Director PRC Planning  
Denis Nokony, Director Cultural Services (*participated electronically*)  
Bob Farahani, Director Parks Project Management Office  
Samantha Thompson, Administrative Officer

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

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

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

*\*Commissioner Bergshoeff arrived at 5:01 p.m. and participated electronically*

**2. MINUTES**

**2.1 Minutes of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission Open meeting held on May 9, 2023**

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DHIR  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAYMENT

THAT the minutes of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission held on May 9, 2023, be now adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**3. DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

**3.1 Presentation: Canadian Clay Symposium Highlights 2023**  
**Speakers: Friederike Rahn, Programmer (Ceramic Arts), and Tanya Rankin, Coordinator Fine Arts**

Friederike Rahn, Programmer (Ceramic Arts), and Tanya Rankin, Coordinator of Fine Arts, provided a PowerPoint presentation showcasing highlights from the 2023 Canadian Clay Symposium.

The speakers emphasized that the mandate of the Canadian Clay Symposium is to expose professionals and students to a diverse range of local and international practices, aesthetics, and expertise. This fosters a heightened awareness of the field and promotes the development of technical skills. The symposium featured an all-Canadian panel with simultaneous presentations of images, lectures, demonstrations, critiques, and panel discussions. Artists from various backgrounds and career stages participated in the event.

The main theatre stage facilitated livestreaming, allowing viewers from across Canada and beyond to participate. Presentation spaces showcased two artists working side by side, demonstrating specific techniques. Three stages were equipped with cameras to provide multiple views of the presenters for the audience. In addition, the symposium included various components such as on-site and satellite exhibitions, Robin Dupont's mobile gallery, a reception at Deer Lake Gallery, specialty workshops and events, a tradeshow, and a roadshow.

In conclusion, the speakers announced that in 2025, a mini event will be held to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the symposium. The next full symposium is scheduled for 2027 at the new Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, theatre wing.

#### **4. CORRESPONDENCE**

##### **4.1 Correspondence from the Honorable Katrina Chen - Re: Support for the Request from the UniverCity Community Association**

###### **4.1.1 Correspondence from 11 Burnaby Residents - Re: Support for the Request from the UniverCity Community Association**

Correspondence was received from the Honorable Katrina Chen, MLA, as well as 11 Burnaby residents expressing support for a request put forth by the UniverCity Community Association, seeking the development of improved amenities in the University area.

A note on the correspondence advised that the Planning and Parks, Recreation, and Culture Departments are currently reviewing the services provided in the University area. They will also be reaching out to the UniverCity Community Association to address their concerns.

##### **4.2 Correspondence from the Burnaby Minor Lacrosse Club - Re: Safety Concerns Near Bill Copeland and Burnaby Lake Arena**

###### **4.2.1 Correspondence from Samantha Johnson - Re: Safety Concerns Near Bill Copeland and Burnaby Lake Arena**

Correspondence was received from the Burnaby Minor Lacrosse Club and Samantha Johnson expressing concerns regarding the proximity of the BC Housing Shelter to the Bill Copeland and Burnaby Lake Arena. The writers made the following requests:

1. The development of a plan to address the current dangers posed by the shelter's proximity to the Sports Complex.
2. An update on the City's plans to remove the shelter, including a timeline for this action.
3. The removal of fences around the Copeland parking area and delay of the parking work until September 2023, aligning it with the remaining Sports Complex construction.
4. Confirmation as to whether the shelter includes residents who are registered on the sex offender registry list.

A note in the correspondence stated that prior to this correspondence, Recreation staff had been working with Communications and had identified changes in parking availability for all user groups of the arenas. The Burnaby Lake Aquatics and Arena project had an impact on the parking situation for Bill Copeland and Burnaby Lake Arena users,

especially during the summer when lacrosse and ball hockey activities are prominent.

A recent resequencing of the Burnaby Lake Aquatic and Arena project has resulted in the opening of the parking lot adjacent to and north of Bill Copeland Arena. This change will increase the number of available parking spots by 77, reducing the need for parking in the East lot where the Emergency Response Centre (ERC) is located for the remainder of the lacrosse and ball hockey season. The Burnaby Lakers and other arena users have been notified of this change. The ERC is scheduled to be removed by the end of July, which is before the conclusion of the ball hockey season.

Since the establishment of the ERC, security officers have been deployed at the facility on a continuous basis, operating 24/7/365 until the lease expires. Progressive Housing, the ERC operator, does not disclose a list of individuals staying at the shelter to the City in order to protect their privacy.

In collaboration with Civic projects, the PRC is working on enhancing the lighting in the East lot. PRC staff is also coordinating with the Lakers Lacrosse organization to find a suitable location for hosting their pancake breakfast, which traditionally takes place alongside the Jack Crosby Tournament. Parks staff have increased their cleaning efforts and visits to the East parking lot.

Upon learning about an incident involving a player and an unknown individual in the East lot, the Senior Manager of Risk Insurance and Claims contacted the Lakers to gather more information.

The Manager of Bylaw Services has arranged a follow-up meeting with Progressive Housing and all relevant departments to discuss the operation of the ERC and ensure that it is perceived as a safe area for City residents and users of the amenities at Burnaby Lake. Recreation staff have also increased the frequency of user group meetings to ensure that all groups are kept up to date with the latest updates regarding the Burnaby Lake Aquatic and Arena Project.

#### **4.3 Correspondence from the Strata Council for 6735/37 Station Hill Court - Re: Parkland Permit Refusal**

Correspondence was received from the Strata Council for 6735/37 Station Hill Court requesting Council to reconsider their decision to withdraw the City-approved permit issued for the replacement of a decaying cedar retaining wall that borders the property along the southern Byrne Creek parks access road.

The writer emphasized that the tendering process began a year ago in May 2022, and Centurion Contacts was selected as the project lead. The project is being managed by Strata engineering, and the Strata Council has conducted a vote to extend a levy to all members of the community in order to cover the cost of this work. They have also made a substantial deposit, with the remaining funds held in the bank until required.

The permitting applications were submitted to the City of Burnaby, and all necessary permits were granted. The writer urges the City to reconsider their decision to revoke the access permit, highlighting that funds have been secured, a contractor has been hired, plans have been approved, and permits have been obtained.

A note on the correspondence advised that staff are currently reviewing the request and will be in contact with the writer, Ellen James, who is the Strata Council Chairperson.

**4.4 Correspondence from Wilson Tsang - Re: Request for New Community Centre at Avondale Park in Cascade Heights**

A letter of correspondence was received from Wilson Tsang regarding the need for a new community centre in the Cascade Heights neighborhood, specifically at Avondale Park. The writer pointed out that the recent influx of families and the growing number of children in the area make it clear that the establishment of a community centre would greatly benefit the community and improve the residents' quality of life. The writer highlighted several key benefits and reasons for constructing a community center in Cascade Heights, underscoring that Avondale Park offers a large, unused field, presenting an excellent opportunity to incorporate additional recreational amenities.

A note on the correspondence advises that staff has thoroughly reviewed the request and will reach out to the writer for further discussion.

**4.5 Memorandum from the Administrative Officer of the Financial Management Committee - Re: Major Parks Recreation and Culture Capital Projects Update**

A memorandum was received from the Administrative Officer of the Financial Management Committee advising that Council, at the June 5, 2023 Open Council meeting, received and adopted the above noted report regarding an update on the Major Parks, Recreation and Culture Capital Projects.

**4.6 Memorandum from the General Manager Planning and Development - Re: Burnaby 2050 Official Community Plan Summer Public Engagement Campaign**

A memorandum has been received from the General Manager Planning and Development notifying all advisory groups about the upcoming public engagement initiatives scheduled for Summer 2023. These initiatives aim to gather community input on the development of the new Official Community Plan (Burnaby 2050).

**4.7 Memorandum from the Senior Manager Legislative Services - Re: Responsible Alcohol Consumption in Burnaby Parks**

A memorandum was received from the Senior Manager Legislative Services advising that Council, at the Open Council meeting held on June 5, 2023, received and adopted the above noted report pertaining to responsible alcohol consumption in Burnaby parks.

**5. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

There were no administrative reports received.

**6. INFORMATION REPORTS**

**6.1 AQUATIC WAITLIST REDUCTION AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SWIMMING LESSON PILOT**

The General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture submitted a report providing information on the activities being undertaken to reduce the waitlists for aquatic programs and to increase swimming opportunities for elementary school students in Burnaby.

Carol Chard, Manager Recreation Services, and Isabelle Taillon, Manager Recreation Services, appeared before the Commission to provide information on initiatives aimed at reducing the aquatic waitlist and implementing a pilot program for elementary school swimming lessons.

During the presentation, Ms. Chard provided an overview and interpretation of the statistics concerning swimming lesson availability, registration numbers, waitlist entries, and the actual number of individuals on the waitlist from 2018 to 2023. Recognizing the importance of swimming as a vital life skill, the goal is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to learn how to swim. However, limited access to swimming services has been a challenge in recent years due to

reduced maximum capacities. Lower levels of swimming lessons experience higher demand due to the instructor-to-student ratios, necessitating additional staff. As children progress and acquire basic swimming skills, enrollment tends to decline after level 6, often because their other activities begin to conflict with continued lessons.

The speaker highlighted several strategies aimed at increasing staffing effectiveness, including aligning staff hiring and scheduling timelines with registration to ensure availability when needed. Shifts are customized based on staff availability to optimize program offerings. The flow of programming demands is continuously monitored to ensure appropriate scheduling. Various training and recruitment opportunities are being provided to attract qualified aquatic staff. Additionally, efforts are being made to establish a swim-only instructor position, enabling individuals without all the skills and training required for lifeguarding to pursue a career as a swim instructor.

In conclusion, the speaker emphasized that there has been a significant increase in the number of candidates expressing interest in recruitment, with a projected hiring of approximately 35 individuals for summer and fall programming. Furthermore, Parks and Recreation will be offering 27% more registration spots in 2023.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WANG  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KENT

**THAT** the report titled “Aquatic Waitlist Reduction and Elementary School Swimming Lesson Pilot” from the General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture dated June 13, 2023, be received for information; and

**THAT** Commission forward a copy of the report titled “Aquatic Waitlist Reduction and Elementary School Swimming Lesson Pilot” from the General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture dated June 13, 2023, to Council for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**6.2 BARNET MARINE PARK PARKING UPDATE**

The General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture submitted a report providing information on parking challenges at Barnet Marine Park and the plans for improvement.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WANG  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KENT

**THAT** the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission receive the report from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture titled “Barnet Marine Park Parking Update” dated June 13, 2023 for information; and

**THAT** Commission forwards the report from the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture titled “Barnet Marine Park Update” dated June 13, 2023 to Council for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**6.3 COMMUNITY SCHOOL GRANT FUNDING 2023/2024 AND MASTER JOINT USE AGREEMENT RENEWAL**

The General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture submitted a report providing information on Community School Grant funding and the intention to update the Master Joint Use Agreement.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DAYMENT  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CHENG

**THAT** the report titled “Community School Grant Funding 2023/2024 and Master Joint Use Agreement Renewal” dated June 13, 2023, from the General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture, be received by Commission and Council for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



**6.4 2023 PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE RECOGNITION NIGHT**

The General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture submitted a report providing information on the 2023 Recognition Night taking place on September 22, 2023.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER KENT  
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WANG

**THAT** the report titled “2023 Parks, Recreation and Culture Recognition Night” dated June 13, 2023, from the General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture, be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**6.5 PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

The General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture submitted a report providing a monthly update on the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department’s operational activities.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER DHIR  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KENT

**THAT** the report titled “Parks, Recreation and Culture Operational Update” dated June 13, 2023, from the General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture, be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of other business brought before the Commission.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

By unanimous consent, the Open Commission meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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Councillor Sav Dhaliwal  
CHAIR

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Samantha Thompson  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER