



City of Port Moody

Minutes

Parks and Recreation Commission

Minutes of the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission held on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Hunter Madsen, Chair
Councillor Steve Milani, Vice-Chair
John Callaghan
John Grasty
Kate Le Souef
Haven Lurbiecki
Wilhelmina Martin
David Parker
Cleone Todgham
Megan Traverse

Absent

Rajeev Sharma
Chris Zhao

In Attendance

Theresa Cochran – General Manager of Community Services
Jess Daniels – Policy Planner
Mary De Paoli – Manager of Policy Planning
Jim LaCroix – Manager of Recreation
Philip Lo – Committee Coordinator
Robbie Nall – Parks Superintendent
Julie Pavey-Tomlinson – Director of Environment and Parks

1. Call to Order

Call to Order

- 1.1 The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

2. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes

2.1 PRC21/008

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 be adopted.

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

Official Community Plan Review

4.1 Presentation: Jess Daniels, Policy Planner and Mary De Paoli, Manager of Policy Planning

Staff gave a presentation on the Official Community Plan (OCP) review process, noting the following:

- The last OCP update was undertaken in 2014;
- *Port Moody 2050* is a one- to two-year process to gather public input and draft focused updates to the OCP;
- public input will inform staff's development of the draft OCP updates and Council's decision-making;
- the project was launched in Fall 2020, with Visioning Workshops in November/December 2020 and the first community survey at the beginning of 2021;
- the current community survey #2 explores key themes from the first survey;
- a third survey is planned for Fall 2021 and will focus on land use scenarios; there will be a third community check-in in December 2021;
- draft OCP updates will be presented to Council in January 2022, with further engagement opportunities including a public hearing;
- the second community survey is available now and open until June 28, based on key topics identified by Council and the community;
- Chapter 7 of the OCP focuses on parks, open spaces, and recreation;
- the process for updating parks and recreation content in the OCP include incorporating community survey feedback, Council directions, and the 2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan; and
- the Commission has been identified as an ongoing stakeholder in the OCP update process.

Staff noted the following in response to questions from the Commission:

- with regards to marine recreation, Chapter 7 of the OCP speaks generally of the launching facility at Rocky Point Park and includes the increased demand for recreational and commercial water access points;
- the goal is to meet a full range of marine recreation needs, and understanding the changing needs and updating the Plan as necessary; and
- additional access to the marine environment could be raised as part of the Parkland Acquisition Strategy.

The Commission noted the following in discussion:

- greenspace has been removed as part of the population ratio for parks space;
- the OCP should not include any planning on private property without the full consent of the property owners;
- the current OCP neighbourhood plan for the Oceanfront District was a vision advocated by the private land owners and adopted into the OCP in 2018; it includes a minimum of 3.05ha of dedicated public park space and conservation areas;
- some concerns were expressed regarding how the OCP update process may be impacted by the 2022 local government election, especially if the process experiences delays; and
- there is considerable space currently dedicated to parking at Rocky Point Park; consider removing or reducing parking at the park.

Jess Daniels and Mary De Paoli left the meeting at this point and did not return.

Dog Management Working Group Update

4.2 Dog Management Working Group (Haven Lurbiecki, Wilhelmina Martin, Megan Traverse)

Members of the Dog Management Working Group gave a presentation regarding

- Port Moody's dog population has been growing and issues are mounting related to off-leash dogs, dog waste diversion, and enforcement; COVID-19 has exacerbated these issues;
- the Working Group report aims to inform the development of a City strategy to become a dog-friendly City;
- the current corporate policy for dog runs and off-leash areas includes designated dog runs (fenced) and off-leash (unfenced) areas; the current Animal Control Bylaw No. 2677 does not include a definition for an unfenced off-leashed area;
- 120-150 animal control-related complaint calls are received by bylaw enforcement each year;
- there could be a significant number of unlicensed dogs in the City;
- the only fenced dog run in the City is at Rocky Point Park, and it is often busy and muddy despite improvements over the years;
- Bert Flinn Park users want to experience nature and the forest environment and do not necessary want to

encounter off-leash dogs; some dog owners view the entire Park as an off-leash area;

- the Chines Park off-leash area is under-utilized;
- dog waste should be diverted from landfills to be processed separately; the Red Bin program for dog waste current has bins at 18 locations across the City on parkland and trail sites;
- recommendations from the Working Group include: determining community needs through community engagement and data analyst; modernizing park classification and municipal bylaws; improving existing and creating new dog off-leash areas; and implementing new approaches to compliance and enforcement.

The Commission noted the following in discussion:

- there may currently be a lack of enforcement of dog-related bylaw infractions;
- Coquitlam bylaw officers are permitted to exercise discretion to issue tickets based on anecdotal evidence; delays between complaints and officers attending the site mean that the officers often do not witness the infractions;
- a dedicated animal control bylaw officer could help with repeat offenders as the officer becomes familiar with the local dog population;
- some people may be deterred from using City parks due to dog-related infractions;
- some people in the community have started using yellow leashes to indicate the reactivity of their dogs;
- it is a potentially dangerous situation when groups of off-leash dogs (dog walkers, etc.) confront other off-leash dogs;
- there may be insufficient parking at designated off leash dog areas;
- bylaw officers have had increased work load to enforce provincial health orders during COVID; it may cost more to boost enforcement for dog-related issues;
- consider what surface material types would be optimal for dog off-leash areas; gravel and wood chips are not optimal;
- let users know that licensing fees and fines are used to support dog infrastructure and initiatives in the City; this could encourage people to license their dogs;
- licensing is the key to building community while providing education; incentivize dog licensing by enhancing the dog owners community, such as through events at dog parks or partnerships with dog training schools; and

- there may be value in requesting a presentation from Coquitlam staff regarding animal control and enforcement.

Staff noted the following in response to the Commission's discussion:

- bylaw officers issue a large number of verbal warnings;
- the City's Park Ranger pilot program could provide a more focused approach to dog-related issues;
- bylaw enforcement can be invited to a future Commission meeting;
- there may be some neighbourhood consultation to be considered in attracting more people to some of the designated off-leash areas;
- have more neighbourhood off-leash areas within walking distances would be consistent with the City's sustainability goals and could alleviate pressures on popular off-leash areas such as Rocky Point Park;
- drainage improvements at the Rocky Point Park off-leash area has been completed, and feedback on surfacing material is welcomed; pea gravel may be the preferred solution.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Review

4.3 Parks and Recreation staff

Link: [Parks and Recreation Master Plan](#)

Attachments:

- a) Parks and Environment Master Plan Tracking Sheet
- b) Recreation Master Plan Goals Review

File: 01-0360-20-10

The Manager of Recreation reviewed the Master Plan goals, noting the following:

- many goals with clear outcomes are close to being completed;
- the current trend in recreation for more multi-use spaces; more drop-in sessions, less registered programs, and increased use of public open spaces, including climbing spaces and activities spaces that can be used without registration;
- a pickleball and tennis strategy is being developed;
- Recreation services operate on five-year plans, which can be amended with new goals; currently staff are planning for post-COVID conditions; and
- staff engage in regular regional meetings to discuss and coordinate operational issues and services.

Staff Updates

5. Information

- 5.1 The Director of Environment and Parks introduced the City's new General Manager of Community Services, Theresa Cochran.

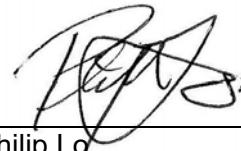
The Director of Environment and Parks noted that a project manager is currently being hired to manage Parks projects.

6. Adjournment

- 6.1 The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:00pm.



Councillor Hunter Madsen,
Chair



Philip Lo,
Committee Coordinator