



City of Port Moody

Minutes

Parks and Recreation Commission

Minutes of the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission held on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Hunter Madsen, Chair
Councillor Steve Milani, Vice-Chair
John Callaghan
John Grasty
Haven Lurbiecki (arrived at 7:04pm)
Wilhelmina Martin
David Parker
Megan Traverse

Absent

Leah Song (Regrets)
Kate Le Souef (Regrets)
Cleone Todgham (Regrets)

In Attendance

Esin Gozukara – Committee Coordinator
Jim LaCroix – Manager of Recreation
Bryan Moffatt – Urban Forestry Technician
Robbie Nall – Superintendent of Parks
Julie Pavey-Tomlinson – Director of Environment and Parks
Ding Yu – Project Manager

Also in Attendance

Amelia Needoba, Senior Urban Forester, Diamond Head Consulting (re item 4.1)

1. Call to Order

Call to Order

1.1 The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

PRC21/017

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the Sports Award be added to the agenda as item 4.4;

AND THAT the agenda order be revised to address item 4.4 before item 4.1.

Minutes

2. Adoption of Minutes

2.1 PRC21/018

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held Wednesday, October 13, 2021 be adopted.

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

The agenda order was varied to address item 4.4 at this point.

Sports Award

4.4 PRC21/019

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the Civic Awards nomination period be reviewed for opportunities to move the period away from summer months to help receive a higher volume of nominations;

AND THAT the Sports Award criteria be reviewed for opportunities to broaden the diversity of the nomination criteria.

The agenda order was resumed at this point.

Urban Forest Management Strategy

4.1 Presentation: Amelia Needoba, Diamond Head Consulting

Links:

- a) [Urban Forest Management Strategy, The City of New Westminster](#);
- b) [Urban Forest Strategy, City of Courtenay](#); and
- c) [Urban Forest Strategy, 2018 Update, Park Board Committee Meeting](#)

Amelia Needoba, Diamond Head Consulting, gave a presentation on Urban Forest Management Strategy (UFMS), and the following was noted:

- the term Urban Forest Planning was coined in Canada in the 1970s, and it is starting to reach maturity now as cities are taking it on;
- urban forestry is driven by the benefits residents can receive in urban areas, and an asset management focused approach that maximizes the benefits and minimizes the risks for the least cost;
- It is important to inventory the green assets to ensure they are receiving the appropriate attention;

- increasing amounts of research are providing empirical evidence about the wide variety of urban forest benefits, and many cities observed an increased usage of parks and trails during the pandemic;
- the benefits that trees provide changes through time, and the cost-benefit breakeven point for planting a single park tree is 56 years;
- the typical life expectancy of a tree is around 25 years with the breakeven point often not reached;
- urban forest planning levels encompass strategies, plans, and policies and regulations; and
- four main tasks have been identified for the City's UFMS, currently Task 1 (background research and review) is being worked on, and Task 2 (community engagement) is to be approved by Council.

The Committee noted the following in discussion:

- policy and regulatory tools are critical for how the City manages land and proper tools should be implemented to ensure the City's UFMS is successful;
- the information about the cost-benefit breakeven point for a single-tree could be perceived as the City not using its resources properly and the City's communication should ensure the messaging is clear;
- there may be perceived negative impacts to home values from the increased tree canopies;
- the tree losses experienced in Belcarra, Burnaby, and Port Moody from the windstorms in 2006 could be included in the historical information of the UFMS;
- the practice of planting the right varieties of trees in the right locations helps ensure there is adequate space for healthy root systems to develop and trees reach maturity;
- the City's communications about the UFMS could include information on how the policy relates to enjoying and redeveloping residential properties;
- the City could develop an immediate action plan to ensure canopy protection and enlargement while the UFMS is being developed; and
- a clear definition of canopy protection can provide guidance for the current development applications in the city.

The Director of Environment and Parks noted the following in response to Commission members' comments and questions:

- there are reports from the windstorm of 2006, along with maps of where the trees came down both in City and private property;

- the Woodland Park developer is working with staff to identify the canopy structure on site, and canopy targets are being set for the site;
- there are policies in place for canopy protection for City-owned land, and the UFMS report card will help to determine where there is room for improvement;
- the supply for the trees planned for certain areas requires advanced planning as planned tree varieties may be in high demand; and
- factors such as climate change, tree migration, tree diversity, biodiversity values, and elevation ranges are considered when determining what to plant and where.

The Urban Forestry Technician noted the following in response to Commission members' comments and questions:

- a diverse planting palette is necessary for the trees to be resilient from pests;
- the right tree for a specific area is determined by looking at factors like soil volumes, whether there are power lines or not, and existing trees; and
- trees that are native to our region may not do well in a city environment.

Amelia Needoba noted the following in response to Commission members' comments and questions:

- the City's UFMS will cover all land within the municipal boundary, and it will set targets for specific subsets of the community;
- tools that are readily available at the time of creation of UFMS can be reviewed, and new tools can be considered;
- elevation changes in the city can be something to consider from a Forest Management Perspective, and they do not necessarily pose a difficulty for the UFMS;
- it is not possible to identify native or non-native vegetation through canopy mapping, but an approximate estimate can be obtained from the City's tree inventory;
- a machine learning algorithm is used for canopy mapping to determine what is a tree and what is not, and setting a height threshold between three to five metres is recommended to avoid capturing hedges during mapping;
- it is possible to identify the forest areas that were impacted by the 2006 windstorm through the City's tree inventory;
- determining the age and class of the existing trees and canopy forecasting will be helpful when making recommendations to reduce vulnerability;

- after target setting is completed for the UFMS, regulations can be put in place for private land through a bylaw or bylaws, and community engagement can help guide the regulations;
- options such as placing big trees in setbacks of large structures, creating boulevard spaces, and big parks can be added to existing policies;
- separate sets of policy tools will be in place for different areas of the city, and natural areas will be looked at with the goal of minimizing risks like wildfires;
- oaks may be appropriate for certain areas in the city, maples are mostly overplanted and vulnerable, and most native species need less harsh conditions; and
- the Moody Centre Transit Oriented Development areas can be looked at in isolation for canopy cover estimation.

Amelia Needoba, the Urban Forestry Technician, and the Project Manager left the meeting at this point and did not return.

2021 Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report

- 4.2 Julie Pavey-Tomlinson, Director of Environment and Parks
Attachment: 2021 Annual Report – Parks and Recreation Commission

The Director of Environment and Parks provided an overview of the 2021 Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report and advised that the information about the Urban Forest Management Strategy will be included in the final draft.

PRC21/020

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the 2021 Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report be approved as amended.

2022 Work Plan Suggestions

- 4.3 Attachment: 2021 Parks and Recreation Commission Work Plan Calendar

The Commission discussed 2022 Work Plan Suggestions, and noted the following:

- the work related to the Paws in Port Moody report can be continued, and specific recommendations can be developed to ensure that residents can safely and legally spend time with their dogs;
- more information about existing City bylaws and polices related to dogs could be provided; and
- ways to activate more neighbourhood parks to attract people to parks other than Rocky Point or Old Orchard could be considered.

5. Information

Staff Updates

- 5.1 The Superintendent of Parks noted that the grass bank at the Rocky Point Park overpass has been renovated as part of the Pollinator Project, and that the staff report regarding the Paws in Port Moody report is scheduled to be presented to Council in early 2022.

The Commission commended the Park staff for how nicely the landscaping is done at City Hall, how carefully the staff cares for the landscape, and noted that many people photograph and enjoy the plants.

6. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:56pm.



Councillor Hunter Madsen,
Chair



Esin Gozukara,
Committee Coordinator