

City of Port Moody

Minutes

Parks and Recreation Commission

Minutes of the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission held on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 via Zoom.

Present

Councillor Hunter Madsen – Vice-Chair
John Callaghan
John Grasty
Kyla Knowles
Haven Lurbiecki
Wilhelmina Martin
Pedram Moshirfatemi

Absent

Councillor Amy Lubik – Chair
Connie Meisner (Regrets)
Leah Song (Regrets)
Megan Traverse (Regrets)
Cleone Todgham

In Attendance

Esin Gozukara – Committee Coordinator
Robbie Nall – Superintendent of Parks

Also In Attendance

Irwin Oostindie, Planning Director, Wild Bird Trust of BC

1. Call to Order

Call to Order

- 1.1 The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes

- 2.1 PRC22/014
Moved, seconded, and CARRIED
THAT the minutes of Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 be adopted.

3. Unfinished Business

4. New Business

Indigenous Plant Walks – Reconciliation in Parks

4.1 Presentation: Irwin Oostindie, Planning Director, Wild Bird Trust of BC

To be distributed on-table.

Irwin Oostindie, Planning Director, Wild Bird Trust of BC, gave a presentation on Indigenous Plant Walks – Reconciliation in Parks, and noted the following:

- it is important to think beyond the recent history of Port Moody when thinking about the community;
- First Nations' culture and land use practices were not recognized, and their knowledge system was not prioritized by European settlers;
- reconciliation without redress is not complete, and repairing human, cultural, and ecological relations is crucial;
- pan-nativism may prevent distinguishing communities from different territories, and recognizing their unique characteristics;
- at the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats, the educational program has gradually evolved to include knowledge of Coast Salish peoples, and a diverse group of staff started giving the talks;
- the seed blend that Surrey Parks created with the Coast Salish Plant Nursery generated a lot of interest, and the seeds help pollinators as well as promoting cultural connections; and
- the pollinator seed blend helped in elevating indigenous knowledge and became an opportunity for reconciliation.

The Commission noted that more oversight could be in place for projects done on different levels of government to ensure Indigenous peoples' rights and culture are protected.

Mr. Oostindie noted the following in response to questions from the Commission:

- the Conservation Area at Maplewood Flats often share programming and resources with community organizations;
- Noons Creek Hatchery pioneers Port Moody wide programming and events, including Indigenous plant walks;
- younger generations' understanding of biodiversity and the importance of incorporating indigenous knowledge in environmental efforts are impressive, and older adults may need to expand their knowledge base;

- making use of native plants and indigenous seed blends lead to conversations and cultural connections within the community;
- organizing around the principles of reconciliation provides more political power to civil society;
- educational videos are available through the Maplewood Flat's website, and training both students and teachers is a priority for the organization;
- co-management of parks with local First Nations require careful planning and consideration; and
- prioritization of economic development over reconciliation actions may result in losing social license of organizations and governments.

Neighbourhood Park Promotion Working Group Update

4.2 Neighbourhood Park Promotion Working Group

Attachments:

- a) Neighbourhood Park Promotion – Draft Report
- b) Social Media Feedback
- c) User Interview
- d) City of Port Moody – Neighbourhood Parks Map

The Neighbourhood Park Promotion Working Group noted the following:

- a review of parks in different areas of the city was undertaken and indicated that they would be utilized more often if they were better activated;
- a few underserved areas and areas without parks were also identified in the report;
- information regarding amenities in neighbourhood parks were received, and more detailed information is necessary for further analysis;
- auditing neighbourhood parks for access, distribution, facilities, and condition could be next step in this process;
- future developments may take advantage of the existing parks, or could be served by the developer, or the City could address the needs in those areas;
- neighbourhood park promotion and activation efforts will be finalized depending on budget and resources;
- there are over 40 parks in Port Moody, and some of them may be under-served and lacking facilities for all age groups;
- lack of washrooms, covered areas, and benches in parks have been brought up by park users; and
- creativity and careful use of resources are of key importance when making neighbourhood parks more attractive.

The Superintendent of Parks noted the following:

- the population data included in the Neighbourhood Parks map is from 2021 Census;
- an audit of downtown parks is currently being undertaken through the Parkland Acquisition Strategy Project, and it will be helpful for neighbourhood parks improvement;
- a Parks and Recreation Master Plan update will be provided to the Commission at the October 2022 meeting;
- there will be opportunities to provide input for the Parkland Acquisition Strategy Project; and
- full activation of neighbourhood parks would require consultation and further engagement.

The Commission noted the following:

- activation of neighbourhood parks is closely tied to population growth;
- some parks may require infrastructure improvements before activation;
- activating all the neighbourhood parks may not be possible due to budget limitations;
- parks serve different purposes based on user groups and their needs despite not having much infrastructure;
- adding infrastructure to parks could be expensive due to planning, engineering, and building costs;
- the Parkland Acquisition Strategy Project is underway, and the review should be done to determine the need for acquiring more parkland;
- this report in its entirety should be considered by Council as early as possible, ideally before the elections; and
- the Parkland Acquisition Strategy Project has not been completed yet, therefore the recommendations are not known.

The Vice-Chair noted that the population data could change a lot in the future and further analysis and projection could be done for a long-term vision, and neighbourhood parks map could be used for discussions with potential developers for park spaces.

PRC22/015

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the Neighbourhood Park Promotion Working Group report be received for information at the earliest opportunity.

(Voting against: Haven Lurbiecki)

Paws 2.0

4.3 Paws 2.0 Subcommittee

Attachments:

- a) Paws in Port Moody Annex 1: Approaches to Education, Compliance and Enforcement
- b) Report considered at the September 28, 2021 Council meeting - Paws in Port Moody

Paws 2.0 Subcommittee provided an update, and noted the following:

- this annex is focused on the issue of enforcement of animal control bylaws;
- bylaw officers may not have the resources to deal with the ongoing problems immediately;
- to assist with these challenges, a campaign could be organized to increase awareness in the community;
- some examples of educational campaigns, enforcement, and strategies from different cities are provided in the report; and
- a wholesome strategy should be developed to address dog related issues.

PRC22/016

Moved, seconded, and CARRIED

THAT the Paws in Port Moody Annex 1: Approaches to Education, Compliance, and Enforcement report be received for information.

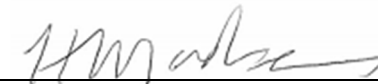
5. Information

Staff Updates

- 5.1 The Superintendent of Parks noted that the Kyle Centre Pop Up Park is scheduled to open in July 2022, with exciting amenities for residents to enjoy.

6. Adjournment

- 6.1 The Vice-Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:51pm.



Councillor Hunter Madsen,
Vice-Chair



Esin Gozukara,
Committee Coordinator