

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

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Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Council for the District of North Vancouver held at 5:03 p.m. on Monday, February 24, 2015 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Present: Mayor R. Walton
Councillor M. Bond
Councillor J. Hanson (5:09 pm)
Councillor R. Hicks
Councillor D. MacKay-Dunn (5:10 pm)
Councillor L. Muri

Absent: Councillor R. Bassam

Staff: Mr. D. Stuart, Chief Administration Officer
Mr. B. Bydwell, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits
Ms. N. Deveaux, General Manager – Finance & Technology
Ms. C. Grant, General Manager – Corporate Services
Mr. G. Joyce, General Manager – Engineering, Parks & Facilities
Mr. L. Jensen, Manager Engineering Operations
Ms. S. Rogers, Manager – Parks
Ms. M. Wellman, Manager – Strategic Communication & Community Relations
Ms. J. Pavey, Section Manager – Environmental Sustainability
Ms. K. O'Malley, Assistant Manager – Waste Reduction
Ms. L. Brick, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Mr. A. Caldwell, Truck Driver – Engineering Operations
Mr. G. Knell, Trail and Habitat Coordinator
Mr. D. Martin, Truck Driver – Engineering Operations
Mr. A. Robinson, Senior Park Ranger
Ms. S. Vukelic, Confidential Council Clerk

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1. February 24, 2015 Committee of the Whole Agenda

MOVED by Councillor MURI

SECONDED by Councillor BOND

THAT the agenda for the February 24, 2015 Committee of the Whole be adopted as circulated, including the addition of any items listed in the agenda addendum.

CARRIED

Absent from Vote: Councillors HANSON and MACKAY-DUNN

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Nil

3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OR STAFF

3.1. Fromme Mountain – Trails Environmental Assessment Draft Report and Fromme Mountain Recreational and Trail Update File No.

Ms. Susan Rogers, Manager – Parks, reported on the recommendations that have been implemented based on the Fromme Mountain trail studies that have been conducted in the past.

She noted that there are currently 62 km of marked trail within the Fromme Mountain Trail network.

Councillor HANSON arrived at this point in the proceedings. (5:09 pm)

Councillor MACKAY-DUNN arrived at this point in the proceedings. (5:10 pm)

Ms. Rogers advised that the following recommendations have been implemented based on the Trail Classification Recommendations study from 2009:

- Trail management has been strengthened by the District's partnerships with various inter jurisdictional governments and the North Shore Mountain Bike Association;
- Forest enhancement and habitat planting projects have been implemented;
- Mountain View Park has been created which provides mountain bikers a new exit route as well as new fencing to protect the wetland areas;
- New parking and drop off area;
- Unauthorized trails have been, and are currently being, decommissioned; and,
- New signage, information, wayfinding and regulations have been posted on trails.

Ms. Julie Pavey, Section Manager – Environmental Sustainability, explained that that the District has implemented an Adaptive Management Plan that will help to evaluate, design and implement the changes necessary for improving the trails.

She noted that a significant challenge is the balance between the environmental impacts of the trails and the significant trail use that is increasing.

Mr. Mike Coulthard, Diamond Head Consulting Ltd., reported on the environmental assessment study conducted.

The study identifies:

- The trails that need to be managed, consolidated or closed;
- The priority of trail maintenance and upgrades;
- Provides best management practices for trail construction (BMP's);
- Trail impacts from the usage and pressures of the increased ridership; and,
- Environmental impacts on the trails.

Mr. Coulthard recommends the following upgrades:

- Creek crossings should be wider and designed to prevent people and dogs from accessing the creek beds;
- Permitting requirements need to be updated;
- Trails with riparian zones are a priority for upgrading;
- Ongoing adaptive management;
- Long-term strategic approach;
- Funding and staff resources for implementation; and
- Continue cooperation with the NSMBA and trail volunteers.

He noted that the top priorities include upgrading the crossings of high-value creeks, trails within 30m of a significant creek and management of unauthorised trails.

Ms. Rogers reported on the key trail projects that are scheduled for 2015 and advised that staff will report back on the implementation plan after a final environmental assessment report is completed.

Council discussion ensued and the following suggestions were noted:

- A Deliberative Dialogue session should be conducted with key stakeholders;
- Better signage on the trails;
- Staff and volunteers work to protect the environment;
- The next trail study should include the impacts of the trail use on parking and traffic in the area;
- District staff and volunteers to use the wood from trees that have fallen in the forest to help build trails;
- All trail users should be included in the maintenance of the trails;
- The District to provide more funding to implement the study's finding and for monitoring of the trails;
- A reporting system for users to inform the District of unauthorized trails; and,
- Concern was expressed regarding unauthorized trails and night riders, impact on the wild life in area.

Staff advised that the Fromme Mountain study was primarily focused on mountain bikers who use the trail.

Mr. Coulthard could not confirm the impact of a mountain biker's light on wildlife that reside on the trail.

Staff advised that the trails need to be managed as a recreation asset with consideration being given to key stakeholders who use the trail.

Staff noted that a Deliberate Dialogue event could be conducted; however, it would need to focus on the trail as a recreational asset, from an environmental prospective and the impacts around the adjoining communities.

Council recessed at 6:07 pm and reconvened at 6:14 pm.

Councillor MACKAY-DUNN left the meeting at 6:15 pm and returned at 6:25 pm.

3.2. Single Family Organics and Garbage Collection File No. 11.5400.01/000.000

Report: Len Jensen, Manager – Engineering Operations

Mr. Len Jenson, Manager – Engineering Operations, explained the District's garbage collection goals that are based on service level, environmental considerations and cost to residents. He noted that a balance needs to be achieved among all the goals before a decision can be reached.

He provided background information regarding the outcome of resident surveys. He noted that most residents are happy with their collection service and most residents prefer wheeled carts.

He further explained that there is public confusion in regards to the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan that has been established by Metro Vancouver.

Kathleen O'mailly, Assistant Manager – Waste Reduction, advised that the tri-municipal recycling contract has been executed with Smithrite and will start on July 1st, 2015.

Mr. Jensen advised that most municipalities are seeing changes in their solid waste procedures. He noted that most municipalities are shifting to containers, bi-weekly garbage pick-up and providing a variety of recyclable options.

He recommended that Council provide each single family with a dedicated locking 240 litre wheeled cart for curb side organics and continue to allow residents to put out an additional three yard - waste items. He noted that the cost of supplying a solid waste bin to each household would cost the District \$2.5 million. There is funding available for the carts in the Solid Waste reserve and projected revenue from MMBC.

Mr. Jensen explained the positive attributes of supplying residents with a unified container:

- Provides residents with clarity and simplicity regarding curbside containers;
- Proposed wheeled cart is preferred among residents;
- Reduces heavy lifting of heavy organics;
- Reduces wildlife conflicts as the containers are bear and wildlife resistant;
- Reduction in garbage volumes can be met in the future with changes to the service level; and,
- Initial cost of the containers and operating costs to maintain the bins will be offset by MMBC.

He advised that a tender would be issued for a supplier; however, the bins will take approximately six months to arrive from the date of placing the order.

He suggested that the District supply each household with two 240 litre containers that would be colour coded to differentiate between green waste and solid waste. It was noted that the cost to supply each household with two bins would cost \$2 million.

Council expressed concern regarding the size of the 240 litre container.

Mr. Jensen advised that one size of bin will not fit all households' needs.

He advised 360 litre bins are not serviceable anymore.

He advised that bi-weekly pick-up would save the District \$10-\$15 per household a year and it also helps the District reach its regional diversion goals.

Council expressed concern regarding the environmental factor of the residential garbage bins that are no longer in use.

Council expressed concerned with the contamination of the garbage with automated bins.

Mr. Jensen advised that the proposed organics and garbage collection bins are a base service offered to residents. Residents have an option of bringing excess green waste and garbage to the District's transfer station.

Councillor HICKS left the meeting at 6:57 pm and returned at 6:58 pm.

The Mayor asked for input from the District's Solid Waste Department staff.

Staff suggested the following:

- The District repurpose the 360 litre carts for green waste;
- That the 240 litre cart is too small for green waste for larger properties;
- The District to provide smaller bins to smaller families;
- Residents should purchase their own garbage and green waste carts; and,
- The District provide weekly garbage pick-up of 77 litre bins.

Staff noted the following:

- Staff will tag any garbage cans that are not unlocked by the residents; and,
- Bi-weekly garbage pick-up is significantly heavier.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Hillier commented on:

- Commented that the bins for garbage should be smaller as recycling becomes more popular in households.

Mr. Kost commented on:

- Requested that the public should have input on the garbage bin type and size; and,
- Recommended compostable bags for storing green waste.

Staff advised that the compostable bags are not acceptable because the incinerator that processes the biodegradables cannot accommodate the material that the bag is made of.

5. RISE AND REPORT

MOVED by Councillor HANSON

SECONDED by Councillor BOND

THAT the February 24, 2015 Committee of the Whole rise and report.

CARRIED
(7:09 pm)

Mayor

Municipal Clerk