

**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 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2015 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Present:** Mayor R. Walton  
Councillor R. Bassam  
Councillor M. Bond  
Councillor J. Hanson  
Councillor R. Hicks  
Councillor D. MacKay-Dunn  
Councillor L. Muri

**Staff:** Mr. D. Stuart, Chief Administrative 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. J. Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services  
Ms. S. Rogers, Manager – Parks  
Ms. M. Welman, Manager – Strategic Communication & Community Relations  
Ms. L. Brick, Deputy Municipal Clerk  
Ms. J. Pavey, Section Manager – Environment Sustainability  
Ms. S. Dale, Confidential Council Clerk  
Mr. R. Nevill, Parks Field Arborist

**Also in**

**Attendance:** Ms. Fiona Steal, Diamond Head Consulting Ltd.

**1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**1.1. March 30, 2015 Committee of the Whole Agenda**

**MOVED by Councillor MURI**

**SECONDED by Councillor BOND**

THAT the agenda for the March 30, 2015 Committee of the Whole be adopted as circulated, including the addition of any items listed in the agenda addendum.

**CARRIED**

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**2.1. February 23, 2015 Committee of the Whole**

**MOVED by Councillor MURI**

**SECONDED by Councillor MACKAY-DUNN**

THAT the minutes of the February 23, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**2.2. February 24, 2015 Committee of the Whole**

**MOVED by Councillor MURI**  
**SECONDED by Councillor MACKAY-DUNN**

THAT the minutes of the February 24, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OR STAFF**

**3.1. DNV Invasive Plant Management Strategy – DRAFT (2015)**

File No.

Ms. Susan Rogers, Manager - Parks, provided an update on the draft Invasive Plant Management Strategy. Ms. Rogers advised that the Strategy is intended to provide a comprehensive framework to guide the District's management, prevention, treatment and control of harmful invasive plants on public and private land, consistent with best management practices at both the regional and international level.

Mr. Ralph Nevill, Parks Field Arborist, noted that there are over two dozen species of non-native invasive plants which have become established in the District of North Vancouver and require management as they have the potential to cause significant social, ecological and economic impacts. Mr. Nevill advised that once established invasive plants are challenging and costly to control. In response, the Strategy aims to provide a framework and policy for strategic management of invasive plants in the District to meet the following five goals:

- Effectively communicate why invasive plants are a problem;
- Prevent new invasive plants from establishing and spreading;
- Detect where invasive plants are growing early and accurately;
- Control invasive plants safely and effectively; and,
- Restore natural habitat affected by invasive plants.

Mr. Nevill reported that in July 2011 Giant Hogweed and Knotweed were added to the provincial *Weed Control Act* and were officially designated as noxious weeds. The District of North Vancouver is now legally required to manage those species on District lands. With this responsibility, the District expanded its treatment options to include limited application of chemical herbicide treatments for Hogweed and Knotweed and to be used only as a last resort for high risk species when other methods are proven ineffective. Guidelines for work with herbicides, including signage, are set forth by the strictly regulated *BC Integrated Pest Management Act*.

Ms. Julie Pavey, Section Manager – Environment Sustainability, acknowledged that herbicides use for Knotweed and Hogweed have been identified as a concern for some community members. The draft Strategy provides direction and best management practices with the intent of finding a balance between values of environmental preservation of native species and community values, needs and interests. Ms. Pavey noted that the District will be developing a communications strategy to ensure that residents are advised in advance of the sites receiving chemical herbicides and to provide a better understanding of the strategy that has led to the decision to employ herbicide treatments, within specific guidelines and best management practices.

Ms. Pavey advised that next steps include:

- An Invasive Plant Management Strategy public workshop;
- A communications strategy on the District's website with an opportunity for the public to comment;
- A finalized document by the summer of 2015; and,
- Establish a five year action and implementation strategy to include funding.

Council commented on the draft Invasive Plant Management Strategy as follows:

- Expressed concern with community bushes being sprayed with herbicides and pesticides;
- Commented on the importance of educating the community;
- Questioned how long herbicides and pesticides last for;
- Questioned how the District will manage invasive plants on private property;
- Suggested developing an online tool providing information to the public on where treatments are happening;
- Commented on the importance of signage;
- Suggested meeting with residents prior to the treatment season;
- Emphasized the importance of responsible spraying;
- Questioned if Vancouver Coastal Health has expressed concerns outside the Provincial Guidelines and Regulations;
- Suggested sending a motion to UBCM to ban the sale of invasive plants; and,
- Questioned if less noxious weeds are able to be disposed of in the green waste system.

Council suggested that staff meet with Vancouver Coastal Health and other relevant stakeholders to further investigate concerns and challenges.

**MOVED by Councillor MURI**

**SECONDED by Councillor MACKAY-DUNN**

THAT the March 19, 2015 joint memo of the Parks Field Arborist, Parks Manager and Section Manager – Environment Sustainability entitled DNV Invasive Plant Management Strategy – DRAFT (2015) be received for information.

**CARRIED**

#### **4. PUBLIC INPUT**

Ms. Janice Wilson:

- Suggested that the District could spray earlier in the year when blackberries are not in season.

Mr. Kevin Volk:

- Expressed concern that spraying may cause cancer; and,
- Stated that this is a serious issue that needs more research.

Mr. Corrie Kost:

- Commented that climate change may affect the growth of invasive plants in the future; and,
- Suggested providing residents will tools to treat less noxious weeds.

#### **5. RISE AND REPORT**

**MOVED by Councillor MURI**

**SECONDED by Councillor BOND**

THAT the March 30, 2015 Committee of the Whole rise and report.

**CARRIED**  
(6:55 pm)

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Mayor

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Municipal Clerk