

DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Minutes of the Council Workshop of the Council for the District of North Vancouver held at 5:05 p.m. on Monday, January 19, 2016 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 (5:23 pm)
Councillor L. Muri

Absent: Councillor D. MacKay-Dunn

Staff: Mr. D. Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer
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
Mr. D. Rose, Section Manager – Parks Planning & Development
Ms. C. Archer, Confidential Council Clerk

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1. January 19, 2016 Council Workshop Agenda

MOVED by Councillor MURI

SECONDED by Councillor BASSAM

THAT the agenda for the January 19, 2016 Council Workshop be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Nil

3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OR STAFF

3.1. Parks Department Presentation File No 13.6660.01/000.000

3.1.1. District Sports Field Program Update

Ms. Susan Rogers, Manager – Parks, reported that the 2010 Sportsfield Needs Assessment identified a need for additional artificial turf fields (ATF) in the District to increase playable hours and allow for year-round use to accommodate growing demand. Since publication of the report, an ATF field has been added at Windsor Secondary School, in partnership with the North Vancouver School District.

Ms. Rogers reported that playable hours at Inter River Park have been very low and activities will be transferred from Seylynn Park field to Inter River Park. The south grass field at Inter River Park requires renovation due to significant settling. Conversion to ATF would increase the current usage from 519 to approximately 3,388 hours and open the field to more uses. The existing washroom facilities are in poor condition.

Ms. Rogers presented three options for Inter River Park field renovations, noting that field lighting and replacement of the existing washroom will be required for all three options:

- Option A is one ATF field and a flexible space for practice, warm-up and other uses;
 - Internal road reconfiguration, minor tree removal and rerouting of existing utilities would be required;
 - This option does not accommodate softball or baseball; and,
 - The preliminary cost estimate is \$4-5 million.
- Option B is one ATF field with an overlapping softball/baseball diamond;
 - Most sports would be accommodated in this configuration;
 - Includes flexible spaces for practice and warm-up;
 - Minor tree removal and rerouting of existing utilities would be required; and,
 - The preliminary cost estimate is \$5-6 million.
- Option C is two full ATF fields;
 - This option does not accommodate softball or baseball;
 - Rerouting of roads, extensive rerouting of utilities and significant tree loss would be required;
 - This option accommodates development of the site as a tournament centre; and,
 - The preliminary cost estimate is \$7-8 million.

Ms. Rogers advised that the Parks Department met with user groups and received positive feedback. The Parks Department recommendation is to continue to work with user groups to determine the preferred option and seek funding for detailed design and construction costs.

Councillor HICKS arrived at this point in the proceedings.

Council discussion ensued and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- The need for more playable hours is urgent as demand is high and growing;
- Support was expressed for Option C;
- A field house will be required to use the site as a tournament centre;
- Facilities such as bike lockers, a bike wash, showers and meeting space could be included in renovations;
- Requested that the environmental assessment of the green space be provided to Council early on in the process to address concerns about the possible impacts of encroachment;

- Requested a traffic study and noted there are existing traffic issues for recreational users exiting parking areas;
- Noted that the park road could be connected to St. Denis Avenue;
- Road access to Inter River Park could be affected by the widening of the Lynn Creek Bridge;
- Future plans for the Fire Training Centre may impact park access;
- Capilano University would like access to any new Inter River Park fields and has asked if the District would consider selling District-owned fields located at Capilano University for development into university housing;
- The double field will have fewer multi-use opportunities;
- Questioned if Inter River Park would be a good staging area for mountain biking as it is very congested; suggested creating a staging area higher up near the top of Lillooet Road;
- Field users pay more than \$2 million a year and sports clubs have made additional contributions to help cover capital and operating costs;
- Future investment from the business community is likely;
- Requested geotechnical work to determine if the old fields are stable and useable; and,
- Public consultation is required before moving forward.

Staff sought direction on the possibility of adding lighting for the top five grass fields. Ms. Rogers reported that geotechnical consultants advised against adding lighting fifteen to twenty years ago; however, conditions may have changed with significant settling over that time and advancements in technology.

Staff advised that the next steps to be undertaken would be examining traffic, lighting, completing geotechnical work and creating a plan, followed by detailed studies and construction could commence in 2017

Ms. Rogers reported on the possible conversion of all-weather gravel fields to ATF fields to expand playable hours at a relatively low cost, noting the fields are currently underused. These fields are good candidates for conversion as they are flat and already have lighting in place.

Four sites are being considered for conversion: Kirkstone, Myrtle, Delbrook and Kilmer Parks. Kirkstone was selected as the first site for a feasibility review, which could be undertaken quickly for less than \$10,000. The selection was based on the park's location in the Lynn Valley Town Centre, existing lighting, washrooms, a good buffer between the field and neighbouring homes and meeting FIFA size requirements for a practice field. The field is currently underused at around 300 hours per year.

Council expressed concern about the park's configuration, existing drainage issues and if fencing off fields would affect free play.

Ms. Rogers reported that a user group has asked and will pay for a feasibility review to convert the lacrosse box at William Griffin to a warm up ATF area. Staff have concerns as the box has drainage issues and is frequently vandalized due to its isolated location. In response to question from Council, staff advised minor lacrosse currently uses the lacrosse box for practice and it is otherwise only used for pickup hockey.

Councillor HICKS left the meeting at 6:21 pm and returned at 6:23 pm.

The meeting recessed at 6:22 pm and reconvened at 6:28 pm.

3.1.2. Pay Parking in Parks – Fromme Mountain

Ms. Susan Rogers, Manager- Parks, reported that this item is being brought forward from the 2015 Summer Park Report presented at the November 9, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Ms. Rogers noted that the 2015 summer survey found that fifty percent of the vehicles using the new Fromme Mountain parking lot were not from the North Shore. Staff are reviewing possible ways to recover capital costs, including the possibility of a pay parking trial in 2016. Staff are concerned that users may park on the street to avoid pay parking.

An average of 9,000 vehicles per month have used the new Fromme Mountain parking lot since it opened in July 2015. Use peaked between July and September with an average of 12,000 vehicles per month. Spaces turned over four to five times a day during that period.

Ms. Rogers reported that Parks staff have reviewed parking models used by other parks, including Stanley Park, Sooke Potholes Park in the Capital Regional District, Grouse Mountain, Metro Vancouver and BC Parks.

Parks staff are considering different criteria for a possible pay parking trial such as time limits, seasonal and resident vs non-resident rates. It was noted that equipment could be leased rather than purchased to reduce the cost of a trial.

Ms. Rogers advised that the annual projected income is estimated at \$300,000 based on the traffic counts and assuming one hundred percent utilization of the parking lot.

Next steps include exploring options with vendors, determine rates, review counts, estimate potential recovery costs and review bylaw enforcement capacity.

Council discussion ensued and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- Pay parking is becoming more common in other municipalities, including the City of North Vancouver;
- Concern that pay parking will encourage street parking;

- Fairness in recovering costs and generating revenues;
- Possible benefits and barriers created by pay parking;
- Defining the principles behind a pay parking strategy;
- If there is no new cost or asset, park users may object to paying for parking, as was the case in Cates Park;
- Noted current problems finding parking in the summer in popular parks and recreation areas such as Deep Cove;
- High turnover is desirable so users will be able to find parking at different times of the day;
- All-day and season rates would not create turnover;
- Support was expressed for three to four hour time limits;
- Concern was expressed about enforcement capacity and collection costs; and,
- The possibility of different rates for District residents.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

4.1 Mr. Stuart Ince, North Vancouver Football Club President:

- Expressed support for Option C for the Inter River sportsfield renovation;
- Advised that soccer is a growing sport in North Vancouver with eight to nine thousand current players in the North Vancouver Football Club; and,
- Expressed support for creating a tournament facility.

4.2 Mr. Tony Pascuzzi, North Vancouver Football Club:

- Expressed support for Option C for the Inter River sportsfield renovation; and,
- Noted that volunteers and attending family members increase the number of field users when counted along with the players.

4.3 Mr. Corrie Kost, 2800 Block Colwood Drive:

- Expressed concern about the possibility of the sale of District lands; and,
- Commented on the community consultation process.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councillor MURI

SECONDED by Councillor BASSAM

THAT the January 19, 2016 Council Workshop be adjourned.

CARRIED
(7:23 pm)

Mayor

James Godwin

Municipal Clerk