

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER
PUBLIC MEETING**

Pigeon Regulation Bylaw

REPORT of the Public Meeting held on Monday, April 19, 2021 commencing at 5:02 p.m. The meeting was held virtually with participants appearing via video and telephone conference.

Present: Mayor M. Little
Councillor J. Back
Councillor M. Bond
Councillor M. Curren
Councillor J. Hanson

Absent: Councillor B. Forbes
Councillor L. Muri

Staff: Mr. D. Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer
Mr. G. Joyce, General Manager – Engineering, Parks & Facilities
Mr. D. Milburn, General Manager – Planning, Properties & Permits
Ms. S. Walker, General Manager – Corporate Services
Ms. C. Walker, Chief Bylaw Officer
Mr. J. Gordon, Manager – Administrative Services
Ms. G. Lanz, Deputy Municipal Clerk
Ms. S. Archer, Confidential Council Clerk
Mr. J. Cairns, Community Planner
Ms. S. Ferguson, Committee Clerk

1. OPENING BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Little welcomed everyone and advised that the purpose of the Public Meeting was to give Council the opportunity to hear the community's views on the regulation of pigeons.

He further noted that this Public Meeting is being convened virtually, in accordance with Ministerial Order M192.

All participants, including Council, staff, signed up speakers and observers are doing so by electronic means.

Public participation in this meeting is being accommodated by speakers having signed up in advance, as stated in the Notice of Meeting, as well as observers being provided the Zoom meeting information on the DNV website and in the Notice of Meeting. In addition, those observing who did not sign up in advance to speak but decide to do so once the meeting is underway, may dial-in via telephone to speak. Information on how to do this will be shared over Zoom once we have exhausted the speakers list of first time speakers.

The electronic means being employed for this meeting allow for effective two-way audio communications while those who have signed up in advance will also receive video of the meeting via the Zoom software.

As always, written submissions will be received by the Municipal Clerk, on behalf of, and shared with, Council, at any time. These may be submitted to input@dnv.org

Therefore, in this manner, all persons will be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard and to present written submissions.

Mayor Little stated that:

- We will first go through the established speakers list. At the end of the speakers list, the Chair may call for any other speakers not on the speakers list – these are the dial-in speakers if any;
- You will have 5 minutes to address Council for a first time. Begin your remarks to Council by stating your name and approximate street address;
- After everyone who wishes to speak has spoken once, speakers will then be allowed one additional five minute opportunity;
- Any additional presentations will only be allowed at the discretion of the Chair;
- Please do not repeat information from your previous presentations and ensure your comments remain focussed on the bylaw under consideration this evening;
- If you have provided a written submission there is no need to read it as it will have already been seen by Council. You may summarize or briefly reiterate the highlights of your submission but ensure your comments pertain to the bylaw under consideration at this Meeting;
- Council is here to listen to the public, not to debate the merits of the bylaw. Council may ask clarifying questions;
- The Clerk has a binder containing documents and submissions related to the bylaw which Council has received and which you are welcome to review. This is available online at [DNV.org/agenda](https://dnv.org/agenda);
- Everyone at the meeting will be provided an opportunity to speak; and,
- This meeting is being streamed live over the internet and recorded in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

3. PRESENTATION BY STAFF

Mr. Dan Milburn, General Manager – Planning, Properties and Permits, provided an overview of Pigeon Regulation Bylaw 8470, 2021, advising that:

- Council directed staff to prepare a new bylaw to regulate the keeping of pigeons in the fall of 2020;
- Staff have consulted with stakeholders and reviewed keeping of pigeons regulatory bylaws from other jurisdictions;
- The bylaw aligns with the intent of the previous Keeping of Pigeons Bylaw 4078, 1971, while modernizing the language and updating the fines for violations; and,
- Bylaw 8470 incorporates best practices regarding animal welfare, standards for enclosures, a limit on the number of animals kept, pest control, and consistency with other bylaws and regulations.

4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

5.1. Mr. Corrie Kost, 2800 Block Colwood Drive:

- Spoke in opposition of the proposed bylaw;
- Compared the fine amounts for violations of Bylaw 8470 to those for Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw 8211;
- Commented regarding the increased health hazards to very young children and older persons with compromised immune systems;
- Expressed concern regarding the welfare of racing pigeons; and,
- Noted that other municipalities have banned the keeping of pigeons.

5.2. Ms. Lisa Kershaw:

- Spoke in support of the bylaw;
- Advised that she lives next door to a resident who keeps pigeons;
- Stated that she has experienced no negative impacts from her neighbour's pigeons, including noise, smell, pests or additional wildlife;
- Advised that she is not aware of anyone in her neighbourhood with complaints about the pigeons;
- Commended the District on its environmental stewardship; and,
- Recommended allowing more than 20 pigeons under the bylaw due to losses of livestock to predators.

5.3. Mr. Peter Teevan:

- Commented on the health hazards of bird feces, particularly for those with compromised immune systems;
- Queried who would be responsible for removing feces on a neighbouring property and if the District would become involved; and,
- Noted that pigeons are listed as pests on the Health Canada website.

5.4. Mr. Peter Teevan, SPEAKING A SECOND TIME:

- Commented on the pigeon keeper whose case was highlighted in the media during and after consideration of the District's Pigeon Prohibition Bylaw;
- Noted that the keeper did not have a permit and that the pigeons were photographed on a neighbour's property;
- Opined that District staff put the onus of investigation on the complainant;
- Queried how District staff plan to enforce the new bylaw and investigate complaints;
- Noted that there is more than one pigeon keeper in the District;
- Queried what "control" means as defined by the bylaw;
- Commented regarding pigeon racing and the inclusion of a pigeon racing association as a consulted stakeholder;
- Recommended differentiating between pigeon racing and pigeon keeping in the bylaw; and,
- Commented on the public input process.

5.5. Mr. Corrie Kost, SPEAKING A SECOND TIME:

- Noted that some municipalities that allow pigeon keeping have banned pigeon racing;

- Queried whether pigeon keeping permits were issued in the past and if they are transferable with the owner to a to different property;
- Recommended notifying neighbours of permit applications; and,
- Further commented on the welfare of racing pigeons.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that they are aware of three properties where pigeons are kept in the District.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that permits are assigned to the specific property, not the individual pigeon keeper.

6. COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED by Councillor BACK

SECONDED by Councillor HANSON

THAT the April 19, 2021 Public Meeting is closed;

AND THAT "Pigeon Regulation Bylaw 8470, 2021" is returned to Council for further consideration.

CARRIED
(5:44 p.m.)

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



for Confidential Council Clerk