



Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee

Date: Tuesday, November 27, 2001
Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall
Present: Councillor Harold Steves, Chair
Councillor Linda Barnes, Vice-Chair
Councillor Lyn Greenhill
Councillor Sue Halsey-Brandt
Councillor Bill McNulty
Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. It was moved and seconded
That the minutes of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee held on Tuesday, August 28, 2001, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

At this point the Chair requested that the order of the agenda be varied in order that the delegation representing the Friends of Garry Point be heard last.

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION

2. **BIKE TERRAIN PARK PILOT PROJECT**
(Report: November 15/01, File No.: 7200-01) (REDMS No. 559063, 559151)

The Manager, Parks Administration and Programs, Mike Redpath, reviewed the report.

Ms. Denise Dale, representing community members in support of a bike park in the Steveston area, introduced Aaron Dale, Michael Smith, Jordan Mensing and Constable Harrison to the Committee.

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Aaron Dale said that there were a number of riders that were not happy with the current options. At one particular venue with one bike jump there were, at times, up to 35 riders in attendance. Mr. Dale said that Steveston business owners were in favour of a bike park location and that some local business owners have expressed a possible interest in assisting in the sponsorship of the project. At two meetings that were recently held 50 community members, including parents, riders and the RCMP, had been in attendance. Riders and parents have also met with City staff to identify option and design details.

Michael Smith, an avid rider for many years, provided a written submission which is attached as Schedule 1.

Jordan Mensing provided the information that a bike park would decongest City streets and the skateboard park, allow riders to improve their skills and have fun, and possibly attain individual sponsorships.

Denise Dale then introduced Mr. Jack Evans, who was leading the fundraising efforts on behalf of the project.

Mr. Evans said that the majority of the costs, including the jumps, could be attained through corporate donations, gifts, service clubs, kids and their parents. The preliminary figures indicated that the project was fairly self sufficient with only the location and land being required from the City.

Discussion then ensued which included the following information:

- (i) a future bike terrain or skateboard site was not included in the Steveston Park plan. A two year process would be involved if the Steveston Park plan were to be revisited.
- (ii) the recently developed skateboard park was the test of City liability; restrictions would be required on the trestles used, etc.

It was moved and second

That:

- (1) ***staff bring forward, in consultation with the Steveston Bike Group, a preliminary design with detailed cost estimates, including opportunities for sponsorship, for the development of a bike terrain park as a two year pilot project at the south foot of No. 2 Road in January 2002; and***
- (2) ***staff consult with the Steveston community regarding the possibility of a future bike park being located within Steveston Park.***

Prior to the question being called the Committee members expressed their appreciation of the proactive involvement of the young community members who had participated in the project and the presentation. The question was then called and it was **CARRIED**.

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FINANCE & CORPORATE SERVICES DIVISION

3. PUBLIC PARKS AND SCHOOL GROUNDS REGULATION BYLAW NO. 7310

(Report: November 21/01, File No.: 8060-20-7130) (REDMS No. 562118, 506123)

The City Clerk, J. Richard McKenna, reviewed the report.

It was moved and seconded

That Public Parks and School Grounds Regulation Bylaw No. 7310 be introduced and given first, second and third readings.

CARRIED

4. MANAGER'S REPORT

The Chair distributed information pertaining to the Britannia Heritage Shipyard – Dock Reconstruction, a copy of which is on file in the City Clerks Office, to the Committee. The General Manager, Engineering and Public Works, Jeff Day, the General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture, Cathy Volkering Carlile, and the Manager, Facilities Planning and Construction, David Naysmith were present to provide additional information to the memorandum to Council, also on file in the City Clerks Office, prepared by David Naysmith.

Mr. Day said that, subsequent to the completion of the design process, recent discussions with the consultants, including the geotechnical consultant, had determined that the wharf structure would not survive additional dredging in front of the dock and that this would limit the uses of the dock. Mr. Day suggested that staff prepare a review of the costs of changing the scope of work that would be involved in providing the necessary draft for large vessels and that a report would be brought to the next Committee meeting.

It was moved and seconded

That options be brought forward to modify the scope of the repair of the Britannia Shipyard dock to allow boats to moor at that location.

CARRIED

DELEGATIONS

Sally Chow, representing the Friends of Garry Point, to present a proposal for a pilot project which would designate an area of the park as an off-leash area for dogs during the months of December, January and February.

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In the absence of Sally Chow, Ms. Suzy Gelin, #6 – 10251 Steveston Highway, spoke on behalf of the group and made a power point presentation to the Committee. A copy of the presentation is attached as Schedule 2 and forms a part of these minutes.

At the end of the presentation Ms. Chow was present to provide additional background on, and objectives of, the group.

A discussion then ensued on various aspects of the proposal which included the concerns of waste management and the affect on other park use(r)s.

A petition was submitted by the Friends of Garry Point which contains signatures of support for the pilot project. The petition is on file in the City Clerks Office. Councillor Steves distributed a copy of a memorandum, a copy of which is on file in the City Clerks Office, that identified the number and types of park users and also the number of dogs on and off leash during a one hour period on the morning of Friday, November 23.

It was moved and seconded

That:

- (1) the matter be referred to staff for development of a pilot project which would designate a portion of Garry Point Park as an off leash area for dogs during the months of December, January and February. Contingent within the project would be a commitment by the Friends of Garry Point that the group would provide adequate supervision of the area which would include ensuring that owners clean up after their pets.***
- (2) staff provide an analysis of what hours of off-leash use would best suit the pilot project.***

Prior to the question being called a brief discussion ensued on the amount of time that would be required for staff to prepare a report to Committee on the matter. Mr. Redpath and Ms. Carlile provided the information that, as public consultation would be involved, the earliest report date would be in January, however, an update could be provided in December. The question was then called and it was **CARRIED**.

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ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn (5:35 p.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the
Minutes of the meeting of the Parks,
Recreation & Cultural Services
Committee of the Council of the City of
Richmond held on Tuesday,
November 27, 2001.

Councillor Harold Steves
Chair

Deborah MacLennan
Administrative Assistant

- 1.-SIZE 240X180 MORE IS BETTER LESS IS STILL FINE
- 2.-COST, LIABILITY ASSUMED BY CITY, DIRT APPROX. 10-15 DUMP TRUCK LOADS, BINFORD EXCAVATION
- 3.-JUMPS – RHYTHM SECTION-
EXPLANATION OF JUMPS AND UTILIZATION OF FACILITY
- 4.-LAYOUT,
ADVANCED, INTERMEDIATE, BEGINNER
- 5.-IF IN STEVESTON AREA BRINGS BUSINESS TO LOCAL MERCHANTS
- 6.-RIDERS FROM 8-80
- 7.-SITES CROWN ZELLERBACH, NORTH END OF #2 RD BY COMMUNITY GARDENS, BEHIND STEVESTON COMM, POLICE STATION AND BASEBALL DIAMOND
- 8.-PUBLIC HUMILIATION OF RIDERS, SAME AS SKETBOARDERS
- 9.- WILL DECONGEST SKATE PARK AND STREETS
10. -HELP RIDERS FIND TALENT, HONE TALENT AND POSSIBLY GET SPONSORSHIP



Friends of Garry Point

A Presentation for:

Parks & Recreation Committee
City of Richmond

November 27th, 2001

November 27, 2001

Parks & Recreation Committee
City of Richmond



Dear Committee Members:

Here is a brief outline of the proposal we plan to present on Tuesday November 27th, 2001 at the Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting.

We have also enclosed copies of our Power Point presentation from today's meeting and the list of our initial Dog Watch Advisory Committee ready to go to work should the pilot project be approved.

DELEGATION:

The Friends of Garry Point- an ad-hoc committee assembled for the purpose of finding a compromise solution that enables dogs to be exercised off-leash at Garry Point. We plan to suggest both short-term and long-term options. We also plan to be an ongoing monitoring, self-policing body of responsible dog owners. This will be modeled on the City of Vancouver's successful Dog Watch Program.

Note: The Friends of Garry Point is founded by Sally Chow, a non-dog owner who seeks to find an equitable, peaceful solution that allows all stakeholders to enjoy Garry Point.

RATIONALE:

- West Richmond residents desperately need an off-leash area
- Conflicts and tensions are mounting, particularly at Garry Point. SPCA officers are being treated disrespectfully, cyclists are purposely running down dogs and kicking them in an attempt to provoke an attack, "dog people" are upset and stressed that they cannot exercise their dogs even when very few people are in the park (during early morning hours or on rainy days when no one else is there), "non-dog people" want to be free of worry about dogs not under control.
- The closest off-leash area is the No. 3 Road site. Since there is no public transit available to this site, most people require a car to access it. This discriminates against: elderly people who do not drive anymore, people living in poverty or at lower income levels who cannot afford a car, and general population that do not have access to a vehicle.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Friends of Garry Point are suggesting we consider solutions on both a short-term and long-term basis.

SHORT TERM:

Option #1

We are asking the Department of Parks and Recreation to implement a pilot project that would designate Garry Point as an off-leash area during the generally miserable weather period of Dec, Jan, & Feb. Park usage by non-dog owners, cyclists, joggers, etc. is at an absolute minimum. We will provide daily patrols of the area to ensure waste is picked up. We will post Responsible Dog Owner Guidelines and direct people to our web site at <http://members.shaw.ca/FriendsOfGarryPoint> for more information. This web site will also enable all people to provide ongoing feedback, both positive and negative, throughout the pilot project. We will also recruit many "park regulars" who will wear visible Friends of Garry Point identification. They will diplomatically speak to any dog owner who is not acting responsibly. "The Friends" will meet once every two weeks to discuss any problems. We will stay in close contact with the SPCA to monitor any concerns.

Option #2

Should our request for option #1 be unsuccessful, we ask that off-leash times be established at Garry Point for the winter months. Due to limited daylight hours and resulting safety issues, we suggest 6:00 – 10:00 am and 3:00 – 9:00 pm daily. This allows on-leash protection for other park users during the busier times of day (ie: 10:00 am-3:00 pm).

LONG TERM:

We are asking that an Advisory Committee regarding the issue of dogs off-leash be formed. This committee could consist of some of the members from the well respected Cat and Dog Companion Animal Task Force previously facilitated by the City. This committee would review the issue for Richmond as a whole. Specifically for the Friends of Garry Point, we would ask the committee to consider fencing off an area of the park – perhaps the 3rd beach area. Capital funding to build a rustic wood type fence to match the existing environmental aesthetic could come from a joint private/public venture. We would raise the private funding. Providing similar enclosures has successfully worked at other parks and beaches (eg. Buntzen Lake).

PUBLIC SUPPORT:

We will be presenting petitions at the November 22nd meeting. As of today, we have gathered approximately 250 signatures, and this has been with the most minimal of resources available over the last week. Unfortunately petitions containing an additional 200 signatures were stolen from the Garry Point and #3 Road sites. We hope to have at least 500 signatures by November 27, 2001.


If there is anything else we can provide to help in the decision making process, please call on me at 604-241-9889.

Sincerely yours,

Sally Chow for *The Friends of Garry Point*


Friends of Garry Point

Today's Presentation




- Who are the Friends of Garry Point
- Current Tensions
- Stakeholders
- Stats
- Proposed Solutions
 - Short and Long Term
- Questions

Who are the Friends of Garry Point?




- A coalition of dog and non-dog owners seeking to find a win/win solution to the off-leash issue at Garry Point

Why Garry Point?




- West Richmond desperately needs an off-leash area
 - Current closest area is #3 Road – no public transit available
 - Discriminates against the elderly
 - Discriminates against the poor

Current Tensions




- SPCA officers being treated rudely
- Cyclists purposely running down dogs
- Dogs purposely running down cyclists
- Dogs don't get adequate exercise
- Park users want a poop-free and non-confrontational environment

Stakeholders



- Garry Point Park is shared by:
 - Families with dogs
 - Families without dogs
 - Cyclists
 - Joggers and walkers
 - Kite flyers
 - Various cultural and religious groups


Stats



- At least 1 in 4 families live with a dog*
 - Total Richmond population 160,000
 - Current licensed dogs – 6,000
 - Unlicensed dogs estimated at 12,000 to 18,000
- Only 1 in 9 people expresses discomfort around dogs*
- Less than 5% of dogs display disruptive behaviours and less than 3% are considered aggressive*


*GVRD Symposium – May 2000

Proposed Solutions Short Term

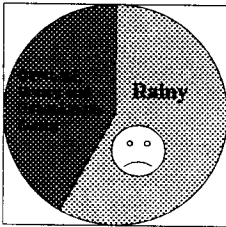


- Option 1 - Pilot Project
 - Designate Garry Point as off-leash December through February
 - Park usage during those months is at a minimum (Check out the Stats!)


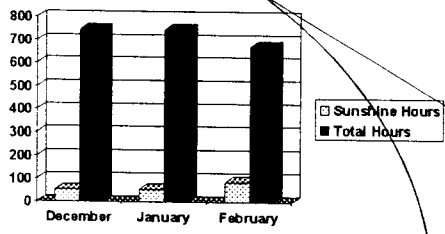
Environment Canada Stats



November 2004
14 of 24 Rainy Days to date



Environment Canada Stats

Month	Sunshine Hours	Total Hours
December	~100	~750
January	~100	~750
February	~100	~650

Option 1 Success Strategies



- Petitions in Support of Pilot Project
- Friends of Garry Point will
 - Appoint 12 member committee which will meet every 2 weeks to monitor concerns
 - Post Responsible Dog Owner Guidelines
 - Provide website for education and feedback from all users at <http://members.shaw.ca/FriendsofGarryPoint>
 - Recruit additional volunteers to wear FOGP ID's and act as Deputy Dawgs to speak with irresponsible dog owners
 - Work with SPCA to handle complaints
 - Patrol park daily to ensure pick-up of dog poop

Proposed Solutions Short Term



- Option 2 – Pilot Project
Provide Restricted Off-Leash Times
December to February
 - 6 am to 10 am daily
 - 3 pm to 9 pm daily

Proposed Solutions Long Term



- Form a new advisory committee similar to "Cat and Dog Companion Animal Task Force"
 - Committee to review Richmond-wide solutions
- Erect a fence around a portion of Garry Point for off-leash use like Buntzen Lake

FRIENDS OF GARRY POINT

“DOG WATCH” ADVISORY PANEL

Name	Dog owner (Yes or No)	Park User	Occupation	Phone
Sally Chow	No	Jogger	Faculty-Kwantlen	241-9889
Glenn Jope	Yes	Dog exercise	Software Engineer	809-0074
Ray Martyniuk	Yes	Dog exercise	Entrepreneur	277-1516
Roger Dube	No	Cyclist	Labourer	279-9400
Janet Henry	No	Walker	Computer Consultant	277-2892
Angela Coombe	Yes	Dog exercise	Teacher	241-1075
Diana Loudon	Yes	Dog exercise	HR Consultant	279-0441
Angela Kelly	Yes	Dog exercise	Retired R.N.	274-3320
Suzy Gelin	Yes	Dog exercise		275-4959
Doria Dube	Yes	Dog walking	Telus Installer	277-3364
Jim Gislason	Yes	Dog walking	Retired Chemist	271-1202
Shane Cooke	No	Cyclist	Writer	241-1983