



City of Richmond
Parks

Memorandum

To: Councillor Harold Steves
Chairman of the Parks Recreation & Cultural
Services Committee

Date: October 26, 2001

From: Gordon Barstow
Manager, Parks Operations

File: 2335-03

Re: **Response to the letter received from Narinder Nagra concerning Grass
Cutting in McLean Park**

The area of the park Narinder Nagra is concerned about, is an area that is cut once a year. We went through an extensive public process in the planning of the park. A Parks Design Committee, made up of community representatives, design consultants, and Parks staff, was chaired by a local resident. This Committee met several times to draft a plan, then presented it to the community for feedback, in an open house attended by 90 residents. Subsequently, the drafted plan was presented and accepted by City Council. The park was built three years ago according to plan, including this naturalized area. The maintenance scheme was estimated for the budget, and carried out. What this resident is suggesting we do is contrary to the expectations of the Park Planning Committee and the residents who attended the open house prior to construction. I doubt that the feelings of the community have changed since the key players in the community still live next to the park.

Please note that Narinder Nagra lives as far away from the park as you can, and still be in the Hamilton area. Even if community wanted to change the plan now, there would be a significant cost to upgrade, and then an additional cost in annual maintenance which would have to be approved by Council.

I have attached the letter that I sent in response to Narinder Nagra back in July.

Just as a matter of interest, the City received a commendation from the Communities in Bloom National Committee meeting in Saskatoon in April this year for the design and execution of naturalization in Richmond's McLean Park.

Gordon Barstow
Manager, Parks Operations

GSB:gsb

pc: Cathy Volkering Carlile, General Manager - Parks,
Recreation & Cultural Services

PC: Cathy Russell
Deb McLennan

Narinder Nagra
5131 Oliver Drive
Richmond, B.C. V6V 2S8
(604) 526-5130

October 15, 2001

FAX # 604-278-5139

Mr. Harold Steves
Chair of Parks, Recreation &
Cultural Services Committee
City of Richmond
Richmond, B.C.

Dear Mr. Steves:

Re: Request to appear as a delegation at the Oct 23, 2001 Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee Meeting

As a resident of the Hamilton area I find the manner in which McLean Park is maintained to be a real eye sore. When you drive along Westminster Highway the park looks like its very poorly maintained, the result of how the grass is cut. Currently, certain areas are cut on a regular basis, with outlining areas cut a few times a year. These so called outlining areas tend to be an eye sore, as you either see tall grass with weeds growing or grass covered with thick grass and weed clippings.

I understand the Hamilton Community Association was involved in the initial development of the park. I think the resident's of the Hamilton area should be consulted once again in how they would like their park maintained, as the park has a direct impact on the value of their homes.

I have spoken with Gordon Barstow on this matter and he has indicated I must address my concerns with the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee. In order to rectify this problem, I am requesting the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee authorize all of McLean Park's grass area be cut on a regular basis.

I look forward to attending the upcoming Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee meeting to further expand on my concerns.

Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,

N. Nagra
Narinder Nagra



July 13, 2001
File: 2345-20-MCMC1

**Parks, Recreation & Cultural
Services**
5599 Lynas Lane, Richmond, BC
V7C 5B2
Telephone: (604) 244-1208
Fax: (604) 244-1242

Narinder Nagra
5131 Oliver Drive
Richmond, B. C. V6V 2S8

Dear Narinder Nagra:

Re: McLean Park

The Park Construction Committee from Hamilton Community Association were instrumental in designing McLean Park. The chairman for the committee lives two houses away from the park and the vice-chair lives in a house that backs onto the park. They both supported the idea of a totally natural park (no grass cutting) and what you see is a compromise to that position. The plan when completed was presented to a public forum for feedback and endorsement. There is about a third of the park in grass that is cut once a year. Long grass to some people is unsightly while to others it is environmentally friendly. It provides a different texture that the City is including in all new parks. The plan went to Council and was approved and the park was built 3 years ago. The level of maintenance was estimated and approved into the base level budget at that time. If the manicured look were to be extended to the once a year cut area there would be a cost to upgrading and then maintaining it more often that would have to be approved first by the community and then by City Council as a capital improvement and an additional level of maintenance service in the budget. It is my personal opinion that this would be extremely difficult.

If you wish to talk to me further in this matter, please contact me at 244-1210.

Yours truly,

Gordon Barstow
Manager, Parks Operations

GSB:gsb

pc: Clarence Sihoe, *Park Planner*
Yvonne Stich, *Park Planner*
Dick Chan, *Hamilton Community Centre*