



Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

Date: Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Place: Anderson Room
Richmond City Hall

Present: Councillor Harold Steves, Chair
Councillor Ken Johnston
Councillor Carol Day
Councillor Bill McNulty
Councillor Linda McPhail

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

It was moved and seconded

That the minutes of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee held on April 26, 2016, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

June 28, 2016, (tentative date) at 4:00 p.m. in the Anderson Room

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

1. **SHARING FARM COMMUNITY ART PROJECT**

(File Ref. No. 11-7000-09-20-131) (REDMS No. 5001989 v. 3)

Discussion ensued with regard to the location of the art piece on-site and Liesl Jauk, Manager Arts Services, noted that elements of the art piece will include weathered farm tools and materials.

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It was moved and seconded

That the concept proposal for the Sharing Farm Community Public Art Project by artist Blake Williams as presented in the staff report from the Director, Arts, Culture and Heritage Services dated May 4, 2016, be endorsed.

CARRIED

2. RICHMOND SPORTS WALL OF FAME NOMINATING COMMITTEE ADDITIONAL CATEGORY REQUEST

(File Ref. No. 11-7000-10-01) (REDMS No. 5003542 v. 6)

Discussion ensued with respect to (i) the location of the Wall of Fame display within the Richmond Olympic Oval, (ii) the selection criteria for nomination and (iii) the definitions of the nomination categories.

In reply to queries from Committee, Bob Jackson, Richmond Sports Council, noted that the Richmond Sports Council nominates athletes to the Richmond Sports Wall of Fame, however does not design the display. Gregg Wheeler, Manager, Sport and Community Events, added that nominations are received by December 31 and then are reviewed by a nomination committee.

Discussion ensued with regard to the recognition provided to athletes in different sporting categories and the way it would be displayed in the Richmond Sports Wall of Fame.

In reply to queries from Committee, Mr. Wheeler noted that additional information on Wall of Fame inductees are available in a kiosk in the Richmond Olympic Oval and that inductees are consulted on the written descriptions provided on the Wall of Fame.

It was moved and seconded

- (1) *That the Richmond Sports Wall of Fame Selection Criteria be amended as described in Attachment 2 of the staff report titled, "Richmond Sports Wall of Fame Nominating Committee Additional Category Request," dated May 6, 2016, from the Senior Manager, Recreation and Sport Services; and*
- (2) *That the Richmond Sports Wall of Fame Policy 8711 be amended to include the category "Masters Athlete" as identified in Attachment 4 of the staff report titled, "Richmond Sports Wall of Fame Nominating Committee Additional Category Request," dated May 6, 2016, from the Senior Manager, Recreation and Sport Services.*

CARRIED

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3. **SUSTAINABLE FOOD SERVICE AT CITY FACILITIES AND EVENTS**

(File Ref. No. 11-7000-01) (REDMS No. 4680744 v. 10)

Marie Fenwick, Manager, Parks Programs, and Brendan McEwen, Sustainability Manager, reviewed the proposed Sustainable Food Service Quick Guide, noting that (i) staff consulted with the community on the recommendations for the best sustainable practices, such as utilizing reusable or compostable materials, (ii) a total ban on plastic bags is not recommended, and (iii) the Quick Guide can be updated when new sustainable materials are available.

Discussion ensued with regard to (i) an incremental ban on plastic bags and plastic utensils, (ii) caterers and vendors in the city utilizing compostable utensils and containers, (iii) costs of compostable utensils and containers compared to plastics, (iv) examining options to use reusable dishes in community centres, (v) encouraging support from the private sector, and (vi) increasing public awareness on the matter.

It was suggested that staff update Committee on the program in one year's time.

It was moved and seconded

That the Sustainable Food Service Quick Guide, provided as Attachment 1, as detailed in the staff report titled "Sustainable Food Service at City Facilities and Events," dated May 3, 2016, from the Senior Manager, Parks, be endorsed as a tool to promote the use of sustainable food service items in City facilities and on City-owned land.

CARRIED

Discussion ensued with respect to the incremental restrictions on plastic food utensils and containers.

As a result of the discussion, the following **referral motion** was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

That staff examine options for incremental restrictions on the use of plastic and styrofoam materials and report back.

CARRIED

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4. PARTICIPATION IN THE 11TH CHINA (ZHENGZHOU) INTERNATIONAL GARDEN EXPO

(File Ref. No. 06-2345-00) (REDMS No. 5009414 v. 3)

Mike Redpath, Senior Manager, Parks, briefed Committee on the City's proposed participation in the 11th China International Garden Expo, highlighting that (i) the Expo is an opportunity to showcase Richmond, (ii) in addition to participating in the Expo, the City will have an opportunity to participate in a garden exchange with the City of Zhengzhou, and (iii) it is anticipated that participation in the Expo will have no cost to the City.

Discussion ensued with respect to participation costs related to staff time, and it was suggested that staff time be tracked for the proposed project.

In reply to queries from Committee, Mr. Redpath advised that the design process would be managed by the City and that the proposed design concept for the park located in the City will be subject to Council approval.

It was moved and seconded

That the City of Richmond participate in the 11th China (Zhengzhou) International Garden Expo and Park Design exchange with the City of Zhengzhou, China as detailed in the staff report titled, "Participation in the 11th China (Zhengzhou) International Garden Expo," dated May 18, 2016, from the Senior Manager, Parks.

CARRIED

The Chair advised that Equipment for the Sharing Farm will be considered as Item No. 4A.

4A. EQUIPMENT FOR THE SHARING FARM

(File Ref. No.)

Discussion ensued with regard to (i) acquiring a tractor and other farming equipment for the Sharing Farm, (ii) using the Council Contingency or Provisional funds to acquire the farming equipment, and (iii) utilizing potential private donations to acquire the farming equipment.

In reply to queries from Committee, Mr. Redpath advised that the operating budget for the Garden City Lands (GCL) will include provisions for the acquisition of farming equipment.

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As a result of the discussion, the following **referral motion** was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

That staff examine:

- (1) *options to utilize the Council Contingency Fund or the Provisional Fund to acquire a tractor and farming equipment for the Sharing Farm; and*
- (2) *options to utilize private donations to acquire a tractor and farming equipment for the Sharing Farm and report back.*

CARRIED

5. COMMITTEE STANDING ITEM

Garden City Lands

Jamie Esko, Manager, Park Planning and Design, distributed an updated development schedule for the Garden City Lands (GCL) (attached to and forming part of these minutes as Schedule 1), and briefed Committee on the GCL, highlighting that (i) the City has received significant feedback from the open houses, (ii) there is community support for segregated bicycle and pedestrian pathways and for the proposed programming on the Mound area, (iii) consultation on the GCL is on-going, (iv) design of water storage areas on-site are being refined, and (v) staff are reviewing data from the Water Management Study and the results will be presented to Committee.

Discussion ensued with regard to (i) allocating more land for farm use, (ii) utilizing water sources on-site for irrigation of farm areas, (iii) alignment of the central dike, (iv) testing the site's soils, and (v) the collaborating with Kwantlen Polytechnic University on the GCL's Farm Management Plan.

Jim Wright, representing the Garden City Conservation Society, referenced a letter from the Garden City Conservation Society (attached to and forming part of these minutes as Schedule 2), and offered comments on (i) the central dike, (ii) soil analysis of the site, and (iii) agricultural uses of the site.

Discussion ensued with regard to (i) revising statements made in the letter from the Garden City Conservation Society regarding previously proposed non-farm uses, (ii) hosting public information workshops on the GCL, (iii) reducing the number of pond areas, (iv) using the bog as a source for farm irrigation, (v) rehabilitating soils on the whole site, and (vi) discussing soil rehabilitation with other developers in the city.

It was suggested that minutes from the Advisory Committee on the Environment be included on reports related to the Garden City Lands. Mr. Redpath added that information boards and materials on the Garden City Lands can be made available to Council.

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As a result of the discussion, the following **referral motion** was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

That staff review the letter from the Garden City Conservation Society, dated May 25, 2016, and report back.

CARRIED

6. MANAGER'S REPORT

(i) Mary's Barn

Ms. Fenwick advised that the official opening of Mary's Barn will be on June 18, 2016.

(ii) Ships to Shore 2016

Dee Bowley-Cowan, Britannia Site Supervisor, noted that there 14 vessels are confirmed for this year's Ships to Shore event and added that the ships will be positioned at Imperial Landing and the Britannia Shipyard.

(iii) New Exhibits at Seine Net Loft

Ms. Bowley-Cowan advised that there will be new exhibits at the Seine Net Loft during Doors Open Richmond.

(iv) The Fleetwood

Discussion ensued with regard to repurposing *The Fleetwood* rum runner as an indoor civic art project.

As a result of the discussion, the following **referral motion** was introduced:

It was moved and seconded

That staff examine options to restore The Fleetwood as an indoor civic art project using the City's Public Art Reserve Fund and report back.

CARRIED

(v) Piles at Garry Point

Discussion ensued with regard to (i) removing piles at Garry Point in one month's time, (ii) the cost to remove the piles, and (iii) using the piles to position ships for the Ships to Shore event.

In reply to queries from Committee, Mr. Redpath advised that (i) staff have a referral to update the Garry Point Master Plan, (ii) approach floats are required to remove the piles and previous approach floats were damaged, (iii) new approach floats are in the process of construction and completion is expected in October 2016, and (iv) current agreement from the Province allows the relocation of floats from the Imperial Landing site to the Garry Point site for events, however approach floats are required for access.

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Discussion ensued regarding purchasing or repurposing other floats in the city.

It was suggested that the report on the 2017 Garry Point Park Legacy Pier Proposal be recirculated to Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded

That the meeting adjourn (5:36 p.m.).

CARRIED

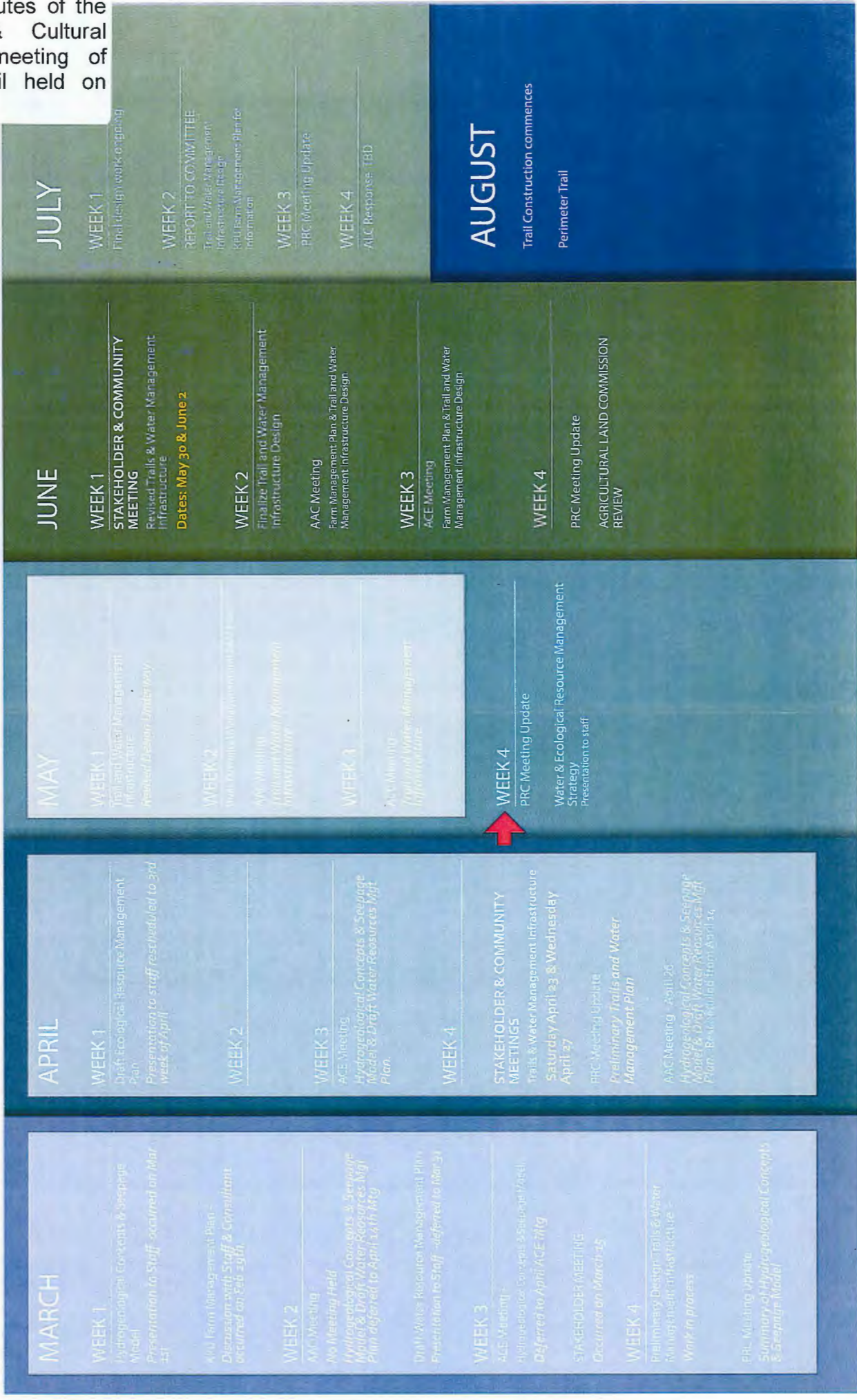
Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Wednesday, May 25, 2016.

Councillor Harold Steves
Chair

Evangel Biason
Legislative Services Coordinator

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee meeting of Richmond City Council held on Tuesday, May 25, 2016.

GARDEN CITY LANDS - PROJECT SCHEDULE: APRIL 26 2016





Garden City Conservation Society

8300 Osgoode Drive, Richmond, British Columbia V7A 4P1
www.gardencitylands.ca ♦ gardencitylands.wordpress.com

May 25, 2016

Mayor and Councillors, especially Parks Committee,

We commend your determined efforts on behalf of the Richmond community to resolve the Massey Crossing, and we work with you on that, especially via Fraser Voices. On behalf of the community, we also aim to work with you on the Garden City Lands situation.

The Garden City Lands project began with a well-done project chart in September 2012. After that, the project went off track with its focus on skirting the ALR (example in Endnote 10). That is in contrast to celebrating the ALR status and Richmond's agri-eco legacies, although the somewhat improved collaboration with Kwantlen after we wrote to the Agricultural Land Commission is a step in the right direction.

As well, whims and guesswork appear to pre-empt knowledge-based decisions. Unfortunately, council's step of approving (in June 2014) the proposed plan in a limited way—as a “guide”—seems to have been taken as a carte blanche.

Now the project is supposedly on the brink of starting the main infrastructure, the dike-road trail system, in August. The project is woefully unready for that desirable step.

The dike-road trails have three crucial roles: (1) for water management, (2) as arterial roads/trails, and (3) for open-land park recreation, all ALR purposes. They are like a good quarterback in football—essential for success and worth the cost of quality.

We contend that the arterial dike-road trail system is worth building with excellent accessibility, excellent capacity and excellent low-maintenance durability. By deleting less-needed features like the kilometre of wooden viaducts, the project could afford quality, leading to very popular use for a very long time.

At this point, it is still possible for the project (with improved planning) to make the dike-road trails follow the best routes for all the agri-eco-rec ALR uses of the Lands—and build them with little adverse impact. However, in 2013, drastically underfunded consultants could do only cursory mapping and analysis of soil and vegetation.

In the past year, our calls to fill the gaps were heeded when **Kwantlen did soil analysis on a grid of 55 half-hectare squares on the west side of the Lands. The City still needs to do the east side.** Working from knowledge can only help, even for tending the bog vegetation, and Coun. Harold Steves has said the whole Lands might be farmed in future (not our wish).

Concurrently, the soil grid of the whole Lands needs to be filled out with a vegetation inventory featuring the sphagnum species (at least four), native bog plants, and invasive plants. That would enable informed placement of dike-road trails and the transplanting of sphagnum and bog plants from outside the bog restoration area (including the trail routes) to the bog restoration area.



It's clear that the southern half of central dike-road trail in the **April 2016 project map** (at left) is **misplaced**. It should not wander left.

The problem can be deduced from the pattern of wetness (darkness) in the **Consultants' 2013 Vegetation Map** and in the **Satellite View of the Lands** (below). The non-bog vegetation and the dryness are both unsuitable.

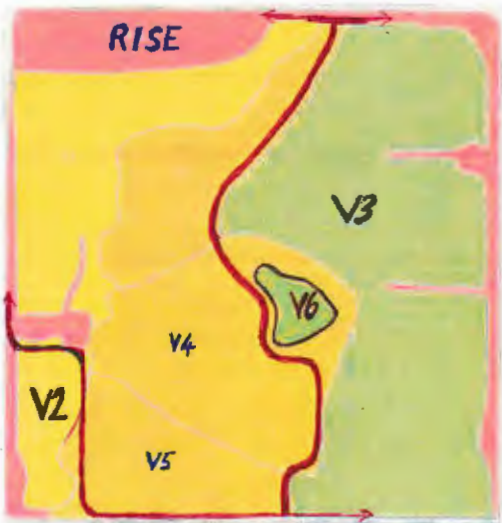
The consultants' map is consistent with 2011 Garden City Lands Coalition findings, which we have kept on sharing and recently confirmed.



Consultants' 2013 Vegetation Map



Satellite View of the Lands

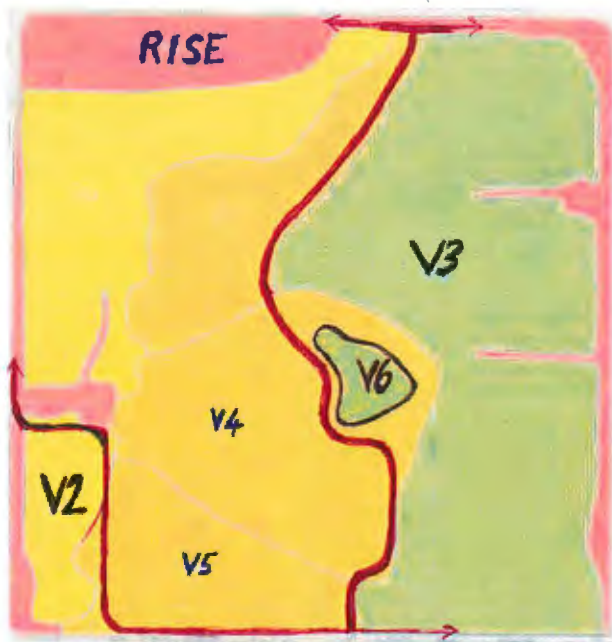


Revised Central Route (rough)

An *approximate* suitable route for the southern half of the **central dike-road trail** is shown in our rough **Revised Central Route** graphic (at left).

Note: The small V6 area near the centre is a natural saucer that retains precipitation water. The saucer contains the most extensive patch of sphagnum moss. The particular sphagnum species there doesn't occur elsewhere on the Lands.

Of course, *refining the route* with the needed inventory findings continues to be essential.



The central dike-road trail route in the graphic would keep acidic bog water in the bog area (V3 & V6)—not mixing with the alkaline water in a succession area to the west, where birches and other non-bog plants would consume it.

After transplanting of bog plants from V5 to V3, **the correction could free up V5 land for agriculture.** (Duplicating the later-stage ecology of the Richmond Nature Park is likely less valuable.) Also, **the area of the reservoir pond could be increased by a hectare or more in the low-lying and barely fertile area on the south edge of the Rise.**

That could still result in a large net increase in eco-friendly farmland, along with a more adequate irrigation supply.

On a related topic, we gather from the project team that the contrived “fen” near the southwest corner is one of the senior parks manager’s ideas. The Lands have enough fens. One is V2, which could be augmented with a jog in the perimeter trail, as shown in the Revised Central Route graphic at top left. (But that conservation area could be configured even better to suit the observed ways that native bees and nesting birds make use of it.)



We should add, since we’ve touched on the perimeter dike-road trail, that there are problems with the perimeter route too, and **the dike-road system map should be problem-free before any trail building begins.** We hope KPU can start farming without it.

Currently the problems may seem unsolvable because **even the best of consultants are limited by the terms of reference and funding from the City.** Solutions are possible anyway.

The main need at this point is to increase and apply the necessary knowledge to make the route of the dike-road trail system optimal, with initial care to get the central trail right.

Endnotes:

1. The Garden City Lands project's [current maps](#) begin with the Landscape Zones map (shown in a small size in this letter). After that, there's a version with numbered areas and a legend. That is very revealing. Notice, for example, that **there is very little agricultural land** other than the KPU land (north of the middle, Lansdowne Road).

Note: Garden City Conservation advocates ALR uses that are simultaneously agriculture, ecological conservation and open-land park recreation uses, but we realize there's usually one primary use. The Richmond Food Security Society (under a previous name) was the advocate for agriculture use first, the default priority on ALR land. It seems appropriate to maintain balance unless informed food security stakeholders, including the RFSS and permaculture leaders, say it doesn't matter.

2. The **non-KPU agricultural land**, including community gardens, may be as little as **3.5 hectares**. But at least **1.5 hectares of that is in the natural fen** along Garden City Road between the southwest corner and the multifunction area. That fen area is suited to conservation (featuring nesting birds and native bees), but it is very poor land for farming. Apart from that, there is **only about 2 hectares for non-KPU agriculture**, which is very little. (Note: Since some areas are not labeled, perhaps there's a bit more.) Many of the farming uses that would suit the ALR parkland would be of interest for open-land park recreation participants to observe and engage in. The body of this letter has shown how it is possible to increase the agricultural land while simultaneously helping the sphagnum bog restoration.
3. By nature, the Garden City Lands supports a *range of ALR uses* for agriculture, ecological conservation and open-land park recreation. The planning does not seem to envision them so that decisions about dike-road trails and land use would enable them. That is particularly true for open-land park recreation, which is what should make the Garden City Lands one of the world's great parks.
4. A high-profile example is the non-ALR use of an event field taking up valuable ALR space for events such as concerts and sports tournaments when it would just be duplicating the roles of locations like Minoru Park. Furthermore, the idea that a field can be trampled by thousands of people at a concert (a non-ALR use unless there is specific ALC permission for an event) and then switch back to wildlife habitat or even to food growing seems unrealistic.

A real ALR use for it at this stage would be for soil enrichment through cover crops and grazing and also for wildlife. A longer-term use would almost certainly be community gardens and community farms. The needs will grow, and the amount of available land in the City Centre cannot grow as quickly. The project's vision needs a far-off time horizon.

5. Surely the dike-road trail ought to be efficient to build and maintain. Instead, we still see a wastefully winding perimeter trail and also designs that run water onto the trail surface instead of off it. In this, we can learn from the closely-spaced storm drains down the Garden City Road side of the Lands. The drains are typically so clogged that the project team didn't know they exist (judging from the recent survey, which said they don't exist). Since Richmond apparently can't afford much park maintenance, we must assume the need for trails that are self-maintaining to the extent possible.
6. The project shows two large areas of pollinator fields, which could be okay if there are plans for botanical gardens and their maintenance. However, the obvious starting point is the pollinator field in the southwest corner that just needs to be left alone to function.
7. There seem to be plans for trees all around the Lands, and having quite a lot of trees is fine in principle. Since this letter is mainly about dike-road trails, especially the central one, we should at least caution that a large part of the community (including many in a large ethnic group) would have security concerns if there are woods close to the trails. That includes (for instance) the wide "hedgerow" (along the central trail), which might also be taxing on the scarce water resources.
8. Bicycle paths and possible bicycle use of the multipurpose main path of the dike-road trails need to be addressed in the context of beginning construction of the dike-road trails. The bike use is marginally an ALR use (e.g., as a means for sightseeing). Bike paths separated from the main path of the dike road trails have the additional value of enabling safer and pleasant ALR use for the more-clearly ALR uses. Related aspects:
 - Since there are bike paths bordering the Lands on the south and west sides, perhaps they could be separated from Westminster Highway and Garden City Road by a physical barrier (attractive and safe).
 - On the north side, where there is a need for an area of mixed urban forest, a bike path between the dike-road trail and the forest would require no incremental space because it would serve as security space.
 - On the east side, where there logically should be visitor parking and only minimal trees except toward the north end, the bike park could be between the parking and the dike-road trail.
 - That would result in a continuous bike path around the Lands, bordering the road on the south and west and providing a security buffer along the outer side of the dike-road trail on the north and east sides.

9. While the 20-acres arrangement with Kwantlen Sustainable Agriculture is a good step, the City cooperation with KPU is not convincing (e.g., with KPU practically forced off the Rise, though tending orchard trees for picnickers). Ideally the City will enable KPU to meet its needs well and set clear expectations for KPU's community outreach in return.
10. The lack of effective progress in the enhancement of the Garden City Lands appears to result partly from systemic problems, including the mindset of trying to get around the obstacle of the ALR status. The ongoing contra-ALR effort has been the Sports Council one championed by Coun. Bill McNulty. It overtly includes a soccer complex of at least 26 acres. At two meetings on February 28, 2011 (General Purposes Meeting and Council Meeting), Sports Council representatives clarified further, They brought out their desire to replace the Riverport swimming and arena facilities with better ones on the Lands. (This has been checked at the Richmond Archives—using audio of the meetings.)

It is a huge challenge for the City to make the radical change from the perspective of getting around the ALR as an obstacle to the perspective of celebrating the ALR and Richmond's agri-eco legacies (the approach with the potential to foster one of the world's great parks).

11. With the systemic problem (down to the level of senior manager of parks and roughly parallel manager positions in planning, communications, etc.), the best efforts of the dedicated hands-on staff and consultants are frustrated. The consequence is that the project makes the least of capable consultants who are hobbled by their terms of reference and sometimes inadequate funding (e.g., when contra-ALR uses receive funding priority). Our 2015-19-15 message to General Manager Dave Semple (see appendix) brings this out.

In the same way, the tremendous value provided by the community is wasted, including by fake consultation, exemplified by the 2013 survey that Garden City Conservation carefully showed to be not at all valid. Despite that best effort with community expertise, the survey "results" were still used as a pretend foundation.

We cannot be sure of the motivation for making the least of all forms of valuable expertise. In contrast, we can have a pretty good idea of the results, and we have done our best to share the knowledge.

12. Of course, all this has ramifications for the Musqueam lawsuit.

Sincerely,



Jim Wright,

in consultation with the directors, Garden City Conservation Society

APPENDIX: Message to Dave Semple, 2015-10-15, re biophysical inventory and consulting

I commented about the “Garden City Lands Biophysical Inventory and Analysis” yesterday. Since I hadn’t looked at the inventory for a long time, I went back to it in order to be more sure and precise about what I was saying.

I looked at the “Inventory and Analysis” related to sphagnum mosses, the keystone species of any sphagnum bog ecosystem (the ecosystem Harold Steves has advocated restoring for many years). On page 27 (PDF 31), the introductory paragraph about sphagnum says that only two sphagnum species were identified, whereas Michael Wolfe had identified four and also confirmed that there are still four after seeing the conflicting observation. It would be easier to miss a distinction or miss an occurrence of a species than to mistakenly identify an additional one, and the likelihood is that Michael’s information from at least eleven years of observation of the Lands (and the rest of the Lulu Island Bog) is more credible.

A further factor is that the “Inventory and Analysis” is internally inconsistent. For instance, page 27 conveys that sphagnum was identified only in Zones V-2, V-3 and V-4. However, in the Vegetation Analysis on page 35 (PDF 39), sphagnum is indicated only in V-6 and V-7. That analysis correctly identifies that there are large patches in V-6 but probably does not identify the species there correctly, and it completely misses the numerous sphagnum patches spread over V-3. If I recall correctly, there are also some in the eastern part of V-5, which certainly includes vegetation worthy of sphagnum bog ecosystem conservation.

The consultants, Diamond Head, are reputable, but I had the initial sense (when the document suddenly appeared after apparently being a long way in the future) that it had been rushed into publication without sufficient observation or careful analysis, let alone validation for quality assurance. The blatant inconsistencies in the observations/analysis of the most important species, the mosses of the genus sphagnum, confirm the symptoms.

My quick critique of the treatment of sphagnum also confirms that the terms of reference — the City’s expectations about Diamond Head deliverables — must have been inadequate. Since Harold Steves had long promoted sphagnum bog ecosystem restoration and enhancement on roughly 60% of the Lands, and since Garden City Conservation had knowledgeably supported that, one certain need was for Diamond Head to provide organized observations and analysis that would be a first step toward making science-based decisions about whether, where and how to go about that ecosystem restoration and enhancement. Since Diamond Head is a capable company, they would have met the clear expectation if it had been established. Furthermore, the fact that the City accepted the report indicates that Diamond Head had met whatever expectations may have existed,

Yesterday, I commented about the inadequacy of the Wildlife/Habitat inventory/analysis, which is another main part of a biophysical inventory, and I see that the first sentences on that topic confirm it: “A detailed wildlife survey was not conducted for this inventory and analysis. However, potential wildlife presence was determined based on assessment of existing habitat quality (in addition to any incidental observations while on site).”

Enough said?

Note: The red highlighting has been added for the purposes of this appendix.