

Schedule 2 to the Minutes of the
Parks, Recreation and Cultural
Services Committee meeting
held on Tuesday, June 29, 2010.

Mayor and Councillors

From: Councillor Gayle Martin [gmartin@langleycity.ca]
Sent: June 17, 2010 9:25 PM
To: Richard Swanston; clrstevenson@vancouver.ca
Cc: Andre.Breault@ec.gc.ca; Semple, Dave; Mayor and Councillors; jmhunt@surrey.ca;
ed.andrusiak@gvrd.bc.ca; Mitch.Sokalski@gvrd.bc.ca
Subject: RE: Compliance with Metro Parks By Laws

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JUN 18 2010

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Dear Mr. Swanston, thank you for your email. I have forwarded your comments to Metro Vancouver Staff for comment.

Gayle Martin, Chair
Metro Vancouver
Park Committee

: clrstevenson@vancouver.ca; Councillor Gayle Martin

Cc: Andre.Breault@ec.gc.ca; dave.semples@richmond.ca; mayorandcouncillors@richmond.ca; jmhunt@surrey.ca

Subject: Compliance with Metro Parks By Laws

June 17th 2010.

Ms. Gayle Martin & Directors
Metro Parks Committee
Metro Vancouver Regional Board

Mayor & Council
Richmond B.C.



Dear Madam and Sirs; I wish to bring to your attention a safety issues with respect to the action taken by Dog Owners at Iona Metro Park. Do to Years of neglect in enforcement of the On Leash Parks Bylaws and the practice of "Voluntary Compliance", To Parks Bylaws with no real consequences to ignoring the basic rules and control of dogs within the Park. We have numerous persons that come to this Park with the clear intent to walk there dogs off leash. The incredible thing is that this underscores to total failure of the principles of a Dog Of Leash Area's ! As the people that visit this Park to run their dogs off leash. MUST go out of there way to do so ! They have to travel PAST the LARGE RIVER FRONT Off Leash Park! Acres of PRIME RIVERFRONT Owned by the citizens of Richmond . With a PRIME dog bathing beach and a LARGE open area for running and play ! They have to drive further right past this expensive off leash Park Each and EVERY one of them ! There are NO residences near by Iona Park !

Iona Metro Park and surrounding areas has NUMEROUS wildlife enhancement features ! Hundreds of THOUSANDS of dollars have gone into the creation of Migratory Bird Habitat ! Hundreds if not thousands of dollars have gone into interpative signs here over the Years . Signs are posted through out the areas outlining the requirement to Leash Dogs , Bird Nesting signs warning Park Users to be on the look out for Young Birds On the Ground , Leash Your Dogs . All this is IGNORED ! WHY NOT ! There is no one there to write a ticket . If there is No Respect Shown by the Owner of the Property

06/18/2010

WHY would a visitor respect the area !

I watched as one of the Dogs pictured here was in FULL pursuit of a Nesting and territorial shore bird a Killdeer a Ground nesting Migratory Bird ! As the Killdeer attempted to LURE the intruding off leash dog from it's Nest or Young ! It is now Waterfowl nesting season Ducks nest in the High grass areas transport the young from area to area Dogs can and do harass and kill them . Most times the owner whom will be far off will not be aware ! The dog seen pictured bounding at roosting Migratory Birds was seen on a previous day inside a heavily posted " SENSITIVE " area near the ponds were numerous Migratory Birds are nesting in reeds and marsh areas ! It was running totally out of control !
SIGNS ALONE, WITHOUT ENFORCEMENT DO NOT WORK PERIOD

What Makes this situation- VERY troublesome is unlike other areas. When Dogs run and scare the hundreds of Herons, Gulls, Ducks, Terns and shorebirds to the delight of the NUMBED BRAINED OWNERS . These vast flocks of Migratory Birds Fly UP INTO THE PATH OF ARRIVING JETS ! This poses a VERY big hazard to aircraft safety ! Do to the VERY shallow nature of the area between the North Arm Breakwater and the Iona Sewage Jetty . Dogs particularly Large dogs can run a GREAT DISTANCE through the shallows ! And some people actually encourage their dogs to pursue these flocks . Wednesday when I was out doing surveys I could hear two persons actively yelling at there dogs commanding them to get the birdies! A flock of noisy Caspian Terns and Bonaparte Gulls numbering about 160 Well over toward the Iona Jetty and the actively used jet approach way . This area is very MUCKY and unpleasant to walk! Yet These People went out of there way to set their animals on these Noisy birds WHY ??? Much of the area near the North Arm Breakwater beach is pleasant to walk on at low tide ! WHY go out of there way for the THRILL of harassing this flock !

Birds which land and feed in the adjacent airport areas are subject to harassment by continuous patrols. Many Birds ARE KILLED, SHOT IN THIS AREA , So there is a direct consequence for the birds that are forced from the Iona Park and Beach Area. Year ROUND THEY ARE SHOT or HARASSED IN THE AIRPORT AREAS AND NEAR THE RUNWAYS OUTSIDE THE FENCED AREAS ! I do NOT question this practice I wish there was another way ! But thousands of birds are KILLED each Year regrettably in the name of SAFETY

One solution is to BAN DOGS FROM THIS PARK SIMPLE And enforce it ! SIMPLE ! You drive right by a VERY big off leash Park The Tax Payers of Richmond have provided you this area at GREAT expense Yet Dog Owners ignore it ??? Clearly there is no effort by dog owners to control or leash their animals inside the Iona Metro Park Area . Today of the 12 Dogs observed ONE OLD DECREPIT DOG WAS SEEN ON LEASH [Being Pulled around]! WHY have a bylaw with No Enforcement ? Yesterday I was there for hours and obs No Dogs On LEASH NOT ONE ! An astounding .8 % compliance rate for today ! Just WHY bother with all that signage ?

Yours Richard Swanston #309 5545 15 B Delta B.C. V4M 2H2

cc Ms. Mary Jordon Chairperson Vancouver Airport Authority