



The **Minutes** of the **Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee** meeting held via Conference Call on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Ryan Schwartz – Chair  
Nancy Arcand  
Paul Hockridge  
Jace Hodgson  
Mark Klassen  
Dan Schubert  
James Taylor  
Stefany Tunshell  
Laura Wilson

Members Absent: Ed Hodson  
Luca Paniccia

Others Present: Ken Herar, Councillor  
Jason Horton, Manger of Parks and Facilities  
Stephanie Key, Deputy Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture  
Rachel Kleindienst, Parks, Recreation and Culture Assistant

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved by P. Hockridge and seconded by L. Wilson,

That the agenda of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held on April 12, 2022 be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

**3. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

Moved by J. Taylor and seconded by P. Hockridge,

That the minutes of the March 8, 2022 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **(a) Alcohol Consumption in Public Parks**

S. Key shared with the Committee a request from Council asking staff to look at allowing alcohol in public parks and investigate the process and outcome other municipalities have experienced. Most communities that opened their parks to alcohol consumption were urban and was a result of COVID shutting down indoor service and the demand for people to recreate in the outdoors. These communities started with a pilot project in designated parks as a seasonal (summer) trial run. Provincial legislation was changed to allow for this accommodation but each municipality was required to amend their bylaw. Some municipalities have kept their parks open for alcohol consumption others have moved away from it as COVID restrictions have been reduced. In speaking with some of these communities a common negative factor was the removal of extra garbage and recycling becoming a larger expense for the City.

Discussion ensued and the Committee expressed concerns regarding; children in parks being exposed to alcohol and possible poor behaviour; neighbours of parks that are designated for alcohol consumption; COVID restrictions are ending therefore why is this necessary and does not promote a healthy lifestyle. If the City decides to allow consumption in parks then reinforcement of where not to drink needs to be addressed; not in parks/areas that cater primarily to children and youth and not in trail ways, greenways and pathways. The Committee also expressed concern over liability issues and the impediment of public enjoyment in public spaces.

#### **5. BUSINESS ARISING**

##### **(a) Fraser River Heritage Park – Events/Future Usage**

S. Key updated the Committee on a press release that will be going out to the public regarding the decision to move forward with events in Fraser River Heritage Park. The City is working with local First Nations, who are in support of events returning, and are aware of all scheduled events so as to not interfere with investigative work. All contracts for booked events will include a clause recognizing truth and awareness regarding the Residential Schools.

##### **(b) Joint Committee Meeting**

A joint meeting has been scheduled for June 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in room #4 at the Leisure Centre between the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, the Heritage Commission and the Cultural Resources Commission. This will be the first of scheduled quarterly meetings between the three groups.

##### **(c) Facility Re-Opening Status and Challenges**

S. Key updated the Committee on how smoothly things are running since the vaccine pass is no longer required (as of April 8). Some clients are still choosing to wear masks. Plexi-glass barriers and sanitizing stations are remaining in place for the time being. Attendance did not drastically increase with the lifting of the vaccine pass requirement. Pool attendance is expected to see an increase with non-vaccinated parents now allowed access to watching swim lessons again.

## **6. COMMUNITY ISSUES/CONCERNS**

### **(a) Programs at Leisure Centre**

S. Tunshell expressed concern over the lack of marketing and advertising for children's programs offered through the Parks and Recreation Department. Ms. Tunshell noted that she was told programs are cancelled due to low enrollment. Ms. Tunshell also noted that signage within the Leisure Centre, social media, printed schedules and website promotion are not being utilized effectively.

S. Key addressed these concerns and will share with the Programming Team. Post spring break attendance numbers are down but programs offered during spring break reached maximum capacity and swim lessons continue to fill to capacity. The website, as well as the software used by the Parks and Recreation Department, is being updated to become more transactional and allow for a higher level of direct email marketing. Direct email newsletters have just begun monthly. Pre-planning and early promotion of programs for the last two years was not conducive to the constantly changing rules and restrictions. Staff anticipate this can now return to pre-COVID levels of planning and promoting for upcoming seasons. Printed leisure guides should be returning as well as promotional posters and flyers.

### **(b) Correspondence/Emails**

i) An email was received from J. Donohue requesting a second dog park be considered for a greenspace near Blott Park.

J. Horton addressed this request and stated that the area mentioned is actually an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) as well as being in an established residential neighbourhood. The creek that runs through the greenspace is Windebank Creek which has resident Coho and Chum. Due to the land being designated an ESA there would need to be approval from Fisheries and Federal agencies to allow access to the land for such use. The City has plans to establish a second dog park on land near Mission Raceway Park. This area would include a 4,000 sq. ft. fenced compound with a mulch base as well as use of the greenspace that is the overflow parking for the Raceway. Dog Parks tend to draw people from other areas in the City which can create neighbourhood parking issues so it is not ideal in an established neighbourhood. J. Horton will respond to J. Donohue.

ii) The Chair for the Mission Heritage Commission, K. Hood, emailed the Committee requesting that a member from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee join a discussion panel he is putting together to establish a memorial/storyboard for the Komagata Maru Tragedy.

M. Klassen volunteered to join the panel.

**7. NEXT MEETING**

May 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by S. Tunshell and seconded P. Hockridge,

That the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.