



**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

**MINUTES**

**Monday, March 27, 2023**

**Meeting held electronically and open to public attendance**

**Council Chamber, City Hall**

**PRESENT**

Mayor Patrick Johnstone  
Councillor Ruby Campbell  
Councillor Daniel Fontaine  
Councillor Tasha Henderson  
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy  
Councillor Paul Minhas  
Councillor Nadine Nakagawa

**STAFF PRESENT**

Ms. Lisa Spitale	Acting Corporate Officer
Ms. Lisa Zwarn	Auxiliary City Clerk
Mr. James Doan	Manager, Parks Operations and Services
Ms. Sloane Elphinstone	Coordinator, Park Services
Mr. Dean Gibson	Director, Parks and Recreation
Ms. Lisa Leblanc	Director of Engineering
Ms. Erika Mashig	Manager, Parks and Open Space Planning, Design and Construction
Ms. Jennifer Miller	Manager, Public Engagement
Mr. Gary So*	Senior Manager, Finance
Ms. Denise Tambellini*	Intergovernmental Relations Manager
Ms. Jackie Teed	Acting Director, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Ms. Harji Varn	Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance
Mx. Katie Stobbart	Committee Clerk

**GUESTS**

Tracey Mactavish                      Motiv Architects Inc.

\*Denotes electronic attendance

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**1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Mayor Johnstone opened the meeting at 4:15 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. He acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. He recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

**2. PRESENTATIONS**

**2.1 Queen's Park Farm Transition - Preferred Theme and Draft Master Plan**

**a. Presentation: Tracey Mactavish, Motiv Architects Inc. (On Table)**

Tracey Mactavish, Motiv Architects Inc., provided a presentation titled "Queens Park Farm Transition."

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council receives the draft of the Queen's Park Farm Master Plan, as outlined in this report and included in Attachment A for information; and

THAT Council direct staff to broaden the scope of the consultation to include a new option which would:

1. Use a portion of the identified \$509,897 funds to return the former petting zoo location back to more natural passive park space including the planting of new trees; and
2. Redirect the balance of the funding toward significantly improving and enhancing the existing Queen's Park children's playground area as a means of increasing physical literacy and a more active lifestyle for our youth.

**Defeated.**

Councillors Henderson, Nakagawa, Campbell, and McEvoy, and Mayor Johnstone opposed.

In response to questions from Council, Erika Mashig, Manager, Parks and Open Space Planning, Design and Construction, and Sloane Elphinstone, Coordinator, Park Services, advised that the consultant fees were approximately \$20,000 to date, and range from 8 to 12% of the total budget.

Council discussed the following:

- Covid-19 presented a good opportunity to move away from the old petting zoo model and start building more knowledge about the world around us;
- The Indigenous knowledge and tradition aspect is important, and there is an opportunity to learn names, traditions, and stories about local plants;
- Indigenous engagement is absolutely a priority moving forward;
- There is a lot of nostalgia around the farm;
- The BeHeard engagement process was valuable and showed respondents' excitement for a new format for the space;
- There is a lot of opportunity to bring in partners from the arts and culture sphere (e.g. New West Farmer's Market, Tourism New West, etc.);
- It is valuable to have a space for intergenerational connections;
- It is important to have play opportunities embedded in the natural landscape;
- There were concerns that this project does not promote physical literacy in the same way other projects might;
- This project takes an area that used to be about animals as livestock and makes it about animals in their natural habitats and food systems.

### **3. SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY - 5:00 PM**

#### **3.1 End of the Meeting**

The meeting ended at 5:03 p.m.

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Patrick Johnstone

MAYOR

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Lisa Spitale

ACTING CORPORATE OFFICER