



Regular Council for Workshop

**Monday, March 3, 2025
1:00 p.m.**

**Council Chamber, Second Floor & Zoom
New Westminster City Hall, 511 Royal Avenue**

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

Corporate Officer – Hanieh Berg

**Attendance by electronic means*

1. CALL TO ORDER & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsundered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. It was acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. It was recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda of the March 3, 2025 Regular Council for Workshop meeting be approved.

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

3.1 Minutes – January 20, 2025

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Council for Workshop meeting held on January 20, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATION & REPORT

4.1 Parks & Recreation Plan – Council Workshop on Draft Strategic Directions, Recommendations and Actions

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, Erika Mashig, Deputy Director, Parks, Planning and Policy, accompanied by Mitchell Reardon, Director, Happy Cities and Catherine Berris, Urban Systems, provided an update on the engagement strategy for the Parks and Recreation Plan and the following information was highlighted

- the second round of public consultation is scheduled for February to March 2025 and is focused on the draft recommendations, which were formulated from the previous round of community input as well as comprehensive data analysis;
- a variety of engagement activities, such as a digital survey through Be Heard New West, pop-ups, as well as focused engagement with School District No. 40, First Nations and Indigenous-serving organizations, the City's Accessibility Advisory Committee and community groups, will be utilized in an effort to capture a full representation of the City's diverse population;
- new classifications of parks are proposed to recognize the expanded role and types of parks;
- three primary types of active parkland, city park, community park, and neighbourhood park, were utilized to determine how the City's parkland supply measures against that of comparable communities; and
- the City's parkland of all park types is currently 2.04 hectare per 1,000 residents with a target of 2.2 hectare per 1,000 residents; to achieve this target approximately 50 hectares of new designated parkland is needed by 2034.

C. Berris reviewed a number of maps illustrating parkland supply by neighbourhood and their proximity to residential areas, noting that generally, residents may walk to a park within five to 10 minutes of their home. Also, C. Berris reviewed the City's supply of indoor and outdoor amenities, noting a low inventory of skate / all wheel parks, community garden plots, spray and splash parks, beach/field volleyball spaces, and pickle ball courts to name a few. Key factors contributing the low inventory of amenities include exponential population growth, changing needs of the community and limited land base.

C. Berris then commented on the proposed strategic directions, recommendations, and actions.

In reply to queries from Council, Dean Gibson, Director, Parks and Recreation advised that an artificial turf field is recommended as it can maximize usage of existing land,

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noting that one artificial turf field has the usage capacity of several grass fields. D. Gibson also remarked that communication and decision-making with First Nations and Indigenous-serving organizations has not been formalized to the point where there is clear protocol between the City and the various groups.

Discussion took place and the following comments of Council were noted:

- municipalities with similar density and land mass should be utilized for comparison purposes;
- it would be valuable to have the need for and equity of public washrooms intertwined with the proposed strategic directions, recommendations, and actions of the Parks and Recreation Plan;
- co-stewardship with Indigenous groups would lend itself to the City's efforts toward truth and reconciliation;
- application of a climate lens should serve as an overarching umbrella for all the proposed strategic directions;
- it would be valuable to consider inter-municipal planning in Queensborough given its proximity to the Hamilton neighbourhood of Richmond;
- there is a need to examine alternate spaces to offer programming and in particular, to advance the joint-use principles with School District No. 40;
- an inventory of indoor and outdoor parks and recreation space would be valuable;
- with respect to promoting equity, access, and inclusion, language should be updated to reflect universal accessibility, which captures those with visible and invisible disabilities;
- there is a need to include financial equity, access, and inclusion under Part 4 of the draft strategic directions, recommendations, and actions;
- there is a need to have water sources in parks;
- analysis of the City's parkland space based on its geographic area would be valuable;
- the targets for park space for preservation and park space for activation require different metrics;
- the number of proposed strategic directions is high and as such, it would be advisable to refine them;
- it would be valuable to implement measures whereby New Westminster residents are provided priority registration for parks and recreation programs;
- it would be valuable to have information regarding the data utilized to propose the recommended targets for new parkland;
- information on how regional parks by Metro Vancouver fit in with the proposed strategic direction would be helpful;

- the implementation of the proposed two new artificial turf fields should be prioritized as their use can be intensified;
- it would be valuable to understand how the proposed targets for new and improved park amenities were determined;
- the proposed strategic directions, recommendations, and actions should include the need for water fountains;
- information regarding the future of Century House would be valuable;
- it would be helpful to learn what staff envision with regard to formalizing partnerships with First Nations and Indigenous-serving organizations;
- with regard to exploring options for low- or no-cost recreation passes for Indigenous residents, it would be valuable to know whether self-identified Indigenous residents will be included in any future subsidy program;
- information on how the use of the City’s Biodiversity Strategy target will be realized would be helpful; and
- additional information on connecting Sapperton Landing to Westminster Pier Park would be valuable.

Discussion further ensued and Council expressed concern with the number of plans within the proposed draft strategic directions, recommendations, and actions, noting that implementation is paramount.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the draft List of Strategic Directions, Recommendations and Actions towards a 10-Year Implementation Plan (to 2035) be endorsed for inclusion in the forthcoming updated Parks and Recreation Plan, as outlined in the report titled “Parks and Recreation Plan – Council Workshop on Draft Strategic Directions, Recommendations and Actions” dated March 3, 2025 from the Director, Parks and Recreation.

CARRIED

5. REPORT FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION

5.1 Response to Notice of Motion: Lobbyist Registration

A proposed revised resolution to include regional districts was provided on table (attached to and forming part of these Minutes as Schedule 1).

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the proposed revised resolution titled “Lobbyist Registration” provided on table for the staff report titled “Response to Notice of Motion: Lobbyist Registration” from the Corporate Officer, dated March 3, 2025, be endorsed for submission to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association.

CARRIED

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and SECONDED
THAT the meeting adjourn (3:00 p.m.).

CARRIED

Certified a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Council Workshop meeting of the Council of the City of New Westminster held on March 3, 2025.

Councillor Tasha Henderson
CHAIR

Hanieh Berg
CORPORATE OFFICER