

**Minutes of Meeting  
Planning and Environment Committee, Vancouver Park Board  
2099 Beach Avenue, Vancouver**

**DATE OF MEETING:** February 15, 2005

**ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners**  
Commissioner Loretta Woodcock  
Commissioner Eva Riccius  
Commissioner Heather Deal

**Park Board Staff**

Rudy Roelofsen	Acting Director of Planning and Operations
Liane McKenna	Director of Queen Elizabeth District
Ron Caswell	Manager of Operations, Vancouver East District
Bill Manning	Manager of Operations, Queen Elizabeth District
Mark Vulliamy	Manager of Research and Planning
Barbara Joughin	Recorder of Minutes

**Delegations**

Walter Kalyn	
Peter Ritchie	
Loreya Montayne	
Greg Wittig	
Susan Gilbert	
Merle Reid	
Steve Lloyd	Everett Crowley Park Committee
Erik Lees	Lees and Associates
Catriona Hearn	Lees and Associates

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm, with the following Agenda:

1. Update on Changes to Dog Offleash Areas
2. Everett Crowley Management Plan
3. Mount Pleasant Pool Update
4. Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2005 meeting

**1. Update on Changes to Dog Offleash Areas:**

Bill Manning presented an update on changes to dog off leash areas and outlined the public consultation processes that were followed at four of the six proposed sites. One site has had no public consultation activities as yet, and Everett Crowley Park was to be included in a subsequent item later in the agenda. Staff put forward recommendations to:

1. Establish a new dog off leash area on the east side of New Brighton Park with the following hours :
  - 5am to 10am, May 1 to September 30 and
  - 5am to 10pm, October 1 to April 30;
2. Establish, on a 1 year trial basis, an off-leash area for small dogs in the Stanley Park shuffle board court area;

3. Not extend dog off leash hours at Killarney Park or include Angus Park as a dog off leash location;
4. Consult with the public regarding a proposal to create a dog off leash area in the English Bay area adjacent to the entrance to Stanley Park at Beach Avenue.

#### Delegations:

Walter Kalyn spoke on behalf of local residents who are opposed to creating a small dog park in the shuffleboard courts at Stanley Park. He listed concerns about the creation of a noise source close to residences, insufficient public consultation, and the need for definition of hours and rules of use as well as how communication and enforcement would be managed.

Peter Ritchie spoke about the lack of off leash areas in the West End, and the need for safe areas for young and small dogs.

Loreya Montayne sent a petition to the Board in November 2004 asking for a dog beach in Stanley Park, and was pleased to see an area identified for discussion.

Greg Wittig spoke in support of the proposal to use the shuffleboard court in Stanley Park as an off leash area for small dogs.

Susan Gilbert told the Committee that dog areas in parks help people meet their neighbours, and facilitate community development.

Merle Reid said animals are less aggressive off leash, and these areas are important to dog development.

#### Discussion:

- The group discussed different locations for an off leash dog beach in Stanley Park, and staff advised the Committee that the beach area south of Second Beach would avoid conventional swimming areas and take advantage of a large separation of pedestrian and wheeled pathways.
- The group discussed locating the proposed small dog off leash area further into the park to create distance from residents. Staff said they did not want to propose off leash dog areas in the natural areas of the park, and that the shuffleboard court proposal would utilize an unused fenced area. As the first dog park in Vancouver, it would be a pilot project to test the concept as well as the use of sand as a material.
- A Committee member asked staff to describe the public consultation process for the proposed small dog area at the shuffleboard court in Stanley Park, and staff explained that a sign was posted at the site to reach the public who actually use the area. A trial period of one year has been proposed to monitor usage, noise, materials, and impacts on the community.
- A member of the Committee asked staff to explore options for extending off leash hours at Killarney Park that accommodated concerns about off leash dogs during school hours and at lunchtime.

#### Next steps:

Staff will explore options for extending off leash hours at Killarney Park and ways to manage a small dog park at the shuffleboard court in Stanley Park. Staff will prepare a report for the Board recommending changes to the Dog Off Leash Program for review at the March 14, 2005 regular Board meeting.

## **2. Everett Crowley Management Plan:**

Mark Vulliamy acknowledged the dedication of those who worked on the development of the Everett Crowley Management Plan, and gave a brief review of the report and the process to date. The draft Management Plan (the Plan) was presented at an Open House on January 25, 2005, and Mark provided the Committee with a summary of feedback forms and comments, and a summary of the draft recommendations from the Everett Crowley Steering Committee regarding the draft Management Plan. He told the Committee that much valuable work has been accomplished, but strong concerns were expressed about three issues:

1. Off leash dog areas – while Everett Crowley Park is not officially designated as an off leash park, it is currently heavily used by dog walkers, and this status needs to be formalized. The Plan seeks to balance this objective with the need to protect sensitive ecosystems, and provide areas for public who do not want a dog experience.
2. Service yard and soil storage area – there are strong public reactions to park operations in the service area, due in part to the park’s past history as a landfill. However, storage of materials for parks is an important part of the Park Board’s sustainability practices, and this needs to be articulated as part of the park’s story as well.
3. Potential hazards from the park’s past use as a landfill – Everett Crowley Park is located over a decommissioned landfill site and because information about contents is lacking, a precautionary approach is required. Although indicators are generally positive, the Park Board must be able to assure itself and the public that the park is managed safely and with due diligence.

He said the draft plan was being revised to incorporate the above concerns and the Steering Committee’s recommendations, and requested that the Plan go forward to the Board at the March 14, 2005 regular meeting.

### Delegations:

Tom Newell told the Committee that he has noticed about 20 “blow holes” in the park, some of which are accompanied by heat and a petroleum odor. He said he was concerned about children and other members of the public digging holes into the cap during stewardship programs when there is no scientific assurance of public safety.

Steve Lloyd, Co-Chair of the Everett Crowley Park Committee, commended Park Board staff and the project consultants for their work in setting direction for the future of Everett Crowley Park. He told the Committee that the draft Plan reconfirms that the public wants to preserve and restore the natural status of the park, and that a spirit of compromise is present in the Plan. He said the inclusion of a new trail is critical.

Steve Lloyd presented comments from Lorna Gibb, who was unable to attend and who is opposed to the development of a new trail due to disturbances to the landfill and to environmentally sensitive areas.

### Discussion:

- The Committee asked staff and the consultants for information about the location of the historic landfill and the thickness of the covering cap, and learned that maps are included in the draft Plan. The cap is a minimum of one meter deep, and typically deeper, however Park Board staff will consult with City and environmental protection staff about best practices on decommissioned landfill sites. The group discussed the need for environmental testing and further analysis of the landfill site as a whole.
- The group discussed the advantages and disadvantages of creating a new trail on the south

slope to resolve conflicts between dogs and other walkers, as well as the need to protect ecologically sensitive areas from off leash dogs.

Next Steps:

Staff will prepare a report for the March 14, 2005 regular Board meeting recommending that the Board approve the Everett Crowley Management Plan. Park Board staff and the Everett Crowley Park Committee will prepare a joint submission for park capital priorities for consideration in the 2006-08 Capital Plan, and staff will prepare a submission for addressing issues related to the service yard.

**3. Mount Pleasant Pool Update:**

Mark Vulliamy presented a summary of three options that are under review for the proposed development of Mount Pleasant park:

1. achieve maximum green space by removing the pool and building
2. retain the existing pool and part of the existing building
3. build a new pool in Mount Pleasant Park and remove existing building

He also identified and discussed four issues for the park and the community (aquatic services, childcare, community gathering place, and site greening), and told the Committee that staff are creating budgets for the different scenarios and working with a landscape architect to make the options visual for the February 26, 2005 Open House on the future of Mount Pleasant Park, pool and community centre.

Next Steps:

Staff will prepare a report for the Board to review options for Mount Pleasant at the April 11, 2005 regular Board meeting.

**4. Approval of January 11, 2005 Minutes**

The minutes of the January 11, 2005 meeting were approved as presented.

**5. Next Meeting:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm. The next Planning and Recreation Committee meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2005, at 7:00 pm.