

## **DOG STRATEGY TASK FORCE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **OBJECTIVES**

The Task Force will provide the Vancouver Park Board and other civic agencies with a series of recommendations related to dogs within Vancouver, in a way that balances the needs and interests of non-dog-owning residents and dog-owning residents.

### **STRUCTURE & MEMBERSHIP**

The Planning Committee supported a citizen-based Task Force that will work with the support of Park Board staff and report to the Vancouver Park Board. No politician or bureaucrat will sit on the Task Force.

The Task Force will consist of six citizens representing diverse societal interests:

- parks/leisure: a citizen whose primary focus is on maintaining and building upon Vancouver's diverse parks and recreation system;
- children/families: a citizen whose primary focus is on promoting the welfare of children and families in urban environments;
- pets: a citizen whose primary focus is in understanding the needs and issues related to the welfare of pets in urban environments;
- environment: a citizen whose primary focus is on preserving key environmental and habitat features within Vancouver's park system;
- business: a citizen whose primary focus is on maintaining and building upon Vancouver's solid economic structure; and
- community relations: a citizen whose primary focus is on developing consensus-based solutions and managing change processes in a multi-stakeholder environment.

### **OUTCOMES**

The Task Force is to achieve the following key outcomes:

- a balanced compromise between restraint and freedom for dogs;
- a happy parks and leisure experience for all;
- a sharing of public spaces within specified practices, rules and regulations;
- a fair representation of all views;
- the identification of baseline data and key success factors; and
- the identification of realistic and cost-effective solutions.

## **PRODUCTS**

The Task Force will formulate a Strategy for Dogs in the Urban Environment, which will include a series of recommendations pertaining to:

- the education of dog owners;
- the enforcement of dog-related rules and regulations;
- the infrastructure required for accommodating dogs, including the identification of locations for dog areas and their design;
- the overall management of this issue from the bureaucratic and political points-of-view;
- the proposed enhancements to the off-leash program referred by the Park Board, and;
- other issues as the Task Force sees fit.

## **PROCESS**

The Task Force's activities will include but not be limited to:

- understanding the legal framework in Vancouver;
- understanding the existing dog off-leash program, its history, successes and short comings;
- understanding the types and quantities of public lands available in Vancouver, and the existing set of dog off-leash areas in Vancouver;
- reviewing data on dog ownership and dog licensing;
- discussing issues with relevant staff from Park Board, Animal Control, School Board, Engineering Services, Mountain View Cemetery and Legal Services;
- reviewing information from other municipalities and government agencies in Greater Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada and the United States;
- hosting one or several public forums where the public is invited to offer testimonial evidence;
- requesting comments from Vancouver City Council and Vancouver School Board;
- formulating a series of draft recommendations for the following areas: education, enforcement and infrastructure;
- hosting one or several public forums where the public is invited to comment on the draft recommendations;
- preparing a final report, which will include a listing of high-priority and medium-priority recommendations; and
- making a public presentation to the Vancouver Park Board and/or its committees on the results of its work.

## **Time Line**

The Task Force is expected to:

- be constituted in June 2006;
- gather information in July-September 2006;
- organize the first set of public forums in October-November 2006;
- draft initial recommendations in December 2006;
- organize the second set of public forums in January-February 2007;
- write its final report in March 2007; and
- present its final report in April 2007.