

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD IN THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2001**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Laura McDiarmid
	Commissioners	- Roslyn Cassells
		- Allan De Genova
		- Duncan Wilson
		- Dianne Ledingham
		- Christopher Richardson
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Manager of Operations	- Bill Manning
	Manager of Public Affairs	- Terri Clark
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

Commissioner Hansen had another commitment and could not attend the meeting.

Dogs Off-Leash Program

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 4, 2001 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to C.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson,

- A. THAT the Board limit the dog off-leash privileges at Heather Park to between 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- B. THAT the Board approve an additional Dog Off-Leash site -- a portion of Queen Elizabeth Park off 37th Avenue west of the entrance roadway-- to be used for off-leash dogs from 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- C. THAT the Board designate Hillcrest Park as a site where no dogs would be permitted on sports fields.

Bill Manning , Manager of Operations - Queen Elizabeth District gave a brief overview on the dog off-leash program. He described the process which was adopted to determine the pilot project at 4 locations. On the successful completion of the pilot project 29 off-leash locations were established in neighbourhood parks. Staff worked with members of the community to encourage users to follow the rules for using an off-leash park. Park rangers handed out brochures which were developed as an educational tool for those using off-leash areas. We continue to work on implementing this program and working with the GVRD and Animal Control Board in partnership to address the overall issue of dogs off leash.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board with regard to the Dogs Off-Leash Program:

- Ann Bailey
- Alec Orr-Ewing
- Leonard Cropper
- Glen Swain & Mark Dowhaniuk-(group)
- Jane Meikle
- Gordon Plottel, President, Douglas Park Community Association
- Joseph Zaide
- Patricia Martin
- David Walsh
- Shannon Postle
- Alan Negretot
- Suzanne Anton, Vancouver Field Sports Federation
- Chris Haylett, Little Mountain Baseball
- Linda Hull
- Ursula Robertson
- Gerry King
- Colin Stark
- Korky Day
- Jacquie Faubert
- Jean Scribner, Douglas Park Community Association
- David Allman
- Kit Nichols, Vancouver Select League Soccer
- Barbara Laird, President, Riley Park Community Association

The following is a summary of comments provided by the foregoing delegations:

- Board should approve recommendations in the staff report and implement landscaping plan for Heather Park;
- Douglas Park Community Association was not involved in the decision to have an off-leash area in Heather Park;
- The park is sand based and has been ruined by the dogs;
- Re-seed Heather Park with tougher grass and set up a Task Force to solve the problems;
- Find a compromise, keep the evening off-leash hours at Heather Park;
- Dog owners association should have been contacted to solve the problems;
- enforce the law prosecute and fine people who do not follow them;
- Heather park is a small park and cannot accommodate different uses;
- No neighbourhood consultation;
- Choose sites away from children playgrounds;

- keep morning and evening hours in the Douglas Park Community, Queen Elizabeth Park is too far;
- Dogs and sports field do not go together, therefore, dogs should not be allowed at Hillcrest Park.

Board members discussed the matter and agreed that the delegations did not support the compromise in hours recommended to the Board as a solution to the use of Heather Park as a dog off-leash area. Board members felt that recommendation A in the report, which removed the evening off-leash hours would not solve the problem.

Moved by Commissioner Ledingham,

**THAT recommendation A be struck;
and,
THAT the General Manager approve the creation of a task force
comprised of all stakeholders of Heather and Douglas Park in order
to identify an off leash area in that neighbourhood.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson,

**THAT the Board approve an additional Dog Off-Leash site -- a
portion of Queen Elizabeth Park off 37th Avenue west of the entrance
roadway-- to be used for off-leash dogs from 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson,

**THAT the Board designate Hillcrest Park as a site where no dogs
would be permitted on sports fields.**

- Carried.

(Commissioner Cassells contrary)

Parks Control By-Law Amendments to Support Dog Off-Leash Program

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 5, 2001 recommending that the Board amend the Parks Control By-Law as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Report and that the Board recommend City Council amend the appropriate sections of the Animal Control By-Law to support the Park Board Dog Off Leash Program.

Moved by Commissioner De Genova

- A. THAT the Board amend the Parks Control By-Law as outlined in Appendix 1 of this Report.**
- B. THAT the Board recommend City Council amend the appropriate Sections of the Animal Control By-Law to support the Park Board Dog Off-Leash Program.**

- Carried Unanimously

Moved by Commissioner De Genova,

THAT the By-Law to amend the Parks Control By-Law attached as Appendix I to the staff report dated January 5, 2001 be given first reading.

- Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner De Genova,

THAT the By-Law to amend the Parks Control By-Law attached as Appendix I to the staff report dated January 5, 2001 be given second and third readings.

- Carried Unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Laura McDiarmid
Chair