

ITEM 11

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 64

COUNCIL MEETING Oct. 10/72

11. Re: Letter - Mr. J. Weddell, 7017 Hillview Street
Skeet Shooting Facility - 4102 Sperling Avenue
— (Item 3, Report No. 35, June 4, 1971)
(Item 19, Supplementary Report No. 11, February 14, 1972)
(Item 10, Report No. 25, April 10, 1972)

Appearing on the Agenda for the October 16, 1972, Council Meeting is a letter dated September 17, 1972 from Mr. J. Weddell to the Mayor concerning the Skeet Shooting Facility on Sperling Avenue. Also on the Agenda is a letter which the Parks and Recreation Administrator sent to Mr. Weddell on September 11, 1972.

Council on April 10, 1972, was given a progress report on the subject facility and advised that the matter concerning the facility's present location on Sperling Avenue had been referred to the Parks and Recreation Commission for study and comment. Attached is a report that was submitted by the staff to the Commission on August 9, 1972.

The Commission on August 9, 1972, concurred with the Park and Recreation Administrator's recommendations that:

- " 1. Staff should continue to actively pursue this matter with a view to presenting a subsequent recommendation to the Commission in order to resolve the numerous conflicting and inconclusive aspects involved; and
2. That the Commission reaffirm its present stand wherein the gun activity will be allowed to continue operating at the present location until the end of 1973. "

It is expected that the Parks and Recreation Administrator will submit another report to the Commission in approximately four weeks. Council will be apprised of the matter immediately thereafter.

For the information of the complainants, this facility will not be used for the 1973 Canada Summer Games. The shooting event is proposed for the Canada Games Range on the Coquitlam and District Hunting and Fishing Club Grounds on Burke Mountain. Skeet shooting will not be part of the Games but rifle shooting will be.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT a copy of this report be sent to the following persons who have complained about the location of the Skeet Shooting Facility on Sperling Avenue:

Irene J. and Arthur T Lavers,
7488 Government Street,
Burnaby 2, B.C.

Mabel V. and Walter T. Allemann,
7444 Government Street,
Burnaby 2, B. C.

Jack Weddell,
7017 Hillview Street,
Burnaby 2, B. C.

13. Trap and Skeet Shooting - Burnaby Lake Sports Complex

Background

On May 5, 1971, the Council requested the Commission to consider and report on noise complaints received from citizens living in the Central Valley area who were requesting suspension of the shooting pending the installation of an artificial noise barrier.

On May 19, 1971, the Commission advised Council that they were not opposed to the Trap and Skeet Club using its present location up to and including 1973. At the same meeting the Commission resolved that they would like to meet with the members of the Trap and Skeet Club and discuss the possibilities of moving their activity to some other area in Burnaby. The Commission met with the Lower Mainland of B.C. Gun Association, toured their facility, and visited two possible sites on Barnet Highway below the north face of Burnaby Mountain.

On June 28, 1972, the Commission received a reply from the Club which rejected the Barnet Highway area for the following reasons:

1. Shooting direction must be north or east.
2. A minimum of 300 feet from shooting position is required.
3. The most desirable site is a flat site.
4. Preparation of the suggested site would be costly because of the difficult topography in the Burnaby Mountain area.

On April 10, 1972, the Municipal Manager submitted a progress report to Council on the noise level recorded in the residential areas surrounding the Skeet Club facility. Action on the subject of the report was deferred until the Parks and Recreation Commission had an opportunity to present their views on the subject matter.

Staff Comments

The following sites were investigated as possible locations for the trap and skeet shooting facility.

1. Burnaby Lake Sports Complex - the present location of the trap and skeet shoot facility is ideal because it meets all criteria of the Club. However, a conflict exists between other sports activities surrounding the present trap and skeet club and this conflict will undoubtedly increase as more facilities are established in the Burnaby Lake Sports Complex. The isolation feature of the present site is lost as more people are attracted to the area by other sport facilities. Thus public safety is increasingly becoming a critical element.
2. Burnaby Mountain - Barnet Highway - a second alternate site for the Trap and Skeet Shoot Club would be to locate them east of the present rifle guns located on Barnet Highway. This would be a portion of the Simon Fraser University lands but could meet some of the criteria established by the Club. They could get ample distance from their shooting positions and they could shoot eastward.
3. Capitol Hill Conservation Areas - these areas are located on the north side of Capitol Hill. However, they are too small and the ground is too steep and they are very close to residential areas.
4. Confederation Park - a Club shoot facility could be located just south of the CN tracks where the trees could be cut out along the tracks. This site, however, could still be close to residential areas that we envisage in this park. It is also extremely close to residential areas even though they would in fact be located

between industrial developments.

5. Love's Property on the Walking and Riding Trail System - this area is quite small but is sufficiently isolated because of the topography and industrial installations. It would, however, be in conflict with part of the walking and riding trail facility. Also this site is being considered ideally suited as a trailer/camper site.
6. North Arm of the Fraser River - the chief disadvantage with this location is that we do not own all of the property. However, it is a flat site and could be oriented for either a north or east shooting position. It is sufficiently far removed from surrounding residential areas that it is a potential site but the site lacks access and municipal services. There is also a noise carrying factor in that the people on the south slope could hear shooting from this area.
7. The Old Gravel Pit Area Located on the SFU Property Southeast of Burnaby Mountain - this area is sufficiently isolated as far as Burnaby residents are concerned but, because of the proximity of Burnaby's eastern boundary at North Road, Port Moody residents would be the ones that would be bothered by the noise emanating from this potential site.
8. Robert Burnaby Park - the site suggested would be close to the freeway in order to blend the noise from shooting with the freeway noise. It would also mean destroying the natural beauty of this wooded park in order to create the shooting facility.
9. South Burnaby Ravines - these sites are very small and very close to residents of the south slope. The other chief disadvantage is that shooting would be towards the south which, according to the Club criteria, is not desirable.
10. Trans Mountain Tank Farm Located North of the Barnet Highway - there is parkland east of the Trans Mountain Marine Division which could serve as a potential site. It is, however, quite small and members would be shooting over the CPR tracks. It is also very close to the Westridge residential area.
11. Trans Mountain Tank Farm Located on Burnaby Mountain - this location provides open spaces around the tanks which could present a possible site; however, the topography is sloping and not flat, according to the Club criteria. The major disadvantage is that this site is private property.

Considering all sites examined, the one that appears to have the greatest potential is the Burnaby Mountain-Barnet Highway Site east of the present Gun Club facilities. It is located on Simon Fraser University land but a separate lease could be negotiated in order to have this property available for the Club. The prime advantage, in the opinion of your staff is that all gun clubs would be located in one area.

There are other locations in the lower mainland that are being used by trap and skeet shooting clubs. Port Coquitlam Fish and Game Club is located on Crown Land located in Burke Mountain Park. The Regional Parks Authority is considering an outdoor sports centre complex. This proposal is in an area known as the Port Moody water conservation area. There are some 4000 acres within this site and it is located above the power lines situated on the north side of Burrard Inlet, northeast of Ioco. The Regional District Parks Authority plan an outdoor sports facility wherein a number of clubs may use the park facility. This would be an all inclusive sports centre including gun clubs, skeet clubs, tree climbing, fly fishing, etc., i.e. everything pertaining to the person interested in outdoors activities. This site is sufficiently isolated from any existing or potential residential development that it virtually eliminates the noise nuisance factor.

The best shooting site is their present facility in the County Fair Sports Complex. Relocation in Burnaby only relocates the noise factor to some other residential area. Compatibility with other sports activities is

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is questionable and if they are allowed to continue on the present site then fencing and mass planting around this site will be required for the sake of public safety. The Simon Fraser-owned land on Barnet Highway could be adapted at considerable expense. This would keep the activity in Burnaby in an area where other similar noise producing activities are located.

Staff will continue to actively pursue this matter with a view to presenting a subsequent recommendation to the Commission in order to resolve the numerous conflicting and inconducive aspects involved.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission reaffirm their present stand wherein the gun activity will be allowed to continue operating at the present location until the end of 1973.