

ITEM 3

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 58

COUNCIL MEETING Sept. 18/72

3. Re: Dogs in Parks

Attached is a report from the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding dogs in parks. The report was prepared at the request of Council who on March 20, 1972 received a letter on the subject from Mrs. Peggy Conway.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT a copy of the Commission's report be sent to Mrs. Conway, together with pertinent comments from the Manager's Report to Council (Item 4, Report No. 56, September 11, 1972), which concern proposed solutions to the problem on a more comprehensive scale.

Re: Dogs In Parks

The Parks and Recreation Commission, on receipt of a letter of complaint from Mrs. Peggy Conway, Burnaby Nursery School, 4653 Hazel Street, Burnaby 1, B. C., directed staff to examine and report on the suggestions put forth in Mrs. Conway's letter. Mrs. Conway's letter of March 9th is repeated below for your information:

"This letter follows unsuccessful attempts to communicate favorably (in my favor, of course) with Burnaby Council regarding dogs in Parks. The problem is not of such great concern to people who are not as involved with children as a Nursery School is. Each year when the Parks beckon us outdoors we contend with the same obnoxious situation - dogs have been in playgrounds, over grassy areas and in picnic areas. We can no longer roll down grassy slopes - sit on the grass to lunch or even run freely in areas which are obviously children's playgrounds.

Are we preserving park areas for people? Or do we pay tax dollars for dog parks?

Council felt that setting specific areas aside would be impractical and prohibited by cost. Banning dogs from Parks seems undesirable. Cates Park has a sign which reads "No dogs from May to October". It is a beginning.

Could signs be erected banning them from specific areas in Parks. No dogs in play areas or picnic areas? - And enforced?

It is beyond my shallow comprehension that dogs can pre-empt children.

(Signed) Peggy Conway

P.S. Failing all else may be a rider could be added to the May 1971 "Leash Law" requiring the person on the end of the leash to carry a shovel and bucket and "Use It."

The following letter dated February 25 from Mrs. Conway was received by Council:

"It is that time of year again when children will be flocking to our parks. To my knowledge nothing has been done about the "dog problem". Following correspondence last year we were to hear further from the Park Board.

Dogs on leashes only in parks does not solve the problem, as I'm sure you are aware.

May I offer a suggestion? If we must share our parks with dogs so as not to discriminate against dog owners would it be feasible to fence areas for dogs and owners?

If any one else wished to venture forth they would at least know the perils.

Then our kids could run, play and roll down grassy slopes once more."

ITEM 3

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 58

COUNCIL MEETING Sept. 18/72

The Municipal Manager reported as follows:

"Appearing on the Agenda for the March 6, 1972, Council meeting is a letter dated February 25 from Mrs. Peggy Conway concerning dogs in parks. She suggests that an area in every park be fenced specifically for use by dogs and owners.

This is a follow-up of a complaint made by the same person on March 16, 1971 regarding Burnaby Mountain Park.

In May 1971, the Parks By-Law was amended to include a "Leash Law" in all the Burnaby Parks. As a result of this amendment, owners are not allowed to let their animals "...run at large or feed upon any park or driveway howsoever, except in the case of a dog, which shall be permitted to enter and remain in the park in the custody of the owner or his agent, and only when on leash."

We are not in agreement with the complainant's suggestion to construct dog walk areas within parks because, apart from the cost involved, it does not appear practical.

Another alternative is to ban dogs completely from parks. Although we are not in a position to recommend such a ban, nevertheless it is a subject that could be considered by Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission. This alternative was of course considered by the Commission the last time the subject was debated.

We are in complete sympathy with the complainant but we know of no solution to the problem short of a complete ban of dogs in park areas.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT copies of this report be forwarded to Mrs. P. Conway and the Parks and Recreation Commission for its information."

The matter was referred by Council to the Parks and Recreation Commission for advice.

It would be a relatively simple matter to draft a regulation or by-law banning dogs from Parks or restricting dogs to specific areas within parks. Enforcement, however, would be virtually impossible. Our present Parks Regulation By-law prohibits dogs from beaches and pools (By-Law 1802, Section 22. (under General Regulations) (c) Any person who causes any dog or other animal to swim in the water or throws or deposits any injurious nuisance or offensive matter into the water in any reservoir, lake, pond or other receptacle for water connected with any park, or on the beaches, or upon the ice in case any such water is frozen, or in any way fouls the water, or commits any unlawful damage or injury to the works, pipes, or water, or encourages the same to be done shall be deemed to be guilty of an infraction of this by-law, and shall be liable to the penalties hereinafter provided). Enforcement here is fairly effective during the summer months when the facilities are staffed. It would be unrealistic, however, to attempt to maintain the level of staffing required at pools and beaches throughout the parks system and therefore enforcement in other areas consists mainly on the concentrating on problem situations that come to our attention. A regulation banning dogs totally from parks would be more enforceable than would be restrictive regulation. Your Administrator is in agreement with the content of the Manager's March 6 report to Council. The most practical method

ITEM 3

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 58

COUNCIL MEETING Sept. 18/72

of dealing with the problem is to enforce existing regulations to the extent that this is reasonably possible concentrating on problem areas as they come to our attention.

For your further information I am attaching a copy of a pertinent article from Time Magazine of July 24, 1972.

RECOMMENDATION:

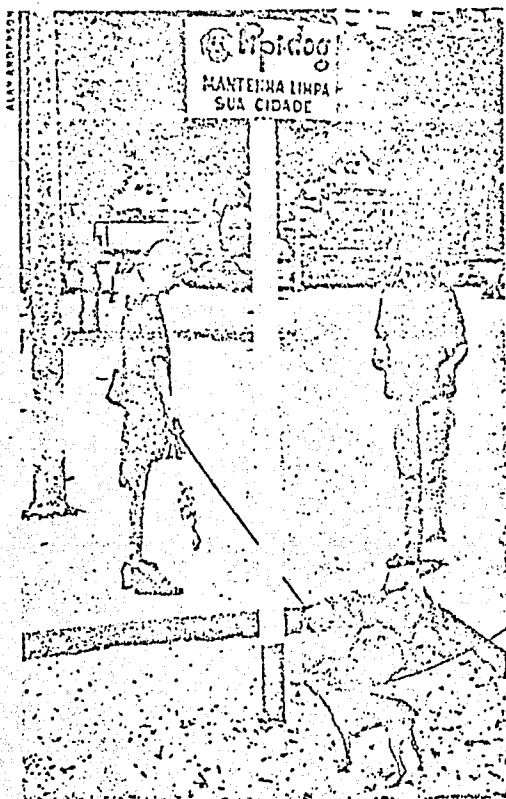
That the Commission direct staff to enforce existing by-laws and regulations regarding the control of dogs in parks, insofar as it is practical to do so, and that enforcement be concentrated on problem areas as they come to the attention of staff.

NOTE: The Parks and Recreation Commission concurred with the Administrator's recommendation on August 9, 1972.

Dog Story

The residents of Rio de Janeiro are enormously fond of their splendid Copacabana beach. So are the 25,000 dogs that live in the area and litter it with some 21 tons of excrement a day. After pondering the complaints of bare-foot beach strollers, Copacabana officials offered a solution of sorts: a series

NEW EXPERIMENT IN RIO



of installations named the "Pipi-Dog."

Each one consists of a sand-filled, depressed area with a signpost in the center to serve both as marker and target. On opening day, dog owners and dogs lined up to use the inaugural facility in Serzedelo Corrêa Plaza, but the first sampler was a three-year-old boy who wriggled away from his mother and hit the post perfectly. Said his embarrassed mother: "He has always been somewhat mischievous." As for the dogs, most of them went about their business as usual.