

RE: BARNET HIGHWAY OUTDOOR RIFLE AND REVOLVER RANGES PROPOSAL

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendations as contained in the report of the Director Recreation & Cultural Services be adopted.

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1983 JANUARY 19

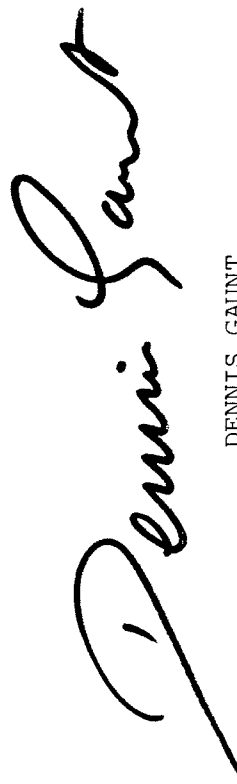
TO : MUNICIPAL MANAGER
FROM: DIRECTOR RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES
RE : BARNET HIGHWAY OUTDOOR RIFLE AND REVOLVER RANGES PROPOSAL

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council approve the proposed plans of the Gun Club Associations as detailed on Page 5 of Attachment "A" which is appended to the report of the Director Recreation & Cultural Services.
2. THAT Council advise S.F.U. of their approval of the proposal and request that a renewed gun club lease reflect the terms of the proposal.
3. THAT the Municipality assist the gun clubs in assessing the noise attenuation effectiveness of the proposed building modifications at Barnet Rifle Club, prior to similar works being undertaken at the Coast Marksmen and Burnaby Fish and Game Club facilities.
4. THAT staff provide Council with an assessment of the effectiveness of the proposed overall program by 1984 December 31.
5. THAT Council direct staff to pursue finding an alternate site for the re-location of the gun clubs as a long-term solution and that S.F.U. be so advised.

REPORT

The Parks & Recreation Commission at its meeting of 1983 January 19 received the attached staff report on the above subject and approved the six recommendations contained therein.



DENNIS GAUNT
DIRECTOR RECREATION &
CULTURAL SERVICES

PAL:ps
Attach.

RE: BARNET HIGHWAY OUTDOOR RIFLE AND REVOLVER RANGES PROPOSAL

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the Commission support the proposal.
2. THAT the Commission recommends Council approve the proposal.
3. THAT the Commission recommend to Council that Council advise S.F.U. of their acceptance of the proposal and that a renewed gun club lease reflect the terms of the proposal.
4. THAT the Municipality assist the gun clubs in assessing the noise attenuation effectiveness of the proposed building modifications at Barnet Rifle Club, prior to similar works being undertaken at the Coast Marksman and Burnaby Fish and Game Club facilities.
5. THAT staff provide the Commission and the Council with an assessment of the effectiveness of the proposed overall program by 1984 December 31.
6. THAT the Commission recommend that Council direct staff to pursue finding an alternate site for the re-location of the gun clubs as a long-term solution and that S.F.U. be so advised.

REPORT

Background

A number of concerns were raised by Council in 1979-80 over anticipated negative impacts of the Barnet Rifle Range, Burnaby Fish and Game gun range and the West Coast Marksman revolver range activities, on the developing Barnet Marine Park. As a result of these concerns, discussions took place with Simon Fraser University as to the renewal of the gun range, land leases. The subject properties are owned by the University, and the Gun Clubs operate on the properties under a lease agreement.

Council at their meeting 1980 September 08, as a result of their deliberations over the Gun Club leases, adopted the motion:

"That Council recommend to Simon Fraser University that they provide a two year lease subject to His Worship, Mayor Mercier, taking the initiative to bring all of the interested parties together to arrive at the most equitable long-term solution."

The intentions of Council were transmitted to Simon Fraser University with the objectives being:

1. "That the lease be for a two year term, with the option to renew for an additional year.
2. That staff would meet with the representatives of the three clubs so as to review the various alternatives open to resolving this matter.
3. We would attempt to seek a resolution prior to the expiry of the two year term, so that consideration could be again given to this matter before the option to renew is considered.
4. There may be specific factors in the operation of the three clubs which would need to be included in the terms of the lease so that all parties would clearly understand the situation when the renewal was being considered.

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The Simon Fraser Board of Governors at the meeting of 1980 October 28 "resolved to approve negotiating renewals of leases to the Sports Clubs for a period of three years, recognizing use subject to approval by Order in Council, and further resolved that consideration may be given in the leases to any understanding on the operation of the Clubs arrived at between the Corporation of Burnaby and the Clubs."

A subject clause was agreed to and was incorporated in the lease. The conditions were specified in the lease agreement as:

"10. NO NUISANCE

10.01 The Lessee shall not at any time during the said term, use, exercise or carry on or permit to suffer to be used, exercised or carried on, in or upon the Demised Premises or any part thereof any noxious, noisome or offensive art, trade, business, occupation or calling, and no act, matter or thing whatsoever shall at any time during the said term be done in or upon the Demised Premises or any part thereof which shall or may be to the annoyance, nuisance, damage or disturbance of the occupiers or owners of the Demised Premises or adjoining land and properties.

10.02 At the date of execution of this Lease, the Lessee desires to form and participate in a committee ("Committee") with representatives of the Corporation of the District of Burnaby and the Clubs registered under the Society Act and known as "Coast Marksmen Incorporated" and "Burnaby Fish and Game Club" (the "Clubs"). The objective of the Committee will be to assess and conclude, within two years from the Commencement Date, solutions to eliminating and reducing the levels of noise emitted from the Demised Premises. The Lessee intends to occupy and use the Demised Premises in accordance with the conclusions of the Committee.

10.03 The Lessor may from time to time require written reports of the progress of the Committee from the lessee, and prior to the expiry of two years from the Commencement Date, the lessee intends to deliver a written summary of the conclusions of the Committee to the lessor."

Proposal

A working committee made up of Club representatives and Recreation and Cultural Services Department staff, met over the past two years and discussed extensively all alternatives available to meeting the objectives of eliminating and reducing the levels of noise emitted from the Clubs, with the goal of improving the Marine Park environment.

Contained within the Committee's proposal are the details of the deliberations and the agreed to conclusions (Attachment A).

In summary, all aspects of the Clubs' operations and requirements were clarified. The objectives of the Municipality and the Clubs' needs were closely considered in developing these alternatives:

1. Relocation
2. Club activity scheduling
3. Facility building modifications
4. Public education

Also discussed and not included in the proposal was the consideration of an indoor facility. This option was not pursued as it has been proven that recreational sport shooting as conducted by the clubs cannot be satisfactorily accommodated in an indoor facility.

The conclusions of the "Committee's" study are:

1. Elimination of the noise emitted from the gun ranges is not possible. This is not conceivable given the nature of the sport and the given topography of the site.
2. Noise reduction and general reduced impact of the Clubs' activities is possible through sensitive and effective shooting schedules and potentially through building modifications.

3. An alternate site is not available at this time.

4. The sound emitted from the range is not causing a "real" concern with the Marine Park users. This conclusion is based on a two year monitoring by the Recreation and Cultural Services staff of public reaction to the gun sounds. The public is interested in knowing what the source of the sounds are and when informed, have not indicated any displeasure.

Recreation and Cultural Services Perspective

The Department is satisfied that the "Committee" has considered fairly all viable options and have drawn reasonable conclusions given the value of the Clubs' activities, the present public reaction, and present available land resources.

It is our view that the implementation of the "proposal" would result in a noticeable reduction in the levels of noise emitted and a general reduction in the overall impact of the Clubs' activities on the Marine Park.

The Department recognizes the valuable recreation and community service the Clubs' provide Burnaby and its neighboring communities and, therefore, the only equitable and viable alternatives at this time are those that have been contained within the "proposal."

Planning and Building Inspection Department Perspective

The Planning Department concurs that there is no quick or highly effective solution available for the elimination of the problem. As such, the proposal is supported as a realistic treatment of the situation for the immediate future. However, it is felt that a long-term objective of all parties should be an eventual re-location of the gun clubs to an alternate, more remote location within the region.

With respect to the proposal to possibly undertake building modification plans at the Burnaby Fish and Game Club and the Coast Marksman facility, there is some concern that these improvements should only be undertaken if significant reductions to the perceived noise at Burnaby Marine Park can be realized. Considerable expenditures for only marginal noise reductions would not eliminate the problem and could work against an eventual re-location. If, on the other hand, the modifications at the Burnaby Rifle Clubs prove to be successful in the noise abatement efforts, then their use at the Coast Marksman and Burnaby Fish and Game Club facilities would be supported.

Conclusions

It is collectively agreed that in the long term, the only solution would be to find a mutually agreeable alternate site. Such a site would have to meet the needs of the Clubs, the user community and the Municipality.

It is recommended that the future objective be to establish a more permanent solution in the form of a more suitable location for the Clubs' activities. This long-term solution should be pursued by the Corporation in concert with the G.V.R.D. and would incorporate the prospect of an indoor range being proposed for development by the Justice Institute in Vancouver that would take virtually all of the police training functions.

In the meantime, and for the foreseeable future, the proposal of the Committee should be adopted and implemented. It is our view that the subjects of the current gun club leases have been satisfied. The Municipal staff will continue to monitor the activities of the Clubs and support them in implementing the alternatives as outlined in the "proposal."

The Commissions's support of the proposal should be conveyed to Council and, in turn, Simon Fraser University should be advised that the Gun Clubs have satisfactorily met our expectations and that the Clubs be offered renewed leases. The renewed leases should reflect a commitment of the Clubs to continue to implement and refine the alternatives available to reducing the levels of noise emitted from the Clubs, and to work with the Municipality in establishing a long-term solution.

ATTACHMENT A

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Mr. D. Ross, Bursar
 Simon Fraser University
 Burnaby, B.C.
 V5A 1S6

Dear Mr. Ross:

In accordance with our Lease Agreements, we are pleased to enclose the progress report on noise abatement and control prepared by the "Joint Action Committee".

We also wish to acknowledge the contribution and active participation in the deliberations of this "Committee" by Mr. Neil Dockendorf, Superintendent Community Recreation of the Corporation of the ~~Municipality~~ *District* of Burnaby.

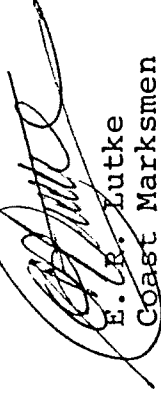
Yours truly,



H. Ball
 Barnet Rifle Club



B. Pitkethly
 Burnaby Fish & Game Club



E. R. Lutke
 Coast Marksmen

RECEIVED IN
 PARKS
 AND
 RECREATION REFER FILE

NOV 23 1982

To	Initial	Date
AID		

cc - M. J. Shelley - Municipal Manager
 ✓ N. Dockendorf - Superintendent
 Community Recreation
 W. A. Lewarne - Mayor-in-Council

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REPORT TO SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

BY

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THE JOINT ACTION COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION

In 1980, the Barnet Rifle Club, Burnaby Fish and Game Club and Coast Marksmen, together with representatives of the Recreation and Cultural Services Department of the Corporation of the District of Burnaby, formed a "Committee" to explore ways of lessening or controlling the levels of noise emitted from the premises of the three gun clubs.

In accordance with pertinent Clauses of the Lease Agreements between Simon Fraser University and the individual gun clubs, this document provides a summary of the conclusions of this "Committee". It will briefly outline steps that have already been taken to abate the noise emitted from these premises and outline future potential actions to further control the noise.

We believe that what has been accomplished thus far together with the ongoing programs will significantly improve the effect of the noise on the Barnet Marine Park users.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF SHOOTING SPORTS

Shooting Sports in Canada have a long and intimate relationship with the history of the Nation. Dating back to pre-Confederation times, it was considered one of the major recreational activities in which the entire community was encouraged to participate. Since the beginning of this century, B. C. shooters have played a significant role in the success Canada has enjoyed in International Sport Shooting Competition.

The three Gun Clubs and their predecessor organizations, have enjoyed the use of the designated area for their activities since 1952 and memberships have grown in size over the years.

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The total combined regular membership of these Clubs is approximately 1500, with the Barnet Rifle Club accounting for approximately 50% of this total. While this represents only a small percentage of the 150,000 firearms owners in the Lower Mainland, substantial numbers of the remainder patronize the facilities on an occasional or casual basis throughout the year.

In addition, most law enforcement, custodial and private or public security organizations operating within the Lower Mainland rely upon these Clubs to provide facilities for firearms practice and skills training. The Clubs also provide a valuable competitive training facility for provincial, national and international shooting sports events. Some of the B. C. and Canada Summer Games events have used these facilities in the past and will no doubt do so again in future.

Although each Club has its own specific interests and objectives, they subscribe to certain common goals:

- To provide instruction in the safe and correct usage of firearms
- To make available a safe and controlled shooting environment to members and the general public
- To encourage various aspects of the Shooting Sports and improve competitive skills of participants

Shooting, like so many other forms of recreation, can produce by-products which could be considered an irritant by others who must share the limited recreational facilities available to an urban population. Football or baseball events often create parking and traffic congestion. Watersports can cause disturbance to fish habitat and ecology. With shooting, it is often identified as "noise".

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During 1979, the effect of this "noise" on the visitors to the the Barnet Marine Park became a subject of both private and public debate. It is our understanding, however, that only two formal objections were registered with the District of Burnaby.

In August 1980, Burnaby's Public Health staff conducted noise level emission tests from all three gun club locations. Their report stated that with one marginal exception, "The Burnaby Mountain Rifle Ranges' noise level emissions were within the non-continuous noise standard contained in the Burnaby Noise and Sound Abatement By-law 1979, No. 7332".

While these levels were also confirmed by private tests conducted by the Gun clubs, on September 8, 1980, Burnaby Council suggested further action be taken to address the noise impact issue.

On October 2, 1980, Club representatives met with designated Parks and Recreation Department staff to initiate a "Joint Action" Committee to work toward reducing perceived noise impact on the visitors to the Barnet Marine Park. A "letter of understanding", indicating the willingness of each Club to participate in the Committee, was subsequently provided to the Parks and Recreation Administrator.

Since that date, a series of "Joint-Action" Committee meetings have been held, in addition to many informal meetings and discussions between participants with the following results:

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Relocation - A few years ago, the three gun clubs explored the possibility of relocating elsewhere in the Lower Mainland. It was determined at that time that there was no suitable sites available in the GVRD.

Scheduling - To lessen the noise impact on Barnet Marine Park users, we attempted to shift usage of our ranges by outside security agencies to the non-summer months. Six individual

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organizations were canvassed and asked for their comments. Two-thirds of these agencies stated that their needs for outdoor gun training could only be met by a facility which would be available to them all year. We were successful in convincing the other two groups to shift their usage away from the summer months.

As with other recreational activities, our members use the outdoor ranges more frequently during the warm weather. It would, therefore, be unreasonable to restrict their shooting activities during the summer months.

Building Modifications - With the concurrence of the other Clubs, the Barnet Rifle Club has undertaken the construction of a new outdoor structure designed to reduce the level of noise emitted at their north property line. Construction has not yet been completed so subsequent tests to verify the noise reduction have not been made. We are confident, however, that noise levels will be well below By-law limits when the structure is complete. It must be recognized, however, that there is virtually no means of reducing the level of noise reflected back from Burnaby Mountain.

Both Coast Marksmen and The Burnaby Fish and Game Clubs have carried out research on the use of styrofoam insulation, polyethylene baffles, enclosed cubicles, etc. in an effort to attenuate the sound originating from their locations.

Public Education - Members of the gun clubs have visited the Barnet Marine Park regularly during its busy season to discuss the "noise" issue and to answer questions about the shooting sports activity. Similarly, the District of Burnaby Parks and Recreation staff have provided an explanation of gun club activity to anyone inquiring at the Park in lieu of a formal research study.

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PROPOSED PLANS

Scheduling - Every effort will be made to encourage the remaining outside agencies to restrict their usage during the June to August period.

Building Modifications - The Barnet Rifle Club will complete their noise abatement program with a structure designed to increase the path length the sound has to travel and, therefore, attenuate that noise. They plan to install sound absorbing material inside the structure to prevent noise build up and thus further reduce the level of emissions.

If the noise test results at the Barnet Rifle Club show that their noise abatement program was successful, both the Burnaby Fish and Game Club and Coast Marksmen intend to make appropriate modifications to their outdoor ranges. They will be placing sound absorbing material on the inside of the structure to further abate the noise and all openings will be properly closed in a further effort to direct the sounds away from the park.

Public Education - Burnaby's Parks and Recreation Department have offered the use of their magazine as a vehicle for informing Burnaby residents about the aims, objectives and varied activities of the gun clubs. We intend to make use of this medium. In co-operation with the Parks and Recreation Department, we are also considering the placement of an appropriate sign in the park area to explain the activities of the gun clubs and their availability to Lower Mainland residents.

S U M M A R Y

The three gun clubs provide a portion of the total recreational package available to the citizens of the Lower Mainland. We feel this can be done without adversely affecting

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the recreational activities of the visitors to the Barnet Marine Park. It is our feeling that we are doing everything possible to abate the noise emitted from our premises, acknowledging the limited technological and financial resources available to us.

We believe that we are acting as good community and corporate citizens in the activities we have undertaken to date and the concrete plans of action for the future. We are certain that this program will fulfil both our legal and moral obligations.

Respectfully submitted,,

H. Ball, President
Barnet Rifle Club



B. Pitkethly, President
Burnaby Fish and Game Club



E. R. Lutke, President
Coast Marksman



