

RE: CONTROL OF DOGS IN PARKS

(CORRESPONDENCE & PETITIONS ITEM 4(a), COUNCIL AGENDA 1983 SEPTEMBER 06)

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendations of the Acting Director Recreation & Cultural Services be adopted.

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1984 JULY 19

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER
FROM: DIRECTOR RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES
RE: CONTROL OF DOGS IN PARKS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council authorize the Municipal Solicitor to bring forward amendments to the Dog Tax and Pound and Animal Regulations By-law and the Parks and Recreation By-law to permit dogs off leash provided the owner is present in those areas of Robert Burnaby Park designated on Drawing #36-2-19s (attached) and that the by-law amendment be for a one year trial period.
2. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mrs. Elizabeth Elwood.

REPORT

At its meeting of 1983 September 06, Council received a letter from Mrs. Elizabeth Elwood on the above subject and adopted the following motion:

"THAT the Municipal Manager make further enquiries into the feasibility of making some provision for a park or a specified area within a park where dogs may run unleashed provided the owners are present".

A staff report on this subject was received by the Parks and Recreation Commission at its meeting of 1984 July 04. A presentation by Mrs. Elizabeth Elwood, outlining her concerns and her suggestions, was also heard by the Commission.

The Commission instructed staff to take the following actions:

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a) Robert Burnaby Park

One of Mrs. Elwood's suggestions was to permit dogs off leash in three portions of Robert Burnaby Park. In response, the Commission has designated two portions of the park as areas for dogs to run unleashed provided that the owners are present. Drawing #36-2-19s, attached, illustrates the areas suggested by Mrs. Elwood and the areas approved by the Commission.

The use of these areas will be for an initial trial period of one year and progress reports will be presented to the Commission every three months. Based upon the results of this test, other areas in Burnaby will be considered for such activity and will be reported on by staff prior to the completion of the year's trial at Robert Burnaby Park.

The use of area "A" (Sports field) is limited to those months when the field is not allocated for baseball.

The Finance Department has advised that in order for the Commission to conduct this experiment, it will be necessary to amend the Dog Tax and Pound and Animal Regulations By-law and the Parks Regulation By-law, both of which require dogs to be on a leash while on a highway, public place or in a park and the Commission requests Council's concurrence to these amendments.

Once the amended by-laws are in place, suitable signs will be placed in and around Robert Burnaby Park advertising the designated areas. The installation of the signs will be co-ordinated with the S.P.C.A.

b) Clean-up By-law

There is an ongoing problem of making parks compatible for both people and dogs. Part of the problem relates to dog excrement which fouls paths, garden, picnic and play areas.

The Commission has asked staff to research and report upon the feasibility of passing a by-law requiring dog owners to clean up after their pets.

A previous study on the feasibility of a dog clean-up by-law was conducted by the Finance Department in 1976 and the conclusion reached was that such regulations were unenforceable. Therefore Council resolved not to proceed (Item 2, Report 62, 1976 October 04).

However, the Finance Department has agreed that circumstances may have changed since 1976 and that a re-examination of this issue is probably warranted.

c) Banning of dogs in sensitive park areas and facilities

Under the existing Park By-law regulations, dogs are banned from beach areas because dog wastes result in unacceptable coliform levels in the adjoining water.

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c) Cont'd..

Dog waste is also a particular problem in playgrounds and picnic areas within parks and as part of the overall program to provide for both dogs and people, staff has been directed to report back to the Commission on the feasibility and impact of banning dogs from sensitive park areas and facilities.

The Commission also directed that a copy of the complete staff report which also outlines the experience and practices in other municipalities relating to dog control within parks, be sent to Mrs. Elwood.



FRED SMITH
Acting Director Recreation &
Cultural Services

Attach.

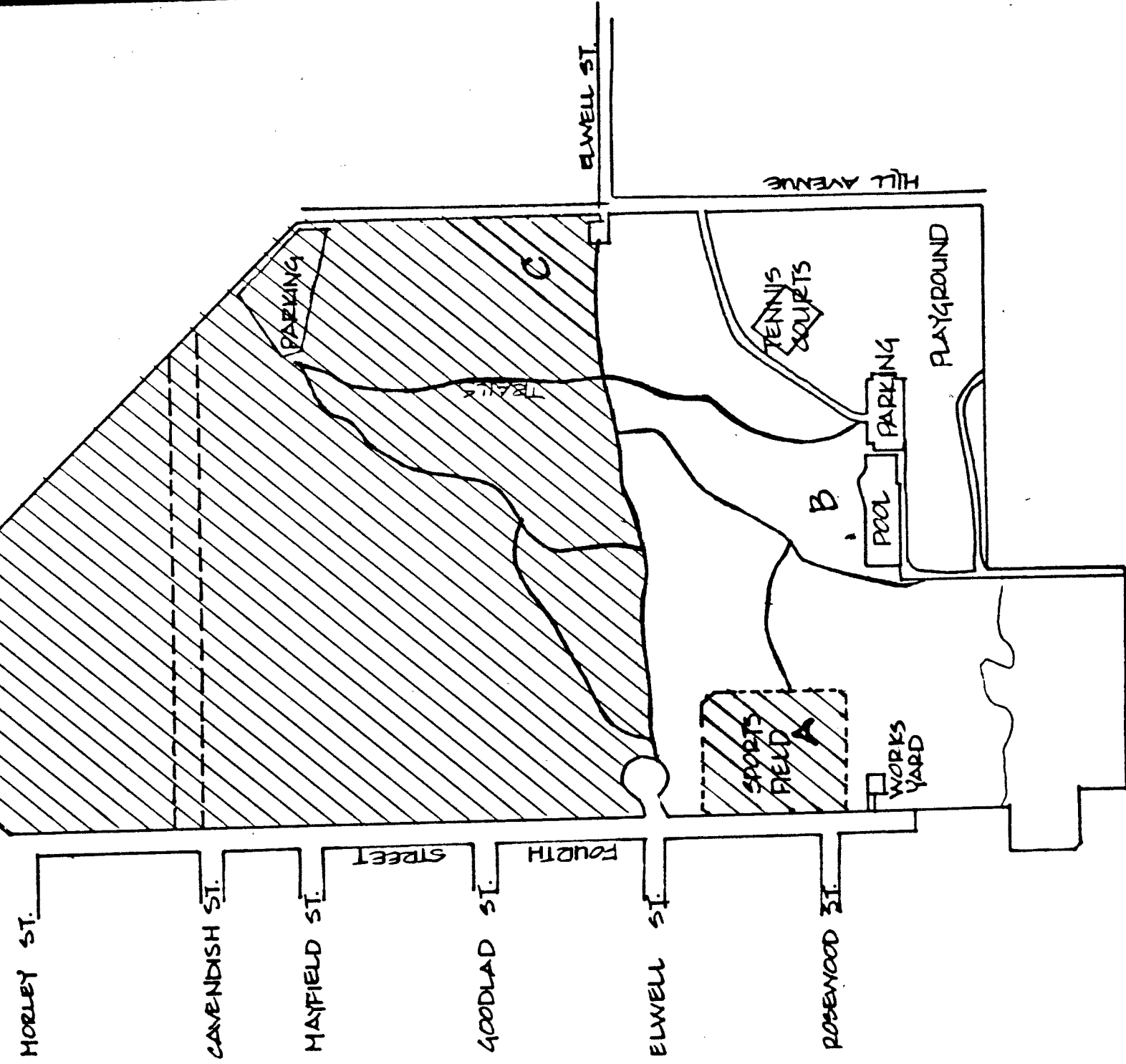
C.C.
Director Finance
Municipal Solicitor

LEGEND

A, B, C AREAS SUGGESTED BY MRS. ELWOOD



AREA APPROVED FOR DOGS BY PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION



ROBERT BURNABY PARK
 AREAS APPROVED FOR DOGS ON TRIAL BASIS
 BURNABY RECREATION; CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT