

ITEM 8
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 34
COUNCIL MEETING 85/05/13

RE: OFF-LEASH DOG AREA IN ROBERT BURNABY PARK

ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. *THAT the recommendation as contained in the report from the Director Recreation & Cultural Services and the Parks & Recreation Commission be adopted.*

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1985 MAY 02

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER
FROM: DIRECTOR RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES
RE: OFF LEASH DOG AREA - ROBERT BURNABY PARK

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council repeal the following bylaws relating to dog off leash areas in Robert Burnaby Park:-
 - a) Burnaby Parks Regulation Bylaw 1979, Amendment Bylaw No.1, 1984, Bylaw No. 8258; and
 - b) Burnaby Parks Regulation Bylaw 1985, Bylaw No.8330.

SUMMARY

The Parks and Recreation Commission has reviewed all the circumstances surrounding the current provision of a dogs off-leash area at Robert Burnaby Park and concluded that those circumstances call for the repealing of the dogs off-leash bylaws to bring us back to the situation that previously prevailed, i.e. dogs on leash on all park sites as well as all other public areas in Burnaby.

The Commission will continue to review the question of off-leash areas and make further recommendations later in 1985.

REPORT

At its meeting of 1985 May 01, the Parks and Recreation Commission received from Council the following referred items on the above subject:

- 27 items of correspondence.
- Submissions from Mr. Glen Brownlow and Mrs. Elizabeth Elwood.

Cont'd..

The following recommendation:-

"WHEREAS The Corporation of the District of Burnaby has expressly permitted dogs to run off leash in Robert Burnaby Park and;

WHEREAS Bylaw 8258 and Bylaw 8330 have interfered with the use and enjoyment of the park by park users and the people residing in the neighbourhood abutting the park and;

WHEREAS residents in the areas abutting the park have been harassed by dogs running at large as a consequence of Bylaws 8258 and 8330 and;

WHEREAS residents are discouraged from allowing their children to play in Robert Burnaby Park as a consequence of Bylaws 8258 and 8330;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. 'Burnaby Parks Regulation Bylaw 1979, Amendment Bylaw No.1, 1984, Bylaw No. 8258 and;
2. Burnaby Parks Regulation Bylaw 1985, Bylaw No.8330' be REPEALED".

Consideration of these points:

- (i) Possible construction of a chain-link fence around the area designated for dogs off-leash with gated access operated by dog owners;
- (ii) The feasibility of constructing dog sanitary stations in the park;
- (iii) Explore possible establishment of a dogs off-leash area in the area adjacent to the Foreshore Park along the Fraser River;
- (iv) Consult with the G.V.R.D. with a view of requesting member municipalities to examine possible park areas in their jurisdictions for off-leash operation of dogs.

The Commission also heard eight delegations on the subject.

Arising from a comprehensive discussion of the issues involved, the Commission approved the following recommendation:

"THAT the Commission recommend to Council that Bylaw 8258 and Bylaw 8330 be repealed".

The two off-leash bylaws were put in place - (1) in 1984 and (2) earlier in 1985 on a trial basis following a request from and consultation with those citizens in favor of the trial.

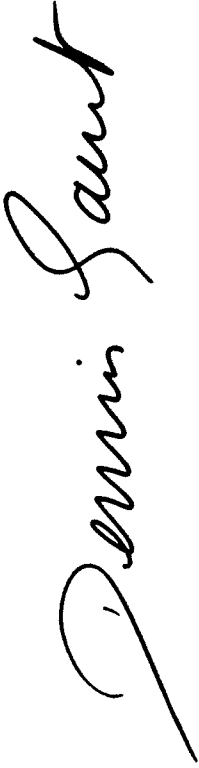
Subsequent discussions with the citizens who are not in favor of the trial has revealed considerable distress on their part. Had consultation with both groups taken place at the beginning, it is probable that the Commission would not have recommended the off-leash bylaws until further facts had been assembled.

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The Commission therefore now feels that it is appropriate to return to the situation that we had in 1984 - that is, all dogs on leash and no off-leash privileges at Robert Burnaby Park or any other location pending assembly of additional facts.

This will satisfy the opponents of the trial period. The proponents of the trial will be aware that the matter has not been dropped but that it is under active review. The only difference is that the trial period which is causing the current distress will not be conducted concurrently with the fact finding review.

The Commission will now assemble more extensive factual information on the subject including a review of the above four points referred by Municipal Council. Following that exercise and consultation with both groups of citizens, the Commission will then make recommendations regarding the appropriateness of the off-leash areas in Burnaby.



DENNIS GAUNT
Director Rec. & Cultural Services

DG:hh

C.C.
Municipal Solicitor
Chief Licence Inspector

