

RE: LETTER FROM MRS. ELIZABETH ELWOOD WHICH APPEARS ON
THE AGENDA FOR THE 1985 JULY 02 MEETING OF COUNCIL
LEASH AREA FOR DOGS/ROBERT BURNABY PARK

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mrs. Elizabeth Elwood, 8134 - 14th Avenue, Burnaby, B.C., V3N 2B8.

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R E P O R T

Mrs. Elwood's letter contained a number of questions but only a few of them are felt to be within staff's purview to answer or comment on. These are as follows:

ITEM 6

Question: "Can a survey be done - with no announced time frame, so that neither group has a chance to stack the odds - that will give an accurate picture of the amount of use of the trails in Robert Burnaby Park?"

Answer:

It is of course physically possible to carry out the survey under the circumstances requested. However, there are no funds budgetted to hire staff to carry out such a survey, and the question of reallocation of funds for that purpose would be at the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

ITEM 7

Question: " Why have protocol and absolute rules of order been rigidly applied to my own group, when the rules have been frequently bent for the other delegation?"

Answer:

(A) GENERAL COMMENTS:

The matter of determining the order in which delegations appear on the Council agenda is determined by the time and date that written requests to speak before Council are received in the Clerk's Department. This policy has been adhered to for many years and is a fair and equitable method of determining the speaking order.

When a group requests permission to speak before Council they are requested to select a spokesperson to present the views of their groups to Council. Council has not permitted a number of speakers from the same group to speak unless the permission of Council has been obtained at the time the delegation is appearing.

(B) SPECIFIC COMMENTS:

Following is a compilation that shows the speaking order on the three occasions that Mrs. Elwood appeared before Council as a delegation, and the time sequence in which the requests from speakers were received by the Clerk's Department on each of these occasions:

1. Council Meeting 1985 April 22

The delegations appearing at this meeting regarding this subject were:

- (a) Mrs. Sharron Moraes
Speaking on behalf of citizens who opposed dogs off-leash in Robert Burnaby Park
(Letter requesting to appear as a delegation was received 1985 April 16 at 3:30 p.m.)
- (b) Mrs. Elizabeth Elwood
Speaking on behalf of citizens who support the off-leash operation of dogs in Robert Burnaby Park
(Letter requesting to appear as a delegation was received 1985 April 17 at 10:00 a.m.)

2. Council Meeting 1985 May 13

With respect to this meeting Mrs. Elwood contacted the Clerk's Department to enquire about a number of matters, one of which was the number of speakers that would be permitted to speak from her group. Mrs. Elwood was advised that each group must select a spokesperson.

The delegations appearing at this meeting regarding this subject were:

- (a) Mr. Michael Weeks, Secretary Manager of Vancouver Regional Branch of the S.P.C.A. -
(Letter requesting to appear as a delegation was received 1985 May 08 at 9:30 a.m.)
- (b) Mrs. Elizabeth Elwood
Speaking on behalf of citizens who support the off-leash operation of dogs in Robert Burnaby Park
(Letter requesting to appear as a delegation was received 1985 May 08 at 10:00 a.m.)
- (c) Mr. Ron Luft
Speaking on the matter of dogs off-leash in Municipal Parks in general
(Letter requesting to appear as a delegation was received 1985 May 08 at 11:30 a.m.)

NOTE:

The two groups either supporting or opposed to the off-leash areas in Robert Burnaby Park did not know of Mr. Luft and as we were unable to contact him to determine whether he was a member of either group we then advised Mayor Lewarne that it appeared that Mr. Luft was not representing either group and therefore his name was placed on the agenda to speak as a delegation.

- (d) Mrs. Sharron Moraes
Speaking on behalf of citizens who oppose dogs off-leash in Robert Burnaby Park
(Letter requesting to appear as a delegation was received 1985 May 08 at 11:30 a.m.)

3. Council Meeting 1985 June 03

The delegations appearing at this meeting regarding this subject were:

- (a) Mrs. Elizabeth Elwood
Speaking on behalf of citizens who support the off-leash operation of dogs in Robert Burnaby Park
(Letter requesting to appear as a delegation was received 1985 May 29 at 9:00 a.m.)
- (a) Mrs. Sharron Moraes
Speaking on behalf of citizens who opposed dogs off-leash in Robert Burnaby Park
(Letter requesting to appear as a delegation was received 1985 May 29 at 10:30 p.m.)

C. CONCLUSION:

This matter was before Council on three occasions: 1985 April 22, May 13 and June 03. In each instance the order in which the delegations appeared matched the order in which the requests to appear as delegations were received in the Clerk's Department with Mrs. Elwood speaking last on April 22 and Mrs. Moraes speaking last on May 13 and June 03.

Mrs. Moraes and Mrs. Elwood were both asked to select one spokesperson for the group they represented and both were treated fairly and equitably respecting this matter.

ITEM 9

Question 1: "In the new study regarding off leash areas throughout Burnaby, what provision is being made for the people of East Burnaby?"

Answer:

The question of what provision is being made for East Burnaby will not be able to be answered until the study has been completed. However, equal consideration will be given to all geographic areas of Burnaby including East Burnaby.

Question 2: "Is an area within Robert Burnaby Park being included within this study?"

Answer:

Again, whether Robert Burnaby Park will end up as a recommended site resulting from the study cannot be answered until the study has been completed.

However, Robert Burnaby Park will certainly be one of the locations reviewed together with many others as part of the study.

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