

1992 November 17

TO: CITY MANAGER
FROM: DIRECTOR RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES
SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENCE FROM PETER PRIHODA
PURPOSE: To provide Council with a response to Peter Prihoda's letter.

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT copies of this report be sent to Peter Prihoda and Fred Randall, MLA.

REPORT

Appearing under correspondence on this agenda is a letter from Fred Randall, MLA who has forwarded a letter sent to him from Peter Prihoda. This report provides a response to the four issues raised.

1. **Deer Lake is very dirty for swimming and needs cleaning very badly. I feel there are too many geese that are polluting the lake and the shore and they should be removed.**

RESPONSE

Deer Lake is suffering from poor water quality. This can be seen by the weeds that grow at the edges of the lake, the blue-green colour of the water and loss of swimming opportunities.

The City is currently studying ways to improve water quality. Part of this process includes finding methods that will improve the water without damaging the lake, the park or the wildlife habitats they offer. Also, all the people living around Deer Lake are being asked to help by making sure that nobody dumps pollutants in the creeks or the lake.

Canada Geese certainly contribute to the decline in water quality and make the beach unsightly. In efforts to alleviate the problem, the Parks Department, in combination with Canadian Wildlife Service has initiated a Canada Goose control program at Deer Lake and Burnaby Lake. This program consists of two phases; preventing eggs from hatching and rounding up flightless birds during their molting season so that they may be relocated to more rural areas. The City has also encouraged other municipalities to initiate similar programs in order to reduce the bird population in the lower mainland. The situation at Deer Lake could be lessened if the public would refrain from feeding the ducks and geese. The Parks department has erected two signs telling the public not to feed the birds, and when the guards are in attendance they also discourage the public from doing so.

2. **I would like to see a hard surfaced trail around the lake (similar to the one around Stanley Park) that could be used for jogging, roller skating and other fun things.**

RESPONSE

While a detailed masterplan for Deer Lake Park will not be completed until after the water quality investigations have been completed, it is unlikely that a hard surfaced trail like the one described above would be developed completely around the lake. A hard surfaced lake trail would not appear to be appropriate for the natural setting of the park or conducive to the type of recreational activities under consideration.

However, future masterplans will more likely propose an extensive network of trails of various functions with limestone (gravel) surfaces including, a perimeter lake walk, meadow trails and forested walks. These trails would accommodate more passive recreational activities, such as hiking, walking, fishing or bird watching. Some hard surfaced pathways would likely occur in the developed zones but these would serve as pedestrian links between major facilities. Peter is encouraged to participate in any future public meetings on Deer Lake.

3. **Please do not allow too many houses to be built on the old Oakalla prison grounds. It would be nice to see most of it turned into a park.**

RESPONSE

The Oakalla prison properties originally totalled over 226 acres. Of this area, 158 acres of the lower areas was obtained from the Provincial Government as an addition to Deer Lake Park in 1976. In addition, as part of the more recent City approval of the Oakalla Development Plan, a further 20 acres of parkland was set aside both as neighbourhood park space with play equipment and fountains and as added area to Deer Lake Park. About 7 acres of the lands have been dedicated for roads, in particular for the upgrading of two major city roads in this area, Royal Oak Avenue and Oakland Street.

Consequently, approximately 41 acres, a small proportion of the original prison lands, have been allocated for residential uses primarily in the form of ground-oriented townhousing for which there is a great demand. The city requires that 20 percent of the housing be in the form of subsidized social housing to assist residents who cannot afford market-oriented housing.

In summary, The City has taken a balanced and responsible approach to the reuse of the former Oakalla prison lands. In fact, in line with the comment in the letter, over 78%, of the former Oakalla lands have been set aside as parkland.

4. **Some of the side streets in our neighbourhood are too dark at night and I do not feel safe after dark. The street lighting should be improved.**

RESPONSE

Street lighting, where it exists in Burnaby, falls into one of two categories. The first category is an interim standard of lighting, sometimes called "leased lighting," where lights are attached to B.C. Hydro utility poles. Leased lights are generally placed at intersections and, where utility poles are available, at a minimum distance of 700 feet apart. The second category is a finished standard where lights are attached to specially made steel poles approximately 150 - 170 feet apart in order to produce higher lighting levels.

Existing streetlights in the general area referred to in the correspondence are attached to B.C. Hydro utility poles that are less than 700 feet interval and therefore conform to our interim standard of "leased lights". Improved lighting would normally be installed through the local improvement process. The Director Engineering will be contacting Peter Prihoda to provide more specific details of the local improvement process.

Staff would like to commend Peter Prihoda for taking an interest in community issues.



DENNIS GAUNT
Director Recreation &
Cultural Services

JWK/d1
cc: Acting Chief Public Health Inspector
Director Engineering
Director Planning