

TO: CITY MANAGER 1999 December 16
FROM: DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES
SUBJECT: DOG BAG DISPENSERS
PURPOSE: To provide Council with an update regarding the correspondence from Mrs. V.R. Munday.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

At its meeting of 1999 December 15, the Parks and Recreation Commission received the above noted report regarding the concern of Mrs. V.R. Munday and adopted the two recommendations contained therein.



Kate Friars
PARKS, RECREATION
AND CULTURAL SERVICES

tc
Attachment
c:\data\wp\council\DOG BAG DISPENSERS

SUBJECT: DOG BAG DISPENSERS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT a copy of this report be received by Council for information.
2. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mrs. V.R. Munday.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 1999 October 18, Council received a letter from Mrs. V.R. Munday in which she expressed concern regarding a number of issues. This report responds to the concern that the City is providing plastic bags for people to clean up after their dogs. A copy of Mrs. Munday's letter is attached.

The Parks and Recreation Commission approved the permanent designation of off-leash areas for dogs in Confederation and Robert Burnaby Parks at its meeting of 1998 September 16. This designation was determined after a one year trial period. Public input was sought during the trial period, in which three public meetings were held, telephone calls and letters were recorded, surveys in the parks were conducted, newspaper ads were placed and signage in the parks asked for public input. The responses to the off-leash areas were compiled and it was found that while there were some concerns about the impacts of off-leash areas, they are an amenity that is supported by the majority of respondents.

Off-leash facilities benefit both dog owners and non dog-owners by:

- Providing a legal option for dog owners to exercise their pets.
- Reducing off-leash activity in other areas of parks.
- Having clearly defined off-leash areas allows people to avoid them if they are uncomfortable around dogs.
- Dog owners are self-policing. They want to continue to have off-leash areas in parks and provide enforcement of rules regarding cleaning up after dogs and keeping vicious dogs on-leash.
- Providing "eyes in the park", offering more activity in areas of parks that have been underused, offering better surveillance for park users.

In order to maintain a safe, clean and healthy area, dog waste must be removed. The Burnaby Solid Waste Bylaw No. 7646 (1982) prohibits disposal of animal waste in garbage receptacles, which would be the most likely method of disposal at off-leash parks. Special arrangements were made for the legal and sanitary disposal of dog waste, including special bags and receptacles. This allows for the responsible disposal of dog waste on the part of dog-owners and the City.

Parks maintenance staff have inspected the off-leash parks and the surrounding areas, and have found that the bags and receptacles are being well used by dog owners. There are very few bags found along trails. Staff have been able to determine the optimum location for the bags and receptacles as these amenities are being used, and have adjusted them accordingly. Staff will continue to monitor the use of off-leash amenities.

Mrs. Munday has been contacted and the contents of this report have been discussed.

H.m.

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~~1999~~ OCTOBER 18

4661 Southlawn Drive
Burnaby, B.C.
V5C 3S5

1st October, 1999.

The Mayor & Council,
City of Burnaby,
4949 Canada Way,
Burnaby, B.C.
V5G 1M2

Dear Mayor & Councillors,

About six months ago at a council meeting, the topic of the condition of the railway crossing on Douglas Road was discussed and I understood that the railway company would be fixing the problem. How much longer is this going to take? I noticed recently there is a new sign indicating the crossing. I am surprised that this has not been brought to the attention of Council by other people, especially council members, at least one who must have to use this route to get to city hall. This is the most direct route to the recycling depot, the high school and all the amenities in the area of city hall for many hundreds of residents. The crossing on Cariboo Road also needs repair and although I do not use Boundary Road often, I believe that needs repair also.

Your reply to my letter of the 15th June 1998 regarding illegal suites stated "The review process is due to commence in the fall of this year" Well it is fall of 1999 now, and I have not heard of anything being done in this regard. A survey done earlier this year of 16 local municipalities showed 8 charged fees, 7 allow suites legally, 9 suites are illegal, 5 have both fees and are legal. According to this survey Burnaby's by-law is not strictly enforced. When can one see the results of the aforementioned process

When recently walking the trails in Confederation Park I was surprised to see that the city is now providing plastic bags for people to clean up after their dogs. I strongly object to my tax money being used for this purpose, unless of course this comes out of the licence fee. Anyway it doesn't seem to have made much difference, not everyone uses the bags and those that do often throw the bag on the path or in the bushes.

Sincerely,

V.R. Munday
Mrs. V. R. Munday.

RECEIVED
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

OCT 13 1999

- :COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING (FOR REPORT)
- DIRECTOR FINANCE
- DIR. PLNG. & BLDG. (FOR REPORT)
- DIR. PARKS, REC. & CULT. SERV. (FOR REPORT)
- CHIEF LICENCE INSP.
- CHIEF BUILDING INSPECTOR

Refer To	Initials
<i>RP</i>	<i>RP</i>

HM.

for report