

FINANCE AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

C

SUBJECT: TRAIL SAFETY ON BURNABY MOUNTAIN

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council approve the use of Casino Gaming Funds in the amount of \$60,000 to complete the initiatives outlined in this report.

REPORT

The Finance and Civic Development Committee, at its meeting held on 2006 June 22, received and adopted the *attached* report seeking approval for the use of Casino Gaming Funds to complete trail safety on Burnaby Mountain.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor N. Volkow
Vice Chair

Councillor G. Begin
Member

Copied to:	City Manager Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director Finance
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City of
Burnaby

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Administration Office

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
FINANCE AND CIVIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

DATE: 2006 June 22

FROM: DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: TRAIL SAFETY ON BURNABY MOUNTAIN

At its 'Open' meeting of 2006 June 21, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission received a staff report regarding the above subject and adopted the two recommendations contained therein.

As directed, a copy of the report is attached for the attention of the Finance and Civic Development Committee to request funding approval.

Kate Friars

KF:tc

Attachment

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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE COMMISSION

FROM: DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: TRAIL SAFETY ON BURNABY MOUNTAIN

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** this report be referred to the Finance and Civic Development Committee for approval for the use of Casino Gaming funds in the amount of \$60,000 to complete the initiatives outlined in this report.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to Deborah McFadden.

REPORT

At its meeting of 2006 February 01, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission received a letter from Deborah McFadden (Attachment #1), concerning safety on Burnaby Mountain. On 2006 June 02, the Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services received a copy of the Coroner's report on the recent incident and deaths on the mountain. This report brings forward the actions that will be taken to ensure the requirements of the Coroner's report are met in a timely fashion. The contents of the report also respond to the questions brought forward in the letter from Deborah McFadden.

Background

The Burnaby Mountain Conservation Area, a 1,400 acre area, was acquired by the City from S.F.U. in 1996. Trail improvements began in 2000 with upgrades to the Trans Canada Trail, which is a 3 - 4 metre wide smooth gravel trail that extends approximately 5.5 kilometres across Burnaby Mountain from the Barnet Highway at the Port Moody boundary to Hastings Street. The existing Trans Canada Trail meets or exceeds the industry construction practices for combined pedestrian/cycle trails.

Trail safety has been addressed in numerous areas including improvements to all of the major trails, including the Trans-Canada Trail. Installation of information kiosks at the 10 main entry points into the park, trail closures in unsafe areas, and the development of an extensive directional/location trail signage program (50 signs) have been or are presently being implemented. The new signs have added safety features, which include a white reflective background and global positioning system (GPS) reference points to help Search and Rescue locate positions along the trail.

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From: Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Re: Trail Safety on Burnaby Mountain

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Since August of 2004, the Department has had a trail crew that inspects, evaluates and maintains the trails and facilities on a regular basis. This includes repairing fencing in appropriate areas, replacing damaged or missing signage, removing dangerous trees that pose a risk to trail users, and repairing eroded trails and damaged bridges.

Parks Department staff work with the Burnaby Fire Department to improve trail safety and remove barriers that may impede access for fire rescue personnel. Through the Burnaby Mountain Management Plan, a trail route between Harry Jerome Sports Centre (Velodrome) and the former Gun Club site was identified as a potential access route for fire rescue personnel. This trail connection will be pursued as development on the mountain continues. Staff are also in bi-weekly contact with user groups that include the Burnaby Mountain Bicycling Association, Golden Age Hikers, Dogwood Cliff Huggers and Recreation coordinators at S.F.U. The various groups provide feedback and recommendations on a variety of trail related issues.

Burnaby's Proposed Improvements

In addition to the regular ongoing maintenance of the Burnaby Mountain trails, the Parks Department has committed to undertake the following actions:

1. Work with S.F.U. to develop new illuminated or reflective trail information signage at the four trail entry points on the S.F.U. ring road, which will warn of the risks of leaving the existing trails. The locations have been selected; construction will be completed by 2006 August 15.

Note: Land, including roads, paths and street lighting within the Ring Road property are S.F.U.'s jurisdiction and a land use agreement will be implemented to facilitate this work by the City of Burnaby.

2. Revise the trail maps to show steep terrain and cliffs, and work with S.F.U. to develop an up-to-date handout size trail map for students. Production is targeted for 2006 August 15.
3. Install trail signs warning of steep terrain and cliffs along the Trans Canada Trail between North Road and Pandora Street. Installation will be completed by 2006 August 01.
4. Impose new regulations to close trails at dusk (advisory signage) to be included in the kiosks.
5. Replace the existing 36" high fence and install a new 48" high fence from the Rose Garden, south eastward to the Trans Canada Trail junction, just southeast of the water tower, a distance of approximately 460 metres. This fence currently borders an area where there is a steep-drop off several feet behind the fence. The contract for this work is in the tender process. Work will be completed before 2006 August 01.

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Re: Trail Safety on Burnaby Mountain

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6. Install additional danger warning signs on the chain link fence southeast of the Rose Garden. Revise existing signs to depict a cliff symbol and to state "steep cliffs" in the sign text. Installation will be completed by 2006 August.
7. Work with S.F.U. to ensure that surveyor flagging tape from forest related projects is removed in a timely manner. Completed.
8. Install 200 metres of additional wood rail fence along the Pandora Trail where the steep drop-off terrain comes within a distance of 20 - 25 metres from the trail edge. Installation will be completed by 2006 August 01.

Financing

The total budget for this work is estimated at \$60,000. It is recommended that financing be made available through Casino Gaming funds as the work is consistent with the public safety aspect of this reserve.

Conclusion

Staff will work closely with representatives of SFU, UniverCity developments and organized user groups of the mountain trails, to make as many students, residents and citizens aware of the hazards which exist when using the Burnaby Mountain Park trail system.

Staff will also examine the concept of a park closure bylaw and will report at a future meeting.



Kate Friars
DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL SERVICES

HE:hh

Attach.

P:\hh\he\trail safety on bby.mtn. doc

cc: Director Finance

Commission Agenda
Date 2006 Feb 01
Correspondence(a)

ATTACHMENT #1

3887 West 15 Avenue
Vancouver V6R 3A1
January 16, 2006

Mayor & Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby V5G 1M2

To the Mayor and Council of Burnaby,

RE: Safety on Burnaby Mountain

On April 10, 2004, my 22 year old son, Lucas McFadden-Gummeson, went for a walk with some friends on Burnaby Mountain. They left the trail and a short time later, the ground on which Lucas was standing gave way underneath him, sending him to a 400 to 500 foot fall, over two cliffs, down the north face of the mountain. Miracle of miracles, he survived. He is alive today in part because his friend had his wits about him and was able to direct the rescuers to him quickly. Two teams of rescuers were required – one to rappel down from above and the other to go up from the bottom. Lucas was found at the very limit of the rescuers' ropes. He spent a few months in hospital where he recovered from multiple, serious injuries, including an incomplete spinal cord injury that has left him with paraplegia.

I was saddened and shocked, therefore, to hear about the two other young men who fell on the north face of Burnaby mountain this past week and were found dead on the weekend. A CTV news segment that aired at 11:00 PM on January 15 indicated that there have been additional falls in 1987, 1994, and 1996.

I don't know the terrain at all but I think it is past time to address the issue of public education and safety regarding the treacherous north face of Burnaby Mountain. Even longtime Burnaby residents are unaware of just how extremely rugged and dangerous the north face is. When young men out for a walk on a warm Easter weekend or being responsible and walking to a friend's place after drinking can die or be injured by falling down a mountain, changes must be made. I have been told that there are some signs indicating that the terrain is rugged but more must be done. Where even remotely feasible, fencing should be placed to guard against someone inadvertently stepping to the

COPY: COUNCIL
CITY MANAGER
DIR. PARKS, REC. & CULT. SERV.
FIRE CHIEF
PARKS COMMISSION

edge. There should be an abundance of large, noticeable warning signs that refer specifically to the 400 foot precipice or cliff, not just generally to hazardous terrain.

I have spoken to Coroner Leanne Wright regarding my concerns and so copy her on this letter. I am happy to discuss this matter further in an effort to heighten the safety of all who use Burnaby Mountain.

Sincerely,



Deborah E. McFadden, MD

Tel: 604-222-0195

Tel: 604-875-2137 (office)

Fax: 604-222-1410

cc: Ms. L. Wright, Coroner

