

Parks and Natural Environment Advisory Committee

7:00PM, April 17th, 2024
District of North Vancouver – 1370 Crown Street

DRAFT - Minutes

Present: Amy Tsang, Chair

Mike Cliff

Joanna Moretto

Glen Parker

Adele Wilson

Charlene Seward (Virtual)

Steffanie Warriner

Adam Vasilevich

Dorsai Shariff

Cllr. Lisa Muri

Kim Malo

Absent: Karin Jensen

Thomas Bennett

Katrina Laube

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Adele

Seconded by Glen

THAT the April 17th, 2024 agenda is approved.

CARRIED

2. Adoption of Minutes

2.1. February 21st, 2024 Parks and Natural Environment Advisory Committee meeting

Moved by Cllr. Muri

Seconded by Adele

THAT the minutes of the February 21st, 2024 Parks and Natural Environment Advisory Committee are adopted.

CARRIED

3. Approval of revised PNEAC Work Plan & Meeting Dates

Moved by Mike

Seconded by Adele

THAT the revised April 2024 PNEAC Work Plan & Meeting Dates is approved; that May 22nd, 2024 and October 16th, 2024 are adopted as additional 2024 meetings.

CARRIED

4. Sport Court Strategy

4.1. Project introduction

Staff provided a presentation on the Sport Court Strategy, highlighting the following:

- Strategy includes outdoor basketball, tennis, pickleball and lacrosse/roller hockey.
- Consultant study & findings:
 - Sports courts are well distributed in residential neighbourhoods for walk up and play, current inventory meets all sports needs with the exception of pickleball.
 - 2013-2022 added pickleball to parks system = 14 pickleball courts
 - Lacrosse box user numbers are low, existing lacrosse boxes could be adapted to multi use courts to meet needs of the demands of other sports.
 - Basketball, lacrosse and other sports are not organized and represented.
 - Local schools provide access to basketball courts/hoops.
- Challenges:
 - aging inventory of courts concern for user experience, accessibility and safety.
 - Older assets require more maintenance, and limited maintenance budget to meet these demands.
 - Associated amenities are needed such as parking, washrooms, etc.
 - Noise concerns with locating pickleball in residential areas, parking challenges

4.2. Project Public engagement summary

- Staff reported on the feedback from community members + user groups, results show:
 - 79% responded to survey are NV residents.
 - Murdo Fraser Park is the most popular site for tennis and pickleball.
 - 77% of respondents are generally satisfied with the conditions of the court maintenance and repairs.
 - 67% of respondents use a vehicle to commute to sports courts.

4.3. Discussion

- The Committee noted in the review of the engagement to ask consultant to distinct separate the NV respondents into CNV residents and DNV residents to help to answer the need for parking. Members also noted that living in NV, most people don't know the boundaries of the CNV and DNV and that each are using the other facilities.
- The Committee asked for clarification on why this survey was completed separately from the needs assessment that the DNV, CNV and NVRC are currently completing. Staff advised this work of optimization of existing sport courts started before the Rec Demand Strategy began. Was initiated due to demand of more pickleball courts.
- Staff answer to Committee question of access to survey; located on district website, social media, directly sent to organisations, NVRC and user groups, signs installed at existing courts with QR codes.

- The Committee recommends usage fees for play/booking sports courts to help fund maintenance and construction of sports courts.
- Member mentioned that their family uses school sports courts and doesn't feel the District needs more tennis courts.

4.4. Next steps

Staff working with user groups, invest to balance use and renewing works, resurfacing, net post & fence replacement and court conversions.

- Creation of Summary report with consideration of feedback from, staff, user groups, PNEAC and work with NVRC and CNV.
- Optimizing inventory strategy balancing all courts and identify new locations for pickleball such as William Griffin lacrosse box and Inter River.
- Challenges include finding land to install courts with flat surfaces, good drainage, lighting and do not require tree removals. Considerations to be made whether parking space is available, washrooms, bike racks and other amenities that would be required.

5. Shoreline Restoration Project

5.1. Project introduction

Staff provided a presentation on the Whey-ah-wichen / Cates Park Shoreline Restoration Project, highlighting the following:

- Previous Tsleil-Waututh village, unique historical site priority to conserve and protect cultural artifacts, objectives are slow bank erosion, replace invasive plants with native species, upland improvements with planting, interpretive signage, drainage.
- Background on the Park, restoration objectives, work to date & timeline, concept design and cost estimate. Currently budget doesn't meet needs to complete the project.
- Received one grant and applied for another to complete the project.

5.2. Project Engagement Summary

- Staff reported on the feedback from community members which included:
 - better access to the beach and picnic shelters for all ages and abilities,
 - support for drainage, replacing invasive plants with native species,
 - increase TWN presence with interpretive signage, art, and names,
 - support for nature-based solutions to beach erosion shown in concept design sketches using bioswales and rain gardens.

5.3. Discussion

- The Committee had a question of progress on drainage.
- Staff clarified that project has received partial funding from the District, TWN, Destination BC grant and Parks has hired a consultant team.
- Consultant team completed site analysis, concept design completed, engagement with TWN & stakeholders and applied for another grant which will be presented to Council on Monday April 29th.

5.4. Next Steps

- Apply for permitting. (Port of Vancouver, DFO, BC Environment EA)
- Archaeological work.
- Detail design to incorporate feedback from TWN, public and stakeholders.
- Tender and construction. This will be a multi year project (2025-2027) due to permitting, fish window & budget constraints.

6. Roundtable

- Committee interested in the DNV storm water management strategy as future topic.

7. Next meeting: 7:00pm May 22nd, 2024 @ 1370 Crown St.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:01pm.