

Parks and Natural Environment Advisory Committee

7pm June 17, 2026

1370 Crown Street – DNV Operations Centre

Minutes

Present: Michael Cliff, Chair
Maysa Tsang
Johanna Moretto
Adele Wilson
Karin Jensen
Glen Parker
Dorsai Sharif, Parks Planner
Graham MacInnes, Parks Designer
Steve Jenkins, Parks Manager

Absent: Hamish Fairweather
Charlene Seward
Sandra Hartney

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm.

1. Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Michael

Seconded by Glen

THAT the June 2026, agenda is approved

CARRIED

3. Adoption of February 2026 Meeting Minutes

Moved by Glen

Seconded by Adele

THAT the April 2026 meeting minutes are adopted

CARRIED

4. Maplewood Farm Assessment & Long-Range Planning

Dorsai Sharif

Maplewood Farm is a unique District asset and the last remaining farm on the North Shore, with priorities focused on animal care, visitor experience, and asset management.

The need for a master plan was outlined in the Parks & Open Space Strategic Plan (2012) in addition to increasing visitor expectations, operational and budgetary pressure and the reality of aging infrastructure on site. The plan is guided by goals of animal welfare, operational efficiency, and cost-effective management. It proposes a phased implementation, focusing on maintenance repairs first, and is guided by a six-zone concept framework.

Key issues include a fragmented site with around 20 buildings, many requiring repair or replacement, alongside challenges such as limited funding and climate impacts. Opportunities include consolidating buildings, expanding programming and partnerships, and increasing revenue.

Next steps:

- Presentation to Council, continued public and stakeholder engagement, refinement and finalization of the master plan, and returning to PNEAC for further feedback.

Committee Feedback:

- Committee members asked about potential revenue streams for the farm, and staff identified opportunities to formalize programming such as garden-to-table events, explore clean energy initiatives, and highlight the site's ecological features, including the spawning habitat.
- A member suggested partnering with local organizations to support animal care education, and staff confirmed that all feedback from the committee will be shared with the broader project team.
- Concerns were raised about over-commercialization and the risk of altering the farm's atmosphere; staff responded that maintaining the farm's core identity is a priority and that there is no intention to shift toward an attraction-based model.
- A member inquired whether current revenues cover operating costs; staff noted the farm recently broke even, with past financial challenges attributed to COVID-19 impacts and unexpected maintenance expenses.
- Questions were raised regarding the exclusion of the daycare facility from planning; staff explained that the building is in poor condition, the lease is ending, and relocation is likely.
- A member highlighted the opportunity to expand fish and salmon education given the presence of an active stream, and staff confirmed that this has already been incorporated into programming considerations.

- A member asked whether there is pressure to increase revenue; staff indicated there is no direct pressure, but any revenue generation would need to align with preserving the community-focused experience.
- A member suggested introducing a Saturday vegetable market as a potential programming and revenue opportunity.
- A member raised concerns about existing parking constraints at the site.
- Staff acknowledged parking limitations and noted there may be potential to expand parking south of the current lot.
- A member asked about maintaining the farm's heritage character; staff indicated this is an active discussion but has not yet been finalized.
- A recommendation was made to reduce asphalt and incorporate more permeable surfaces, which staff agreed to consider.
- Members expressed appreciation for the opportunity to provide input at an early stage and encouraged collaboration with organizations such as the Seymour Salmon Society for future programming.
- A member also noted appreciation for the inclusion of a full-size horse and the consideration of broader programming opportunities beyond child-focused experiences, including options such as equine therapy.

5. Updates on: Disc Golf Feasibility and Seylynn Park Phase 2

Graham MacInnes

Disk Golf Feasibility

Staff described disc golf as an accessible, low-cost activity for all ages, with existing facilities already present on the North Shore. Examples include, Rockridge Secondary (West Vancouver), Eastview Park (City of North Vancouver), Ambleside Par 3 (West Vancouver), Mt Seymour Ski Resort Development Plan (in concept).

The assessment responds to Council direction to explore options for a new course in the District. Key challenges include safety (separation from other uses), environmental impacts, infrastructure needs (parking, washrooms), and impacts on neighbouring areas such as noise and after-hours use.

Next steps:

- Identifying a suitable location in the District for a disc golf course
- Options could include a temporary pilot course or events
- Direction from Council

Committee Comments:

- A committee member suggested incorporating a pop-up approach as part of the project, and staff confirmed this is being considered for future next steps.
- Committee discussion highlighted challenges related to dogs in park spaces; staff noted that park usage patterns and leash requirements are key considerations in site selection, with insights drawn from the People, Dogs, and Parks Strategy.
- A committee member suggested Braemar as a potential location, referencing a temporary course previously set up there; however, staff identified limitations, including the lack of washroom facilities and its unsuitability for hosting tournaments.
- Members inquired about outcomes from previous public consultation, indicating interest in how feedback is influencing site selection.
- A suggestion was made to explore locations under powerlines; staff advised that BC Hydro right-of-way restrictions would make this option challenging or infeasible.
- Staff identified safety concerns and after-hours use as primary considerations influencing site planning.
- A committee member proposed the Mosquito Creek area near the stairs and café, noting a plateau that could be suitable; however, concerns were raised by another member about proximity to the creek, potential impacts to the understory, and environmental sensitivity, with alternative suggestions to locate further from the river but still near access points such as gates.

Seylynn Park Phase 2

Staff presented the project in the context of District policy direction and significant population growth in Lynn Creek Town Centre, which is anticipated to become the District's largest town centre, with many residents living in high-density housing and limited access to private green space.

The park is envisioned as a community hub for recreation, events, and festivals, consistent with the 2015 Seylynn and Bridgman Parks Master Plan.

Timeline and next steps:

- A pilot park phase is currently underway and will introduce temporary amenities and support initial community engagement. The pilot phase will inform longer-term design decisions.
- Engagement and design in fall 2026, with procurement in winter 2026 and construction anticipated in 2027.
- Reporting back to PNEAC
- Direction from Council

Committee comments:

- A member who lives nearby noted that the area is already highly used for activities such as barbecues, social gatherings, and basketball.
- A member asked whether the existing parking lot will remain; staff confirmed that it is planned to be removed and repurposed as park space for public use.
- Members expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming outdoor summer concerts in the space.
- A member asked whether a stage or performance area would be permanently designated; staff indicated that there are no current plans for a permanent stage.

6. Round Table and Member Updates

Staff Updates:

- Staff noted the use of mulch designs in place of traditional flower beds due to water restrictions. A member asked about plans for rainwater catchment in response to water restrictions. A member inquired whether tree species are selected based on water usage. Staff confirmed that climate conditions and water needs are considered in tree selection.
- Staff announced that construction of the William Griffin pickleball courts is underway.
- Staff provided an update on Quarry Rock, noting the entrance is being widened with separate up/down paths and new stairs. A member asked whether there are plans to further widen the Quarry Rock trail. Staff confirmed additional widening has been discussed, with current focus on separating pedestrians from the road.
- Staff shared that several beach access points near Deep Cove are being upgraded.

Member Updates:

- A member asked about a proposed Rice Lake Connector Road and whether staff were aware of it. Staff indicated they were not aware of the proposal and will follow up with the committee.
- A member requested a formal process (e.g., survey) for providing feedback on Mt. Seymour Resort. Other members expressed support for having a structured feedback mechanism. A member raised concerns about traffic management and resource use if project were to go through.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.