



**British Columbia Recreation & Parks Association**  
**Region 2 – Lower Mainland Parks Network**

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MINUTES - April 21<sup>st</sup>, Port Coquitlam, B.C.

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**In Attendance:**

Andrew Banks, Gerhard Vandenbosch, Len Walters, Marty Benson, Shirley McKell, Todd Gross, Mike Hunter, David Boag, Ron Myers, Sandy Dyer

**Call to Order:** 9:05am

**1.0 Adoption of March 17<sup>th</sup> Minutes by Todd Gross and Marty Benson**

**2.0 Round Table Discussions**

- The meeting started by discussion about setting agendas to some degree hoping that would encourage people to attend
- The topic of tours along with the meeting was talked about again and the usefulness of these tours once again encouraging attendance.
- Round table brought up the following suggestions as topics for meetings as the "main" part of the agenda:
  - Invasive spp.
  - Urban Agriculture (Vancouver host? Because of their mandate)
  - Smoking bans in Parks
  - Playgrounds using natural elements
  - Goose/animal control
  - greening operations
  - Sanitation/Recycling in Parks
  - Greening up Special Events and/or the Pressure on Parks
  - Long Term visioning of parks (Master Plans)
  - Theft/vandalism
- The chair suggested that he would send out an e-mail asking for hosts and topics at a later date, including the meeting spot for the May meeting.
- Amount of FTE's in 2010 compared to 1978 and beyond and night crews talked about. Flexibility in work schedules found absenteeism down 12%
- using flex hours helps cover weekends and necessary tasks like gate locking.
- artificial turf field that took up to 400,000 people over 17 days on plywood came out well.
- Dog off leash parks were discussed and various success stories were mentioned from all over Canada, as well as the hurdles with the intensive use.
- Parks Master Plan hurdles with green councilors vs. business councilors.
- grant deadline hurdles for installation of new artificial turf fields.

-as artificial turf fields coming of age they are finding that disposing of old fields expensive and mostly end up in the landfill. Carpet recyclers can't use it because of the rubber.

- It was mentioned that the INPRA is looking for a host in Vancouver area for 2011. Usually the numbers are 75-100 people. The usual format for this conference is the first day golf, speakers Wed and Thursday am; tours in the afternoon and then Friday departure. It would likely be around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September. The usual mix is 70% Americans and 30% Canadians. Please contact Ken Heany, Executive Director for the INPRA [kenheany@aol.com](mailto:kenheany@aol.com) and the website is [www.inpra-usa-can.com](http://www.inpra-usa-can.com).

- Talks from the cemetery conference were that green burials and pet cemeteries are the latest trend.

- Budget issues were still happening within one or two municipalities

- Bee-keeping was becoming more of a request in the community gardens of municipalities. Mason bees were mentioned as good pollinators without stinging.

Following the Round table discussion, the group was given a tour of the new off leash Dog Park in Port Coquitlam.

**ADJOURNMENT: 11:00am**

Moved by: Shirley McKell

Seconded by: Todd Gross

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the City of North Vancouver at the Horseshoe Club in Mahon Park, North Vancouver  
Please contact Dave Turner, Section manager of parks for information 604-983-7390**

**PLEASE Note that this date is one week later than our usual meeting date of the month.**