

BCRPA Region 2 Monthly Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: March 16, 2011

Host City: Richmond

Tour: Garden City Park

Attendees: Shirley McKell, Todd Gross, Len Walters, Ted deCrom, Sue Nagata, Dave Snider, Dave Turner, Clarence Sihoe, Brian Scott, Jason Horton, Dan Henegar, Marty Benson

Garden City Park Presentation

Clarence Sihoe provided an overview of the development of Garden City Park with a specific focus on the play environment area of the park. Highlights of the project include:

- Planning started in 2006
- 50,000 people are expected to move into City Centre area within the next 30 years
- One million dollar budget for the play environment
- Land was acquired over a 20-year period
- Space 2 Place was the consulting firm used on this project. Lots of community involvement and consultation took place
- Worked closely with local elementary school students from neighbouring school
- “Nature” was a reoccurring theme through the community consultative process
- UBC research on play was used to help guide the project.
- Used “The Design of Landscapes at Child-care Centres: Seven C’s” by Susan Herrington; Chandra Lesmeister
- The play environment incorporates some contemporary playground elements along with natural elements.
- The play environment has been very well received by park users and other key stakeholders
- Custom wood elements have been included
- Park has been open for the past 2 ½ years and continues to be a popular destination.
- Park is programmed in the summer months by Recreation staff
- There is a caretaker in the park

Agenda Topic

2012 BCRPA Spring Training

- The 2012 BCRPA Spring Planning Committee visited the Pinnacle Hotel in North Vancouver and evaluated this location as a possible site for the 2012 Spring Training.
- The Pinnacle Hotel offers very nice banquet and meeting space. The hotel is easily accessible by Public Transit.
- The group felt The Pinnacle Hotel would be a suitable location for the Spring Training and gave their support for hosting the 2012 Spring Training in North Vancouver.

- A request for additional planning committee members was made to the group. Please forward interested individuals contact information to Heather Muter at BCRPA

Round Table

- Ted
 - Felt the 2011 Spring Training event was well done and appreciated the efforts of the planning committee and BCRPA.
 - Expect to see increased representation from Richmond at future Spring Training events.
- Len
 - City of Langley is currently for a gardener to join their team.
 - Water Park/ Playground renovation project will soon be taking place at one of their parks.
- Todd
 - Attended a Parks and Public Works Steering Committee meeting. This committee is looking at shortage of workers in the future. Part of the focus of this group is to look at the Core Competencies of staff. It will be important to ensure appropriate Parks representation at these meetings.
 - Lions Park will be going through a renovation project in the coming months
- Dave
 - Recently visited Palm Desert and saw a very well done dog off-leash park. This park contained scoops and bags for cleaning up dog waste, nice layout, and good signage. Photos of this part were distributed to the group.
 - New natural park is being developed.
- Brian
 - 2 new artificial turf fields have been built bringing Vancouver's total to 8-9 fields.
 - Largest wheel chair playground has been built at Kits Beach
- Mission
 - Spirit Square project has just been completed.
 - A new artificial turf field has been built in partnership with local school board
- Dan
 - New artificial field will open in June
 - Another new artificial field is currently being planned.
 - Major initiatives are planned for Ambleside. Expect to see significant changes to the area in future years. Project will include changes to Police and Fire Halls.
- Shirley
 - Status quo, no major projects are currently planned.
- Sue
 - City is looking at Leadership and Mentoring opportunities.
 - New GM has been hired. GM is from Toronto.
- Marty
 - Major changes are currently in the works for Surrey City Centre. These include the completion of the new Library and the development of a new City Hall.
 - Working on new community garden that will see gardeners sign up as park volunteers. The goal is to hand the garden off to the community by the end of 2011.
 - Dog off-leash Master Plan has started.

- Dave
 - 2nd artificial field is being built in partnership with local school board.
 - Renovation project underway at Yarrow.
 - Community consultation is taking place on a number of projects. Rotary Trail, along Veddar, has received new trail markers.
 - Developing logo system with local Rotary
 - New City logo is currently being worked on

A tour of Garden City Park followed the meeting.