

Anmore Regular Council Meeting
October 28, 2014

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:00. All Council members, Chief Administrative Officer, Tim Harris, Manager of Public works, Kevin Dicken, and a small group of residents, including candidates for Council (Paul Weverink, Mario Piamonte, Ryan Froese, and Gord Bytelaar) were in attendance. Residents are reminded that they are not allowed to speak in the lead up to the municipal election.

The agenda was approved. The first item was a delegation from Lees and Associates, Landscape Architects, on the final version of the Parks Master Plan. Ms. Katy Amon and Mr. Erik Lees made a PowerPoint presentation on the highlights of the 106 page document. Mr. Lees expressed concern about the original aerial photos and was appreciative of the new ones. He also thanked the members of the Anmore Parks Committee for all of their support. These volunteers included: Councillor John McEwen, Mr. Mike Dykstra, Mr. Bruce Scatchard, Mr. Bruce Wall, and Mr. Paul Weverink.

Key points in the presentation follow:

PARKS (From Lees and Associates Anmore Parks Master Plan)

*Please note that under BC provincial legislation, when a developer seeks to develop a parcel of land larger than 3 acres, they are required to donate either 5% of the land or an equivalent *value* in cash to the municipality. (For exact details of the legislation the reader should consult Part 26, Division 11, Subsection 941 et seq. of the Local Government Act).

"The Village of Anmore contains 17 park and open space sites over 9.57 hectares of land. However, much of this is not "useable" as neighbourhood or community park space. Based on the Village's quantity of *potentially useable* parkland, Anmore is undersupplied in community and neighbourhood parks. Although deficient compared to other communities, Village residents are in close proximity to significant open space, both within and outside the Village. This does not alleviate the need for neighbourhood park space as gathering spaces, but does somewhat reduce the need for large areas of active park land. The majority of Anmore's residential areas are served within a 10 minute walk of park/open spaces. However, when excluding inaccessible park/open spaces eastern Anmore is shown to be deficient.

Key Findings relative to parkland already received:

Constraints:

- Steep terrain, often over 25% slope, limits park development on many park sites. ·

- Many park sites include the Gas R.O.W., which limits park development opportunities. .
- Several park sites are on the edge of Anmore, limiting their potential as central community locations, accessible from multiple neighbourhoods.
- Some park sites are physically inaccessible due to lack of access (due to either steep slopes, or lack of infrastructure i.e. bridge to access the site).

Opportunities:

- Lack of signage and maps limit a cohesive and identifiable park system – this is an “easy win”.
- Developed park sites, notably Spirit Park, are well used. This success could be capitalized upon through the expansion or further development of these sites. (Note: Councillor Thiele questioned this finding. Councillor Palmer-Isaak confirmed that 2014 Canada Day celebrations were cancelled because of low participation.)
- Several park sites currently functioning as open space could be modified to function as neighbourhood parks.

TRAILS

Key Findings:

- Many residents rely on the trails and green space adjacent to the Village. Further connections from the Village into these lands are desired. .
- Anmore currently contains a number of trails – however, many are steep, limiting their access. The majority of trails are not universally accessible.
- There is a lack of signage and wayfinding. Residents feel that signage and trail maps would trails.
- There is a lack of trail connectivity between park sites and throughout the community.
- A number of missing trail connections have been identified including:
Between east and west Anmore, and
To the middle school.
- Questionnaire respondents requested additional loops, longer trails, and trails away from roads. .
- Top responses to which amenities respondents would like to see in the future were: more trails, signage and trail maps.
- Youth identified the lack of all ages/accessible trails in the community. They felt that many were too advanced to meet their needs. Many walk to and from the middle school.
- Trails are a relatively low financial investment, and are used by a wide segment of the population. It is recommended that the maintenance and further development of trails be a high priority for the Village.

A key recommendation in the report is that in the future Anmore should only accept high quality useable land from developers to satisfy the 5% provincial requirement for parkland. The report clearly shows that the parkland that has been contributed to the Village in the past has largely been marginal, inaccessible and unuseable and in many cases could not even be sold or used for development.

Mayor Anderson's defended past acquisitions by saying that she felt that it was safer to have environmentally sensitive/riparian land owned by the Village rather than private landowners to ensure the protection of the parcels. This was refuted by the consultant who stated that there are already other protection mechanisms in place in provincial legislation such as provincially required setbacks and Riparian Area Regulations to protect these areas.

The Village of Anmore does not currently have park acquisition guidelines. In order to assist the village, landowners, and developers in determining appropriate land for transfer and development through Development Cost Charges (DCCs) the following should be considered for the acquisition of active and passive parkland:

- **Topography and natural features suited to the intended uses:** where feasible a desirable park gradient will be in the range of 0 to 5% for the majority of the site. Lands up to 10% slope may be considered, but only if they can be graded 25% to accommodate park uses.

Undevelopable/unusable land should only be considered for parkland acquisition where it protects ecosystems not otherwise represented in the system.

- **Be convenient to the population it serves:** Every resident should be no further than a 10 min. walk from the park. Ensure that parkland is central to residences and not at the edge of the village.
- **Be compatible with adjoining land uses:** for example, near school sites, athletic fields, or adjacent to larger natural features or linear green connections
- **Be safe and accessible:** Parks should be located close to public streets, transit, bicycle paths and pedestrian routes, with as much frontage on streets as possible. Universal accessibility should be provided to and in parks where reasonably feasible.
- **Create connections:** Parkland is preferred where it contributes directly to a communitywide system of trails and greenways.
- **Provide varied programming:** such as active structured play, unprogrammed lawn areas, pathways, trails, lookouts, areas for dogs and quiet areas. Specific neighborhood requirements and demographics should

be considered. In general parks smaller than .3 ha should not be accepted and preferably not smaller than .5 ha.

- **Be sensitive to the environment:** Parks should conserve, enhance and restore the natural physical character of the site.
- **Limited non-Park infrastructure:** Land acquired for parkland should not be used to house pump houses, booster stations, or utility infrastructure. Large constructed wetlands with multiple habitat and recreation benefit should be considered.
- **Consider opportunities for optimal parkland as they arise:** If school sites are closed existing playfields and amenities such as playground should be considered for acquisition as parkland. (Note none are being considered at this moment). Initiate park find identification and boundary determination at or prior to road layouts and proceeding any lot layouts in a new development.

The consultants did not support the construction of a green gym for adults in Spirit Park. Both Mayor Anderson and Councillor Green strongly supported the creation of such a facility in Spirit Park. However, since the majority of Council did not, staff were tasked with getting Ministry permission to change the grant outcomes to be more consistent with the findings of the public consultations and the Parks Master Plan. Similar to the advice of the Anmore Manager of Public Works, Kevin Dicken, the consultants were concerned about legacy costs to the Village of permanent structures that only one of the people surveyed said that they would use more than once a week.

There was considerable Council talk about immediate action on some of the easy to do recommendations. However, Mr. Dicken reminded Council that many of these quick wins would be part of the revamped community/recreation grant if approved. He suggested waiting for feedback on the grant restructuring from the Ministry of Community, Sport, and Culture. Council concurred.

Under item 8a . There was some discussion about a letter from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Council agreed to receive the correspondence and Council members were encouraged to complete the online survey.

Under item 11a New Business, there was some talk about quick action on trail and sidewalk access to Eagle Mountain Middle School and Anmore Elementary School. However, given the forthcoming municipal elections, this item was deferred to a new Parks Committee.

Under item 11b , the Manager of Public Works, Kevin Dicken, outlined some of the actions that staff have taken to secure the safety of people in the East Road crosswalk. Staff will further look into the possibility of creating a School Zone near this crosswalk.

Under item 12, Mayors Report, Mayor Anderson noted that the Metro Vancouver Bylaw 280 to establish a waste incinerator had been overturned by the province. She also attended several meetings.

Under item 13 Councillors Reports, Councillor Thiele highlighted the availability of a traffic safety toolkit for school administrators. Councillor Palmer-Isaak reported that the youth group collected 175 bags of clothing. She also reminded people about the Halloween fireworks. Councillor Green talked about a \$35,000 grant to Mossom Creek Hatchery which will be matched by the Imperial oil company.

The Chief Administrative Officer, Tim Harris, indicated that staff participated in Shakeout BC on October 15. Someone is working on the village website. And there have been changes to lighting around Eagle Mountain Middle School.

Manager of Corporate Services, Christine Milloy, is on maternity leave. She will be replaced by former Manager of Corporate Services, Karen-Ann Cobb. There will be no more regularly scheduled Council meetings until after the November 15 municipal election. The mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:50.