

PRESENT: A. MacDonald
K. Sanderson
D. Scott
G. Wolgemuth

COUNCIL: Councillor S. Kristjanson (Chairperson)

ABSENT: Ar. MacDonald

STAFF: C. Isaak, Director, Planning & Development Services
E. Tuson, Committee Clerk

Public: 0
Press: 0

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

2020-DOP-001 **IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED**
THAT the Dogs on the Promenade Task Force adopts the agenda for
February 19, 2020 as circulated.

CARRIED

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

a) November 8, 2019

2020-DOP-002 **IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED**
THAT the Dogs on the Promenade Task Force adopts the meeting minutes for
November 8, 2019 as circulated.

CARRIED

4. **UPDATE ON TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS TO/ FROM
COUNCIL**

The Chairperson provided a verbal update to the task force on the
recommendations provided to Council at their December 2, 2019 Regular Council
meeting.

Pilot project metrics, survey

Staff noted the following information:

- Planning and Development Services and Communications are working together on the survey.
- The survey will be administered through talkwhiterock.ca.

- In addition to the Peace Arch News, social media and the City website may be used as advertisement.
- Aiming for less than five (5) easy answer questions.
- The survey will likely require registration on talkwhiterock.ca in order to prevent people from taking the survey more than once.

Seniors impacted by the pilot project

Staff noted that at the last task force meeting some of the discussion was around the dogs@whiterockcity.ca feedback email. People are directed to send any feedback to this platform. Any comments made on social media should also be directed to provide them via email.

Note: The email can be located on the City website at the following link:

<https://www.whiterockcity.ca/799/Dogs-in-White-Rock>. The survey will also be promoted on this page.

Recommendation(s) following the conclusion of the task force

The Chairperson noted that the intention of this meeting is to begin discussion around potential recommendations for the conclusion of the trial period.

Action Item: Include Evaluation of the Trial Period as an agenda item for discussion at the next scheduled meeting.

5. DISCUSSION OF IMPACT OF DOGS ON THE PROMENADE ON BIRD POPULATION ON THE BEACH

The Chairperson noted that the bird expert invited from the Province could not be attendance. It was noted that the bird expert had previously completed a study on Vancouver Island regarding the impact of birds of having dogs on the beach.

White Rock is home to migrating birds. This should be considered when the task force conducts their evaluation of the trial period.

The task force noted that there are Canadian Geese along the beach and the foreshore; however, they are not on the promenade.

The Chairperson noted that the Kepner-Trego method is meant to capture both concrete and ‘fuzzy’ data. It allows the capture of impressions and weighs them appropriately. It is important to capture observations, even if they are not quantifiable.

The Committee noted it is important to consider that the beach is not the City’s jurisdiction. If the promenade closes to dogs, they will likely relocate to the beach, which has no enforcement of leash length, number of dogs per person etc. This will also have an impact on birds on the beach.

Staff noted that previously, when the beach was under City jurisdiction, dogs were not allowed on the beach according to City bylaws. When the City’s lease with the Province expired in 2015, the City could no longer enforce something more restrictive than the rules of the Wildlife Management Area and dogs were allowed on the beach.

6. METRICS

The task force reviewed current metrics and brainstormed additional metrics for decision-making.

Negative dog interactions

The following discussion points were noted:

- Bites.
- Aggressive behavior.
- Off leash dogs.
- Number of dogs on Pier.
- The weight of importance of negative dog interactions and how they will influence the task force's recommendations.

Staff provided a verbal update of feedback received from the pilot project to date. The following key points were noted over the November 8, 2019 – February 18, 2020 period:

- Bylaw Complaints
 - Bites: 0
 - Aggressive dogs: 0
 - Tickets issued: 7 (2 on pier / 7 off leash)
 - Off leash: 20
 - Dogs on the pier: 144 (with increase during high volume of people observing the large number of herring/anchovy and seals over the holidays)
 - Defecation: 20 (overall there have been 26 complaints directed to Bylaw Enforcement since the beginning of the trial period (October 1, 2019))
- Written Correspondence
 - Defecation: 35
- Overall, there have been 79 negative comments through various channels, 35 of which were regarding defecation.

The Committee discussed the data provided by staff. Various influencing variables were also considered (anchovy incident, free parking at the waterfront etc.). This is indicative of the influx of people coming down to the promenade, yet there still were no bites.

In response to questions from the task force, staff noted that the City receives written correspondence regarding dog defecation to the Parks department. Comparing this specific data with other jurisdictions may result in impactful information (e.g. Stanley Park, Kitsilano and Crescent Beach). The Parks department have reached out to the City of Surrey for data regarding dogs; however, they were not able to provide information regarding dog defecation, as they do not collect that sort of data.

The task force suggested that there has been poor communication regarding why no dogs are allowed on the pier. If people understand why they are not allowed they may be more likely to abide. Staff noted that the pilot project is specific to the promenade and does not include the pier.

2020-DOP-003 **It was MOVED and SECONDED**
THAT the Dogs on the Promenade Task Force request that Council direct staff to clarify the reasoning behind why dogs are not allowed on the Pier and communicate this explanation to the public.

CARRIED

2020-DOP-004 **IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED**
THAT the Dogs on the Promenade Task Force request that Council direct staff to contact the City of Vancouver for their data regarding negative dog interactions, in order to compare that information with the data collected by the City of White Rock.

CARRIED

G. Wolgemuth voting in the negative

Positive dog interactions

The task force discussed various positive variables that were noted from previous meetings. It was noted that Council is most concerned with the overall ‘happiness’ of White Rock residents. Community happiness regarding dogs on the promenade was discussed.

Staff noted the following data for positive feedback received during the period of November 8, 2019 – February 18, 2020:

- Written correspondence: 66 (60 different individuals)
- During the period of October 17 – November 8 there were six (6) positive written correspondence from six (6) individuals.
- During the period of October 1 – November 16 there was 33 positive written correspondence from 31 individuals.
- Overall, it is estimated 70 individuals have sent in positive written correspondence throughout the entire trial period. The exact number is not possible to confirm as a small number of submissions did not include the name of the individuals.

Staff also provided the following information regarding negative written correspondence received during the period of November 8, 2019 – February 18, 2020:

- 28 individuals submitted comments.
- 46 different individuals in total have provided negative comments throughout the trial period.

Action item: Task force members to go review all the concerns and benefits noted at previous meetings and brainstorm ways to measure them in order to prepare for the March meeting.

Staff noted that there are two (2) surveys taking place, one (1) of which is to gain feedback from the businesses. The City may be collaborating with the White Rock Business Improvement Association (BIA) to administer this survey.

7. FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM THE PILOT PROJECT TO DATE

The task force noted that this was discussed under item 6.

Staff provided the following comments:

- Other complaints include dogs on pier, unleashed dogs, wildlife interference and general bylaw enforcement feedback.
- There are roughly 8-10 bag dispensers across the promenade.

The task force discussed how Bylaw Enforcement Officers could also keep track of dogs/ dog owners obeying the bylaws.

2020-DOP-005

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Dogs on the Promenade Task Force endorses that Task Force members, D. Scott and A. McDonald collect data on the number of dogs on the promenade that are both compliant and non-compliant with the bylaws.

CARRIED

J. Thrall voting in the negative

7.1

BAG DISPENSER UPDATE

Staff provided the following information:

- Number of bags used up to January 20, 2020 is approximately 15,000.
- 200-300 bags are loaded into a dispenser at a time.
- Parks staff monitor the dispensers every two (2) weeks during regular weather.
- Dispensers are refilled when a complaint is received.

The task force noted several complaints received regarding empty bag dispensers. The dispensers were not regularly filled during the holiday period (December 25, 2019 – January 1, 2020).

Staff noted that Parks staff believe that some individuals are taking multiple bags at a given time. The City is providing services that is not offered in parks by neighboring municipalities. There was a cost in staff time for refilling the dispensers, but no cost for the bags themselves.

Action Item: Staff to find out why the bags have advertising on them when Council noted they did not want any advertising on the bags or the dispensers.

7.2

PILOT PROJECT EVALUATION KICK-OFF

The task force noted that this was discussed under item 6.

8.

SENIORS IMPACTED BY THE PILOT PROJECT

The Committee asked if there was an age range when referring to seniors affected by the pilot project. The Chairperson noted there is no specific age range.

9. **INFORMATION**

Dogs on the Promenade City brochure

A copy of the printed brochure to was provided to the task force for information.

Bylaw Enforcement Officer scheduled hours of work

Staff provided the following information:

- There is no advertising on the dispensers themselves.
- The bags have advertising as it saved the City money in terms of the cost of implementing the dispensers.
- The Animal Control Bylaw No. 1959 details the distinction between allowing dogs on the Pier versus on the Promenade.
- Bylaw Enforcement Officer's hours on the Promenade of the month of February averaged approximately 4 hours per day. A patrol typically has two (2) officers at a time, and so 4 hours per day represents two officers for two hours during the day. There are maximum of four (4) patrols per day, which varies based on the weather and other duties.

2020-DOP-006 **It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Dogs on the Promenade Task Force requests that Council ask permission from Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) to have advertising on the dog bags in order to help the City save \$200 per month in operating cost.

DEFEATED

A. MacDonald, J. Thrall, K. Sanderson, D. Scott voting in the negative.

Approximate cost for the Pilot Project

The Director of Planning and Development Services provided an overview of the corporate report dated February 3, 2020 from the Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations and the Director of Planning and Development Services. The task force discussed the report. The cost of staff time was noted for the task forces information. Overall, the trial period has cost \$3,500 in materials and \$18,500 in staff time (not including staffing required for the task force).

10. **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

11. **ACTION TRACKING**

Corporate Administration provided an action tracking sheets to the task force for information. This spreadsheet will be updated after each meeting and provided to members.

12. **2020 SCHEDULE OF MEETING**


The following 2020 Dogs on the Promenade Task Force meeting dates were approved by the Committee and are noted on the agenda for information purposes:

- March 18
- April 15


2020-DOP-007 **It was MOVED and SECONDED**
THAT the Dogs on the Promenade Task Force endorses that J. Thrall, Committee member, assist Councillor Kristjanson in consolidating the flip charts into spreadsheets for the task forces for information.

CARRIED

13. **CONCLUSION OF THE FEBRUARY 19, 2020 DOGS ON THE PROMENADE TASK FORCE MEETING**
The Chairperson declared the meeting concluded at 5:47 p.m.



Councillor Kristjanson
Chairperson



E. Tuson
Committee Clerk