

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK

15322 BUENA VISTA AVENUE, WHITE ROCK, B.C. V4B 1Y6

MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to the *Community Charter* a **SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING** has been called to begin at **4:00 P.M.** on **MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021.**

DATE: APRIL 19, 2021
MEETING TIME: 4:00 P.M.
LOCATION: WHITE ROCK COUNCIL CHAMBERS
15322 BUENA VISTA AVE., WHITE ROCK BC V4B 1Y6

PURPOSE: Impacts/ Considerations due to COVID-19 Pandemic

- Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw No. 2385
- COVID-19 Proposed Prevention Measures

The City of White Rock is committed to the health and safety of our community. In keeping with Health Minister Order of British Columbia, City Council meetings will take place without the public in attendance at this time until further notice.

Date: April 16, 2021



Tracey Arthur, Director of Corporate Administration

WHITE ROCK
My City by the Sea!

www.whiterockcity.ca

The Corporation of the
CITY OF WHITE ROCK



Special Meeting of Council
POST-MEETING AGENDA

Monday, April 19, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

15322 Buena Vista Avenue, White Rock, BC, V4B 1Y6

***Live Streaming/Telecast:** Please note that all Committees, Task Forces, Council Meetings, and Public Hearings held in the Council Chamber are being recorded and broadcasted as well included on the City's website at: www.whiterockcity.ca

The City of White Rock is committed to the health and safety of our community. In keeping with Ministerial Order No. M192 from the Province of British Columbia, City Council meetings will take place without the public in attendance at this time until further notice.

T. Arthur, Director of Corporate Administration

Pages

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. MOTION TO CONDUCT A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING WITHOUT THE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS COVID-19 has been declared a global pandemic;

WHEREAS the City of White Rock has been able to continue to provide the public access to the meetings through live streaming;

WHEREAS holding public meetings in the City Hall Council Chambers, where all the audio/video equipment has been set up for the live streaming program, would not be possible without breaching physical distancing restrictions due to its size, and holding public meetings at the White Rock Community Centre would cause further financial impact to City Operations due to staffing resources and not enable live streaming;

WHEREAS Ministerial Orders require an adopted motion in order to hold public meetings electronically, without members of the public present in person at the meeting;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council authorizes the City of White Rock to hold the April 19, 2021 Special Council meeting to be video streamed and available on the City's website, and without the public present in the Council Chambers.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Corporation of the City of White Rock Council adopt the agenda for its special meeting scheduled for April 19, 2021 as circulated.

4. CORPORATE REPORTS

4.1. Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw No. 2385

4

Corporate report dated April 19, 2021 from the Director of Planning and Development Services titled "Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw 2385".

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

1. Receive the April 26, 2021, corporate report from the Director of Planning and Development Services, titled "Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw No. 2385;"
2. Direct that, if the bylaw is adopted, the Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations or their designate is to provide signage in the Memorial Park Plaza area to establish a rule prohibiting glass containers in the Memorial Park Plaza area; and
3. Direct that, if the bylaw is adopted, public input and observations on the initiative be obtained via a new dedicated City email address (e.g. liquorfeedback@whiterockcity.ca), for future review of the program by Council.

4.2. COVID-19 Proposed Prevention Measures

31

Corporate report dated April 19, 2021 from the Fire Chief titled "COVID-19 Proposed Prevention Measures".

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receives this report for discussion on potential COVID-19 community safety prevention measures that may be considered for implementation on the waterfront.

5. BYLAWS

5.1. BYLAW 2385, CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR IN PUBLIC PLACES BYLAW

47

A Bylaw to allow for the consumption of liquor in Memorial Park Plaza. The bylaw is on the agenda for consideration of first, second and third reading at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council give first, second and third readings to "*Bylaw 2385, Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw*".

6. CONCLUSION OF THE APRIL 19, 2021 SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
CORPORATE REPORT



DATE: April 19, 2021
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Carl Isaak, Director, Planning and Development Services
SUBJECT: Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw No. 2385

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Council:

1. Receive the April 26, 2021, corporate report from the Director of Planning and Development Services, titled "Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw No. 2385;"
 2. Direct that, if the bylaw is adopted, the Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations or their designate is to provide signage in the Memorial Park Plaza area to establish a rule prohibiting glass containers in the Memorial Park Plaza area; and
 3. Direct that, if the bylaw is adopted, public input and observations on the initiative be obtained via a new dedicated City email address (e.g. liquorfeedback@whiterockcity.ca), for future review of the program by Council.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On April 12, 2021, Council requested that a draft bylaw be brought back to Council for reconsideration that would allow the consumption of liquor in Memorial Park Plaza. A draft bylaw for this purpose was previously considered and did not proceed on July 13, 2020. Council further requested that staff confirm if there is space to locate additional picnic tables in the plaza area. This report provides an introduction for discussion of the draft bylaw ("Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw, 2021, No. 2385"), which is included under the Bylaws section of this agenda. The report also notes that the number of tables in the plaza is at the maximum.

Under the current public health orders, food and liquor serving establishments are limited to takeout, delivery, and outdoor patio service only. As patio spaces are limited, and the public may prefer to eat their takeout in a more open setting than at patio table, public spaces such as the picnic tables in Memorial Park Plaza have been well-utilized by takeout customers and are expected to continue to be a popular option for outdoor dining in the summer months. Currently, while takeout customers can purchase takeout liquor with their food order, they would have to return home to consume it as liquor consumption in public places is not currently permitted.

Council has the authority, by bylaw, to establish public areas where consumption of liquor is permitted. This has been requested previously through the White Rock Business Improvement Association (BIA) as a means of supporting the financial viability of restaurants who could direct takeout patrons to a nearby space where they could legally consume alcohol with their meal.

This report identifies several aspects of such a program that Council may wish to consider before approving the draft bylaw, including enforcement, garbage and recycling impacts, and relationship with existing public health orders such as the order on Gatherings and Events and the order on Food and Liquor Serving Establishments. These orders are subject to change during the COVID-19 pandemic and could in the future restrict outdoor dining in outdoor public places.

This report also notes concerns by the RCMP that this permission for Memorial Park Plaza may lead the perception that alcohol consumption is allowed in all public places, and the RCMP will not have the capacity to monitor the compliance of a designated liquor consumption area with any effectiveness.

Staff consider that the allowing liquor consumption in Memorial Park may have benefits for attracting more business for local restaurants and providing an opportunity for outdoor socializing within a household and responsible drinking with a meal, which has been successful in other BC cities, but that if the bylaw does proceed that it be done with the awareness that it may need to be rescinded and the program cancelled if issues arise.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

Motion # & Meeting Date	Motion Details
June 1, 2020 2020-323	THAT Council direct staff to bring forward a bylaw to allow for the consumption of liquor in Memorial Park plaza, and that the COVID-19 Recovery Task Force be requested to consider recommending additional potential public places that may be appropriate for allowing consumption of liquor.
June 8, 2020 2020-336	THAT Council direct staff to acquire and install picnic tables and benches for outdoor public use, focusing on the plaza at Memorial Park as well as other appropriate locations in East Beach and the Uptown area, using \$10,000 from operating contingency for the picnic tables and benches, and expand the outdoor seating program If further donations are received from partners.
July 13, 2020 2020-377	THAT Council endorses Option 3 of the report dated July 13, 2020 from the Director of Planning and Development Services titled “Consideration of Liquor Consumption at Memorial Park Plaza”, which is not proceed with allowing liquor consumption in at Memorial Park Plaza.
April 12, 2021 [draft; wording subject to review]	THAT Council endorse the bylaw and information regarding regulations in relation to businesses for takeout with alcohol at Memorial Park be brought back to Council for consideration.
April 12, 2021 [draft; wording subject to review]	THAT Council endorses the hire of an afternoon shift for this year and address it annually following this year, to address additional garbage pickup requirements, and that the funding source would be the COVID-19 grant. [related to garbage and recycling collection on the waterfront]

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The purpose of this corporate report is to provide Council with a bylaw for consideration that would enable the consumption of liquor at Memorial Park Plaza, in response to Council's resolution on April 12, 2021.

A draft bylaw and related report on this topic were previously provided to Council on July 13, 2020 (attached to this report as Appendix A), but the draft bylaw was not supported at that time. Other communities in British Columbia, including the cities of North Vancouver and Port Coquitlam had been piloting a similar program to allow responsible drinking in parks in the summer of 2020, and have since made their programs permanent with minor changes.

The current context for reconsideration is that due to a COVID-19 related Public Health Order from March 31, 2021 limiting food and liquor serving establishments to takeout, delivery or patio service only, and concerns regarding the economic impact of these orders to restaurant operators. While takeout service is allowed to include liquor, patrons would need to return home in order to consume liquor with their meal, as liquor consumption is not currently allowed in public places other than licensed patios. This may deter some customers from purchasing takeout liquor from restaurants since they cannot consume it in the waterfront setting.

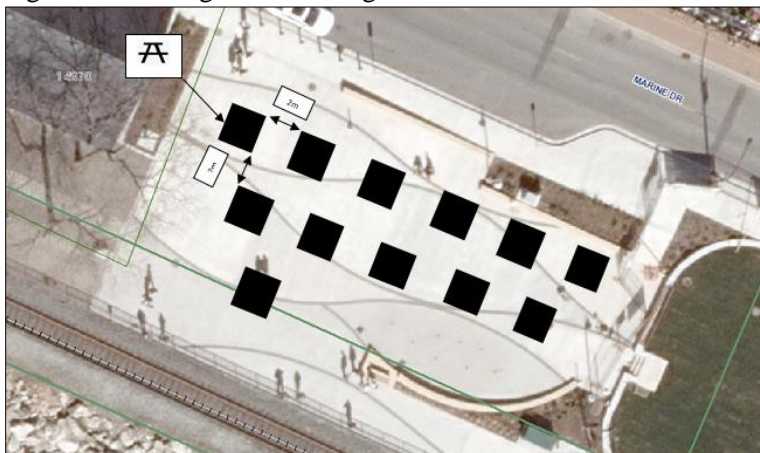
The revised bylaw that is being brought back for reconsideration has four minor changes from the draft bylaw presented in 2020, as follows:

1. The permitted starting hours of liquor consumption have been expanded from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 a.m. to allow for the option of lunch takeout service;
2. The signage specifications required by the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation have been adjusted to be more flexible (minimum sign dimensions of 17" x 24," rather than specific dimensions) in case adjustments are required; and
3. The area of permitted space for liquor consumption has been slightly increase to encompass the plaza area up to surrounding landscape planters to allow signage to be posted in the ground in the landscape planter spaces rather than damaging the concrete surface of the plaza.

Current Picnic Tables in Memorial Park Plaza

The Engineering and Municipal Operations Department has noted that the current amount of 12 picnic tables in Memorial Park Plaza are the maximum number of tables that can fit in the space while maintaining adequate separation from adjacent tables, circulation spaces around the stairs and concrete seat walls, and allowing for the use of the spray pad in the plaza. A diagram of the existing plaza and general table arrangements is provided below for reference.

Figure 1: Existing Table Configuration at Memorial Park Plaza



The City has four other picnic tables that were also acquired last summer, which have been recently re-stained and will be deployed in East Beach at Ash Street and in the grassy area by Five Corners (two in each location) before the end of April 2021.

Use of Permitted Space by Public / Customers

The current plaza and picnic tables remain open to the public for use whether their meals are brought from home or purchased as take-out from a local restaurant. It is recommended that this carry forward, as it is a public space and enforcement of “take-out only” use of the picnic tables would not be feasible.

While use of the area and tables would not be restricted to takeout customers, if Council wanted to encourage this, small plaques could be added to the picnic tables with the following language or similar: “Please use this table to enjoy your takeout food and beverages.”

Outdoor Picnic/Dining Areas and Relationship with COVID-19 Gatherings and Events Order

The patio tables in Memorial Park Plaza are already well used by the public, particularly during sunny weather, and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. By permitting liquor consumption in the plaza area it may increase demand for the table spaces. Regardless of whether liquor is permitted to be consumed in this area, the picnic tables and plaza do attract a considerable amount of people. This does not formally constitute an event or gathering, however, the current Gatherings and Events public health orders and any future revisions to these orders may impact the use of the space. For example, a large group of people (i.e. more than ten) would not be permitted to use the space as a location to gather, even at multiple tables in the plaza.

The current Gatherings and Events public health order guidance from the Province (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions>) notes that while gatherings of up to ten people are currently permitted at a park or beach, the guidance is that this is not an opportunity to gather with several groups of new people, that people are to continue to use COVID-19 layers of protection and maintain physical distancing, and that patios and outdoor areas at restaurants, pubs and bars are not included as places to gather with ten people at one table.

On that basis, and in alignment with the Food and Drink Serving Establishments public health order (applicable to businesses but not directly related to public places) the groups seated at tables would be expected to comply with the requirement that people should only be dining with their household, and a maximum of six people from the same household should be seated at the tables.

If there are contraventions of current public health orders, regardless of whether liquor consumption is permitted in the area or not, these could result in a fine from an RCMP member. Bylaw Enforcement Officers do not have the authority to issue fines and would rely on contacting the RCMP if a member of the public does not comply with a warning.

Use of Non-Glass Containers

If the bylaw proceeds, staff recommend that in addition to the signage identifying the boundaries of the area permitted for liquor consumption, that the Parks Department post a rule for the Memorial Park Plaza area stating that glass containers are prohibited in the area. This is in accordance with the recommendation from the RCMP noted in the Interdepartmental Involvement/Implications section, and particularly relevant given the splash/spray pad in the plaza that would continue to be operational in close proximity to the picnic tables in the plaza.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If the initiative proceeds, additional recycling bins will be located in nearby areas where liquor consumption is permitted, in order to reduce the amount of recyclable containers entering the garbage stream or being littered on the waterfront or sidewalks. A small number of signs would also be required by legislation to mark the area where liquor consumption is permitted, and it is recommended that a rule that no glass containers are permitted in the plaza be indicated through signage in the plaza.

There may be additional costs for garbage and recycling removal in this area, which would potentially impact the Parks Department budget as an increase to the contractor's cost for emptying garbage more frequently. A separate resolution regarding garbage pickup on the waterfront was passed by Council on April 12, 2021, adding an afternoon shift to reduce the existing higher than normal levels of garbage experienced likely due to an increased volume of takeout orders.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 73 of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* and section 197 of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation* enables local governments to identify public areas where consumption of liquor is permitted.

Section 74 of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* prohibits intoxication in a public place, and would remain enforceable by a peace officer if consumption of liquor is permitted. As with current instances of public intoxication which occur outside of bylaw enforcement hours, this would primarily require the response of an RCMP member.

If Council proceeds with this draft bylaw and later determines it is no longer desirable or necessary, the bylaw would need to be rescinded.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

If Council approves the consumption of alcohol in a public outdoor area, staff recommend that public input and observations on the initiative be sought through a new dedicated email address (e.g. "liquorfeedback@whiterockcity.ca") which can then be compiled for future review of the program by Council.

Alternatively, public input and observations on the initiative could be sought through online feedback at www.talkwhiterock.ca, which can be formatted as an online message board where each poster's comments are visible to other users.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS

In the July 13, 2020 report on this topic, the Detachment Commander of the White Rock RCMP provided the following comments on this proposal:

We have a concern with the public perception of a bylaw allowing for consumption of liquor in a public place that may be interpreted as "all public places." We are supportive of a primary food service business that also sells liquor with food to extend the limits of their liquor consumption area into a nearby defined public area. The hours of consumption and the nature of the consumption with a meal are important to emphasize, as well that it is an accompaniment to a meal and not a primarily liquor consumption area or have the appearance of a beer garden. It is also suggested that liquor be served in non-glass containers if this bylaw is approved. The act of people purchasing food and liquor, then taking this to another non-designated public area may be problematic to

control and give the impression that public consumption is widely accepted when not controlled. The RCMP will not have the capacity to monitor the compliance of a designated liquor consumption area with any effectiveness and can only do so on a sporadic basis.

The Engineering and Municipal Operations Department has also reviewed the draft bylaw and provided input on the signage specifications.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Under the “Waterfront” theme in Council’s Strategic Priorities, the objective to “attract visitors and residents to the Waterfront” relates to supporting businesses. Allowing liquor consumption in Memorial Park Plaza in close proximity to restaurants may encourage existing takeout customers to purchase a beverage in addition to the takeout food they would have purchased anyway, expanding the revenue potential for businesses, or potentially attract new takeout customers to restaurants that would otherwise not have come to the area.

Further, under the COVID-19 response theme in Council’s Strategic Priorities, the objective to “advocate on behalf of small business and work with community groups to support the local business community during the pandemic” is indirectly related to this initiative.

The COVID-19 response theme also includes the objective to “operate all facilities and provide services consistent with Provincial health orders.” Any new public health order issued that would require the suspension or modification of this program would be followed as necessary.

OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES

The following options are available for Council’s consideration:

1. Direct staff to identify alternate public places where liquor consumption may be allowed either in addition to or instead of Memorial Park Plaza;
2. Direct staff to refer this report and draft bylaw to the COVID-19 Recovery Task Force on April 20, 2021 for a recommendation on this topic; or
3. Direct staff to not proceed with the draft bylaw.

CONCLUSION

Due to a COVID-19 related Public Health Order from March 31, 2021 limiting food and liquor serving establishments to takeout, delivery or patio service only, there are concerns regarding the economic impact of these orders to restaurant operators. This report brings back, for Council’s reconsideration, a draft bylaw that would permit the consumption of liquor in Memorial Park Plaza as a way to encourage takeout customers to also purchase liquor from local restaurants. Staff consider that allowing liquor consumption in Memorial Park may have benefits for attracting more business for local restaurants and providing an opportunity for outdoor socializing within a household and responsible drinking with a meal, which has been successful

in other BC cities, but that if the bylaw does proceed that it be done with the awareness that it may need to be rescinded and the program cancelled if issues arise.

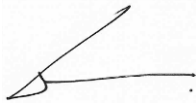
Respectfully submitted,



Carl Isaak, RPP, MCIP
Director, Planning and Development Services

Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer

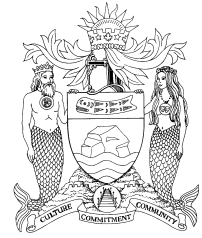
I concur with the recommendations of this corporate report.



Guillermo Ferrero
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A: Corporate Report dated July 13, 2020 titled “Consideration of Liquor Consumption at Memorial Park Plaza”

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
CORPORATE REPORT



DATE: July 13, 2020
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Carl Isaak, Director of Planning and Development Services
SUBJECT: Consideration of Liquor Consumption at Memorial Park Plaza

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council direct staff to distribute the corporate report, titled “Consideration of Liquor Consumption at Memorial Park Plaza” to the COVID-19 Recovery Task Force for consideration at its meeting on July 14, 2020, and to seek recommendations from the Task Force.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Special Council Meeting on June 1, 2020, Council was presented with an on-table letter from the White Rock Business Improvement Associated (BIA) supportive of allowing liquor consumption in public places to support and enhance outdoor dining, along with an associated draft motion from staff for Council’s consideration. The motion, which was approved, directed staff to prepare a bylaw to allow for the consumption of liquor in Memorial Park plaza and obtain input from the COVID-19 Recovery Task Force on the initiative. Council also received a separate on-table draft motion on acquiring and installing picnic tables on public property, including Memorial Park plaza.

Council discussion at the June 1, 2020 meeting, indicated a desire for further details on both topics, and subsequently on June 8, 2020, a corporate report on the purchase of picnic tables was received and approved. In that corporate report it was noted that there were concerns regarding enforcement of liquor consumption in outdoor public areas, and that Council may consider the liquor consumption in the future through the establishment of a bylaw under section 73 of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*.

The COVID-19 Recovery Task Force had its first meeting on June 30, 2020, and its next meeting is July 14, 2020. As one of the purposes for allowing liquor consumption in public places is to support take-out operations for restaurants in the City, staff suggest that it would be appropriate for the Task Force to provide input on this potential bylaw before Council considers adoption.

If Council is supportive of moving forward in consulting with the Task Force and consider a draft bylaw, which is subsequently approved, staff recommend that public input and observations on the initiative be sought through online feedback at www.talkwhiterock.com, and that the White Rock RCMP be requested to provide a monthly summary of issues related to this initiative to the Director of Planning and Development Services.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

Resolution # and Date	Resolution Details
June 1, 2020 2020-323	THAT Council direct staff to bring forward a bylaw to allow for the consumption of liquor in Memorial Park plaza, and that the COVID-19 Recovery Task Force be requested to consider recommending additional potential public places that may be appropriate for allowing consumption of liquor.
June 8, 2020 2020-336	THAT Council direct staff to acquire and install picnic tables and benches for outdoor public use, focusing on the plaza at Memorial Park as well as other appropriate locations in East Beach and the Uptown area, using \$10,000 from operating contingency for the picnic tables and benches, and expand the outdoor seating program if further donations are received from partners.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The purpose of this corporate report is to provide Council with a draft bylaw that would enable the legal consumption of liquor in specified outdoor public areas. The Memorial Park plaza area was recommended, as it located in close proximity to restaurants and accessible public washroom facilities, and has successfully hosted special events in the past which have included beer gardens.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, this type of initiative has been considered in other communities to both support businesses operating under a take-out model as well as allow residents with limited access to outdoor space, a place to socialize while drinking alcohol in a responsible manner. The letter from the White Rock BIA in support of this concept is attached to this corporate report as Appendix A. A report from the City of North Vancouver on this topic is attached to this corporate report as Appendix B, and a draft bylaw based on the City of North Vancouver’s approach is attached to this corporate report as Appendix C. For discussion purposes, the draft bylaw includes parameters for hours of permitted consumption from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (intended to facilitate liquor consumption primarily as a component of outdoor dining), whereas the City of North Vancouver’s bylaw allows consumption from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Given the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is recommended that prior to Council giving any readings to the draft bylaw, that input from the City’s COVID-19 Recovery Task Force be solicited, on aspects of the program such as:

- Hours of permitted consumption;
- Signage, and appropriate boundaries for the permitted area;
- Rules for the use of the space in a City park (enforceable under the Parks Regulation Bylaw section 2(w) with a \$100 fine), such as only permitting non-glass containers;
- The potential to deploy a plaza host/ambassador that could:
 - Provide time limits for table use;
 - Remind patrons of physical distancing between tables and prevent crowding;
 - Direct patrons to garbage and recycling facilities and washrooms;

- Ensure the use of non-glass containers;
- Play soft recorded music; and
- Set up and remove umbrellas;
- Public health implications; and
- Other appropriate locations if the initial program is successful and the COVID-19 physical distancing orders remain in place.

It is noted that the COVID-19 Recovery Task Force includes representation from the Fraser Health Authority, which would provide valuable public health perspective on this program.

Public Consultation and Ongoing Monitoring

If Council approves the consumption of alcohol in a public outdoor area, staff recommend that public input and observations on the initiative be sought through online feedback at www.talkwhiterock.com.

Staff further recommend that the White Rock RCMP be requested to provide a monthly summary of issues related to this initiative to the Director of Planning and Development Services, which they have indicated they are able to do.

Both the public and RCMP feedback would be summarized in a future report to Council in the fall 2020, which could allow Council to cancel or modify the program if there are concerns.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If the initiative proceeds, additional recycling bins will be located nearby areas where liquor consumption is permitted, in order to reduce the amount of recyclable containers entering the garbage stream or being littered on the waterfront or sidewalks. A small amount of signs would also be required by legislation to mark the area where liquor consumption is permitted.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 73 of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* and section 197 of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation* enables local governments to identify public areas where consumption of liquor is permitted.

Section 74 of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* prohibits intoxication in a public place, and would remain enforceable by a peace officer if consumption of liquor is permitted. These sections of the act and regulation are attached to this report as Appendix D.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

If Council approves the consumption of alcohol in a public outdoor area, staff recommend that public input and observations on the initiative be sought through online feedback at www.talkwhiterock.com, in addition to writing to staff by email or letter. This online feedback can be formatted as on online message board where poster's comments are visible to other users, or in a way that comments are only visible to staff.

Following consideration by the COVID-19 Recovery Task Force, staff would provide further details regarding public opportunities for sharing their input and observations.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS

The Detachment Commander of the White Rock RCMP provided the following comments on

this proposal:

We have a concern with the public perception of a bylaw allowing for consumption of liquor in a public place that may be interpreted as "all public places." We are supportive of a primary food service business that also sells liquor with food to extend the limits of their liquor consumption area into a nearby defined public area. The hours of consumption and the nature of the consumption with a meal are important to emphasize, as well that it is an accompaniment to a meal and not a primarily liquor consumption area or have the appearance of a beer garden. It is also suggested that liquor be served in non-glass containers if this bylaw is approved. The act of people purchasing food and liquor, then taking this to another non-designated public area may be problematic to control and give the impression that public consumption is widely accepted when not controlled. The RCMP will not have the capacity to monitor the compliance of a designated liquor consumption area with any effectiveness, and can only do so on a sporadic basis.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This pilot program is not directly related to any of Council's 2018-2022 Strategic Priorities, and was initiated by a letter from the White Rock BIA on June 1, 2020.

The Marine Drive Task Force, which is a Council Strategic Priority, ended their term earlier this year. The Task Force's mandate included business viability.

OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES

The following options are proposed for Council's consideration:

1. Council can choose to give three readings to the draft bylaw tonight and forward the bylaw to the COVID-19 Recovery Task Force, which would accelerate the program (allowing for final adoption on July 27, 2020) and also give the opportunity for the Task Force to provide additional recommendations on the parameters of the program.
2. Council can choose to not refer the draft bylaw to the COVID-19 Recovery Task Force and proceed with giving readings to the draft bylaw without obtaining their input, which would accelerate the program but potentially result in an oversight in the program parameters that could have been avoided through review by the Task Force.
3. Council may also choose to not proceed with allowing liquor consumption in at Memorial Park plaza.

CONCLUSION

During the COVID-19 pandemic, some communities in BC are considering allowing consumption of liquor in specified outdoor public areas to provide for additional space to socialize with friends in a safer manner than inside a building, and to support restaurants that have had to shift to a business model more reliant on take-out customers due to reduced capacity in their establishments. The White Rock BIA has requested that Council consider allowing liquor consumption in public places, and staff have drafted a bylaw which could be used to enable this. The Memorial Park plaza area is recommended as it located in close proximity to restaurants and accessible public washroom facilities, has successfully hosted special events in the past which

have included beer gardens, and has recently installed picnic tables to facilitate an outdoor dining experience.

Staff recommend that the draft bylaw and this corporate report be referred to the COVID-19 Recovery Task Force for input on July 14, 2020, so that Council may consider their feedback and potentially provide three readings of the enabling bylaw on July 27, 2020. Consideration of final adoption would be possible at next scheduled Regular Council Meeting on September 9, 2020.

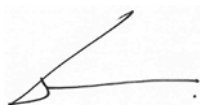
Respectfully submitted,



Carl Isaak, MCIP, RPP
Director, Planning and Development Services

Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer:

I concur with the recommendation of this corporate report.



Guillermo Ferrero
Chief Administrative Officer

- Appendix A: Letter from the White Rock BIA dated June 1, 2020
- Appendix B: Report on the Public Consumption of Alcohol from the City of North Vancouver dated May 26, 2020
- Appendix C: Draft Bylaw Regarding Public Consumption of Liquor
- Appendix D: Sections 73 and 74 of *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, and Section 197 of *Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation*

APPENDIX A

Letter from the White Rock BIA dated June 1, 2020



White Rock Business
Improvement Association

June 1 2020

To: Mayor Walker & Councillors
City of White Rock

Re: Liquor in White Rock Public Spaces

Dear Mayor & Council:

I hope that you and your families are safe and healthy during these challenging times.

As you're aware, businesses are struggling during the Covid-19 pandemic. In particular, restaurants are challenged by strict capacity limitations that severely limit their potential revenues. While the Provincial policy guidelines around patio extensions will help, additional measures are needed for restaurants to survive the pandemic.

To that end, the White Rock Business Improvement Association requests that the City of White Rock use Section 73.2 of the Liquor Control and Licensing Act to allow for consumption of liquor in designated public spaces around White Rock.

Many White Rock restaurants have shifted their business models to offer take-out, and many of our community are now enjoying takeout in public places. However, alcoholic beverages are typically the highest margin items, and restaurants depend on their sale to meet expenses. Designating public spaces where alcohol could be consumed would allow customers to enjoy an alcoholic beverage with their take-out, thus increasing the effective potential revenues of the restaurants. This would help restaurants survive this very challenging business environment.

There are several public spaces around White Rock that would be suitable to be designated, and would allow restaurants in each district of our community to be supported. The allowed spaces could be delineated by public picnic tables and/or seating areas, an idea that has picked up steam in our community.

Designating public spaces would in no way change the laws around public intoxication or the bylaws around noise and public space schedules. All it would do is make it legal for customers enjoy an alcoholic beverage in, say, Memorial Park in the same way that they would across the street on the patio of, say, Uli's Restaurant or Charlie Don't Surf.

[A 1174 Fir Street White Rock, BC V4B 4A9 P \(604\) 536 4958](mailto:A.1174@white-rock.ca) [W whiterockbia.com](http://whiterockbia.com)



White Rock Business
Improvement Association

The White Rock BIA would be thrilled to work with City of White Rock Council & Staff to identify appropriate areas around our community, and to help communicate the changes and regulations to our members and the public-at-large. This is a powerful, virtually cost-free way to support White Rock restaurants that is directly under the City of White Rock's purview.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please reach out to me should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex Nixon", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.




Alex Nixon
Executive Director,
White Rock BIA
alex@whiterockbia.com

cc:
Guillermo Ferrero, CAO, City of White Rock
Carl Isaak, Director of Planning, City of White Rock

APPENDIX B

Report on the Public Consumption of Alcohol from the City of North Vancouver dated May 26, 2020



 Department Manager	 Director	 CAO
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The Corporation of **THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER**
COMMUNITY & PARTNER ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

REPORT

To: Mayor Linda Buchanan and Members of Council

From: Paul Duffy, Manager, Bylaw Services
L. R. Orr, Deputy Director, Community and Partner Engagement

Subject: CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR IN A PUBLIC PLACE BYLAW

Date: May 26, 2020 File No: 09-3900-02-0001/2020

The following is a suggested recommendation only. Refer to Council Minutes for adopted resolution.

RECOMMENDATION

PURSUANT to the report of the Manager, Bylaw Services and Deputy Director, Community and Partner Engagement, dated May 26, 2020, entitled "Consumption of Liquor in a Public Place Bylaw":

THAT Bylaw 8781, a Bylaw to establish "Consumption of Liquor in a Public Place Bylaw" be considered.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Liquor Control and Licensing Act Section 73 (Doc [#1914227](#))
2. Liquor Control and Licensing Regulations Section 197 (Doc [#1914229](#))
3. Consumption of Liquor in a Public Places Bylaw, Bylaw No. 8781 (Doc [#1913836](#))

SUMMARY

On May 11th, 2020, Council resolved:

THAT staff be directed to develop an expedited outdoor dining process to expand temporary patios into public spaces and report back on the feasibility of the consumption of liquor in certain public spaces for safe, informal public dining.

This report responds to Council's resolution and provides Council with a draft Bylaw for consideration to designate certain public places as places where liquor may be consumed.

Document Number: 1913835

REPORT: Consumption of Liquor in a Public Place Bylaw
Date: May 26, 2020

BACKGROUND

The emergence of COVID-19 as a public health emergency by the World Health Organization has led to a number of precautionary measures such as quarantines, physical distancing or in some cases total lockdown in regions or countries around the world. Anxiety, as well as loneliness, are some of the mental health consequences that will persist long after the pandemic ends. The increased feelings of depression and stress, especially during a time of uncertainty, may have serious impacts on public health, increasing people's vulnerability to poor health and weakening society as a whole. Social isolation should not become a norm, even if some specific circumstances require physical distancing.

The rapid implementation of physical distancing was necessary to flatten the coronavirus curve and prevent the current pandemic from worsening. Just as the coronavirus fallout threatens to cause economic uncertainty, it also may cause a collapse in social contact among our residents. Utilizing public places is a central part of moving forward and getting people out of their residence, which in turn will support local businesses.

DISCUSSION

British Columbia has announced a four phased "Restart Plan" which will involve the government lifting restrictions on the community and businesses in phases, gradually allowing for more social and economic activity. The City wants to support and contribute to rebuilding an economically thriving and sustainable economy while complying with the "Restart Plan" and Provincial Health Orders. The City also recognizes that public spaces enhance community and creating shared social spaces could reduce loneliness. These are strong social and economic arguments that the City can influence through policy and Bylaws.

To minimize a resurgence in infection and to recover equitably, the City must think more about how all kinds of outdoor, everyday spaces can fulfill people's daily needs. One option would be to permit the public consumption of liquor in certain public places to provide residents with the opportunity for an informal, safe outdoor place to socialise with family and friends while supporting local businesses.

The Liquor Control and Licensing Act, Section 73 (Attachment # 1) and the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulations, Section 197 (Attachment # 2) allow municipalities to designate by Bylaw, a public place, or part of it where liquor may be consumed. The Bylaw does not require a Public Hearing but does require that a public place(s) be designated, the hours during which liquor may be consumed must be indicated and the boundaries of the designated public space must be identified by posting signage.

Designating public places to consume liquor requires careful management and oversight. The City will have a significant role in supporting this initiative but it also relies on people adopting, using and managing the public place with regard to physical distancing and respectful consumption of liquor.

Page 2 of 6

REPORT: Consumption of Liquor in a Public Place Bylaw
Date: May 26, 2020

Other than the Province of Quebec, no other province has permitted people to consume liquor in public. In 2018, the City of Vancouver began to consider consuming liquor in their parks and beaches, however the initiative was stalled as most parks and beaches fall under the jurisdiction of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation ("Parks Board"). Further work was required to confirm that the Parks Board could enact a bylaw under the Liquor Control and Licensing Act. Staff understand that the City of Vancouver and the Parks Board are continuing to pursue this initiative. There is no other municipality in BC that has enacted a bylaw pursuant to this legislation.

When used in moderation, liquor consumption can be enjoyable for people and facilitate social interaction. Allowing public consumption of liquor in public spaces would be a significant shift in liquor policy in the City and the City would be the first municipality in British Columbia to permit public consumption of liquor. Under normal circumstances, this shift in policy would include consultation with the community, health officials and our enforcement partners, however, these are not normal times.

Staff have consulted with the RCMP and received the following comments and recommendations:

- They want to support the community and businesses rebuild economic and social activity and recommends that this initiative start as a small pilot
- They believe this initiative will result in more calls for service
- They will provide on-going feedback and statistics on calls for service at any of the designated locations
- They recommend that washroom facilities and park maintenance be available/enhanced
- They recommend that any designated area not be located near schools

This is an opportunity to provide informal, safe outdoor places for family and friends to socialize while supporting local businesses. This initiative will form a part of the City's economic recovery efforts along with the Open Streets Action Plan and the Temporary Patio Expansion Initiative.

This initiative is also consistent with the Principles for Adaptation and Recovery that guided the Pandemic Scenario Planning work that Council adopted on May 25, 2020:

1. Put People First

Actions and decisions should focus on equitably protecting the safety and well-being of City residents, businesses and visitors.

This initiative provides residents, particularly the majority of our residents who live in multi-family housing and don't have access to yards, with the opportunity to safely socialise outdoors with family and friends where physical distancing can be maintained.

2. Increase Our Resilience

Actions and decisions should aim to increase the City's resiliency to effectively respond to future shocks and impacts.

REPORT: Consumption of Liquor in a Public Place Bylaw
Date: May 26, 2020

This initiative supports food and beverage businesses, particularly businesses that are not able to have outdoor patios due to street or property limitations, by creating more business opportunities and thus supporting the recovery of our local economy.

3. Play to Our Strengths

Actions and decisions should focus on what the City has influence and authority over and draw on partnerships and collaboration as much as possible.

Municipalities have limited opportunities to support local businesses due to legislative and financial restrictions. This is one action the City has influence and authority over that can help businesses while at the same time provide social support to our residents.

4. Think Outside the Box

Actions and decisions should draw on innovative ideas and make use of pilots to facilitate quick actions.

This initiative has never been implemented in BC and as a time limited pursuit, allows the City to test out an innovative idea that will support a struggling economy. Monitoring of the initiative will provide information for Council to evaluate its effectiveness and consider possible extension of the pilot.

5. Support Longstanding Goals

Actions and decisions should not compromise the City's ability to achieve key strategic goals and objectives.

The inclusion of Lonsdale Avenue in this proposed Bylaw is consistent with the Open Streets Action Plan and the Temporary Patio Expansion initiative. Both of these initiatives provide opportunities to reallocate City streets and rights-of-way using temporary measures to quickly and cost-effectively provide improved access to business services while facilitating the health and safety of residents through design considerations for physical distancing. The Open Streets Action Plan will identify areas on Lonsdale Avenue that will benefit from City managed temporary parklets (areas where physical restrictions do not allow individual business to have patios). Including Lonsdale Avenue in this Bylaw allows the City to designate these parklets for public consumption of liquor through signage thus allowing people to purchase take out food and liquor from area restaurants and have their meals on these parklets.

Staff therefore recommend the following:

1. That this be a pilot project ending on October 15, 2020 which will include an evaluation and report back to Council;
2. Council must designate the public places by Bylaw to clearly state where liquor may be consumed;
3. Consumption of liquor can occur between the hours of 11:00am to 9:00pm, seven days a week in designated public places;
4. Enforcement of procedures and penalties regulated by the RCMP pursuant to the provisions of the Liquor Control and Licensing Act;

Page 4 of 6

REPORT: Consumption of Liquor in a Public Place Bylaw
Date: May 26, 2020

5. Signage be used to identify boundaries of specific locations within designated public spaces and to provide information on hours when liquor may be consumed; and
6. Ongoing community and RCMP feedback on the initiative through web-based submissions to be reported back to Council at the end of the pilot as part of an evaluation.

The areas designated in Schedule "A" of proposed "Consumption of Liquor in Public Place Bylaw" No. 8781 were identified through consultation with Engineering, Parks and Environment staff, the RCMP and the City's Financial Recovery Task Force. The criteria staff considered in determining which areas to recommend included:

- proximity to washrooms
- proximity to food and beverage businesses
- proximity to multi-family housing
- open/accessible areas busy with people which promotes prosocial behaviour
- areas popular for picnicking
- a mix of soft and hard landscaped areas

In order to add or remove a designated area, a Bylaw amendment must be brought before Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Currently, washroom facilities in the City are closed between 7pm and at 10pm, depending on the location. During a normal summer, the busiest locations close at 11:00pm. If this Bylaw is adopted, staff may need to review the opening hours of public washrooms which may have some cost implications.

Parks staff have seen a significant increase in litter in parks due to restaurant take-out containers and a general increase in attendance. Staff expect this initiative will add to the litter in parks which may require more garbage collections. Any additional resources required for garbage collection can be charged to the Eco Levy under the Solid Waste Utility Reserve so it won't impact the operating budget.

Signage to delineate the areas will cost approximately \$7500 for printing and installation.

The need for additional RCMP and Bylaw resources are not known at this time but staff will be monitoring the designated areas as part of regular shift patrols.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

This report has had input from the RCMP, Engineering Parks and Environment, City Solicitor, Shipyard Commons staff and the City's Financial Recovery Task Force. Staff also discussed the report with the Policy Section of the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch.

REPORT: Consumption of Liquor in a Public Place Bylaw
Date: May 26, 2020

STRATEGIC PLAN, OCP OR POLICY IMPLICATIONS

People who have easy access to safe and verdant outdoor space are going to feel more comfortable in public. This Bylaw would be a responsible, progressive way to increase the enjoyment of public space users and could assist in changing the culture around liquor. The goal is to promote practices that encourage moderate consumption of liquor in a social setting. The Bylaw will be an important tool for influencing the social norms around drinking behaviours, while increasing the utilization of our parks to enhance the mental health of our residents and support our local businesses.

This initiative is consistent with the following Council Strategic Plan priorities:

- A City for People
- A Liveable City
- A Vibrant City
- A Prosperous City

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Paul Duffy
Manager, Bylaw Services



L.R. Orr
Deputy Director, Community and Partner Engagement

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER
BYLAW NO. 8781

A Bylaw to establish "Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw"

The Council of The Corporation of the City of North Vancouver, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. This Bylaw shall be known and cited for all purposes as "**Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw, 2020, No. 8781**".

2. Definitions

In this bylaw:

"Boulevard" has the meaning ascribed to it in "Street and Traffic Bylaw, 1991, No. 6234";

"Bylaw Enforcement Officer" means an individual who has been designated as a bylaw enforcement officer pursuant to "Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw, 2018, No. 8675";

"Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw" means the City of North Vancouver "Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw, 2018, No. 8675";

"City" means the Corporation of the City of North Vancouver;

"City Property" means a parcel, lot, block, strata lot, public park or other area of land that is located in the City of North Vancouver and which is either owned or occupied by the City, or in which the City has vested interest pursuant to a statute, and includes a Highway;

"Highway" has the meaning ascribed to it in "Street and Traffic Bylaw, 1991, No. 6234" and, for greater certainty, includes Lanes, Boulevards, Sidewalks and Roadways;

"Liquor" means, subject to the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulations, beer, wine, spirits or other product that is intended for human consumption and that contains more than 1% of alcohol by volume;

"Liquor Control and Licensing Act" means the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, SBC 2015, Chapter 19, as amended;

"Liquor Control and Licensing Regulations" means the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation, B.C. Reg.241/2016, as amended;

"Peace Officer" means an officer as defined in the Police Act or a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who is deemed to be a provincial constable under the Police Act;

"Permitted Space" means a Public Place or part of a Public Place that has been designated by Council by this Bylaw as a place where liquor may be consumed, but does not include a building, structure, vehicle or other installation within the Public Place unless this has been specifically designated by Council in this Bylaw;

“Public Place” includes a place, building or vehicle to which the public is invited or has or is allowed access;

“Sidewalk” has the meaning ascribed to it in “Street and Traffic Bylaw, 1991, No. 6234”;

“Sign” has the meaning ascribed to it in the “Sign Bylaw, 1992, No. 6363”;

3. Designation of Permitted Spaces / Hours

A. The Public Places or parts thereof listed in Schedule A to this Bylaw and further identified by signage posted in accordance with this Bylaw are hereby designated as Permitted Spaces where liquor may be consumed.

B. The hours that liquor may be consumed in any of the Permitted Spaces are from 11:00am to 9:00pm, seven (7) days a week.

C. Liquor may not be consumed in parts of Public Places that are outside of the boundaries of the Permitted Spaces identified by signage posted in accordance with this Bylaw.

4. Sign Specifications

A. The City Engineer or their delegate must post signs setting out the boundaries of each Permitted Space and the hours during which liquor may be consumed in the Permitted Space.

B. Signs posted in Permitted Spaces designating where liquor may be consumed must:

- (1) be a consistent size of 24 inches by 36 inches;
- (2) have at least four (4) signs to designate the boundaries of the Permitted Space;
- (3) state the hours that liquor may be consumed; and,
- (4) be posted on posts or affixed to other items forming the boundary of the Permitted Space.

5. Enforcement

Offences set out in the Liquor Control and Licensing Act will apply to persons in violation of this Bylaw.

6. Offences and Penalties

A Person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw or does any act or thing which contravenes any provision of this Bylaw.

7. Severability

If any part, section, subsection, clause or sub-clause of this Bylaw is, for any reason, held to be invalid by the decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, it will be severed and the validity of the remaining provisions of this Bylaw will not be affected.

READ a first time on the <> day of <>, 2020.

READ a second time on the <> day of <>, 2020.

READ a third time on the <> day of <>, 2020.

ADOPTED on the <> day of <>, 2020.

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

APPENDIX C

Draft Bylaw Regarding Public Consumption of Liquor

The Corporation of the CITY OF WHITE ROCK BYLAW 2349



A Bylaw to establish "Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw"

The CITY COUNCIL of the Corporation of the City of White Rock, in open meeting assembled, ENACTS as follows:

1. This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the "Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw, 2020, No. 2349".

2. **INTERPRETATION:**

In this bylaw:

"City" means the Corporation of the City of White Rock;

"Highway" has the meaning ascribed to it in "Street and Traffic Bylaw, 1999, No. 1529," and, for greater certainty, includes Boulevards, Lanes, Roadways and Sidewalks;

"Liquor" means, subject to the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulations, beer, wine, spirits or other product that is intended for human consumption and that contains more than 1% of alcohol by volume;

"Liquor Control and Licensing Act" means Liquor Control and Licensing Act, SBC 2015, Chapter 19, as amended;

"Liquor Control and Licensing Regulations" means the "Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation, B.C. Reg. 241/2016, as amended;

"Permitted Space" means a Public Place or part of a Public Place that has been designated by Council by this Bylaw as a place where liquor may be consumed, but does not include a building, structure, vehicle or other installation within the Public Place unless this has been specifically designated by Council in this Bylaw;

"Public Place" includes a place, building or vehicle to which the public is invited or has or is allowed access;

"Sidewalk" has the meaning ascribed to it in the "Street and Traffic Bylaw, 1999, No. 1529;"

"Sign" has the meaning ascribed to it in the "White Rock Sign Bylaw, 2010, No. 1923."

3. DESIGNATION OF PERMITTED SPACES / HOURS

- a. The Public Places or parts thereof listed in Schedule A to this Bylaw and further identified by signage posted in accordance with this Bylaw are hereby designated as Permitted Spaces where liquor may be consumed.
- b. The hours that liquor may be consumed in any of the Permitted Spaces are from 4:00pm to 9:00pm, seven (7) days a week.
- c. Liquor may not be consumed in parts of Public Places that are outside of the boundaries of the Permitted Spaces identified by signage posted in accordance with this Bylaw.

4. SIGN SPECIFICATIONS

- a. The City Engineer or their delegate must post signs setting out the boundaries of each Permitted Space and the hours during which liquor may be consumed in the Permitted Space.
- b. Signs posted in Permitted Spaces designating where liquor may be consumed must:
 - (1) be a consistent size of 0.6 metres (24 inches) by 0.9 metres (36 inches);
 - (2) have at least four (4) signs to designate the boundaries of the Permitted Space;
 - (3) state the hours that liquor may be consumed; and,
 - (4) be posted on posts or affixed to other items forming the boundary of the Permitted Space.

5. SEVERABILITY

If any section, clause, sub-clause or phrase of this bylaw is for any reason held to be invalid by the decision of any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this bylaw.

RECEIVED FIRST READING on the _____ day of _____, 2020

RECEIVED SECOND READING on the _____ day of _____, 2020

RECEIVED THIRD READING on the _____ day of _____, 2020

RECONSIDERED AND FINALLY ADOPTED on the _____ day of _____, 2020

Mayor

Director of Corporate Administration

SCHEDULE "A"



APPENDIX D

Sections 73 and 74 of *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, and Section 197 of *Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation*

Liquor Control and Licensing Act

Unlawful possession or consumption of liquor

73 (1) A person must not consume liquor, or possess liquor in an open container, in a place other than

- (a) a residence,
- (b) a private place,
- (c) a service area in respect of which a licence, authorization or permit allows consumption,
- (d) as provided under section 11,
- (e) as provided under subsections (2) to (4) of this section,
- (f) an assisted living residence, community care facility, hospital or other prescribed facility as provided in section 9, or
- (g) in a liquor store as allowed under the [*Liquor Distribution Act*](#).

(2) Subject to subsection (3) and the regulations, a public place, or part of it, may be designated, by a bylaw of the municipality or regional district that has jurisdiction over the public place, as a place where liquor may be consumed.

(3) A bylaw under subsection (2) must contain the hours during which liquor may be consumed.

(4) Without limiting subsection (2), regulations under that subsection may provide that a bylaw referred to in that subsection may not designate

- (a) a specified public place, or
- (b) a specified public place for a specified period of time.

Intoxication in public place

74 (1) A person who is intoxicated must not be or remain in a public place.

(2) A peace officer may arrest, without a warrant, a person whom the peace officer believes on reasonable grounds is contravening subsection (1).

Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation

Content of bylaws

197 A bylaw of a municipality or regional district under section 73 (2) of the Act designating a public place as a place where liquor may be consumed must

- (a) require the person responsible for the public place to post signs setting out
 - (i) the boundaries of the public place, and
 - (ii) the hours that liquor may be consumed, and
- (b) describe the number and size of the signs and how they are to be posted.

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
CORPORATE REPORT



DATE: April 19, 2021
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ed Wolfe, Fire Chief
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Proposed Prevention Measures

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receives this report for discussion on potential COVID-19 community safety prevention measures that may be considered for implementation on the waterfront.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The primary purpose of this report is to provide Council with options for consideration that would support the recommendations of the Public Health Officer and help reduce the transmission or spread of the COVID-19 virus.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

Motion # & Meeting Date	Motion Details
#TBD, April 12, 2021 Regular Council Meeting	Council direct staff to report what measures the City should put in place, if any, to help address keeping with Health Orders during the pandemic at the waterfront.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 cases in the Fraser Health region are the highest in the province and the Provincial Health Officer is advising the public to stay home and remain in your neighborhood. White Rock is a destination community that attracts many visitors to the waterfront and beach especially with the restrictions imposed to reduce viral transmission during the pandemic. In support of the Provincial Health Officer's recommendations and to promote the health and safety of White Rock residents, staff have generated a list of options for Council consideration, following Council's direction, to try and reduce or limit visitation to the City's waterfront at a critical time during the pandemic.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost to deliver a stronger, comprehensive communications and messaging plan would be approximately \$2100. In addition, any closures of parking at the waterfront will result in lost revenues of up to \$95K per month, depending on the combination of closed lots. Lost revenues from parking can be recovered as it qualifies through the COVID-19 Safe Restart Grant.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The proposed COVID-19 prevention measures, if implemented along the waterfront, may impact public access, and therefore impact local businesses or prompt responses from residents that had prepaid for parking passes or experiencing changes to traffic patterns along other routes.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS

The Engineering and Municipal Operations Department along with Planning and Development, Human Resources, Finance, Recreation and Culture, Communications, RCMP and Fire have worked together to explore options that are included in this report.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Not applicable.

OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES

The following options are available for Council's consideration:

1. Develop a comprehensive communications plan. Communication would be an integral part of any significant change. Some potential communication approaches include:
 - LED signs at the Waterfront (1 day).
 - Website update (1 day).
 - Social media posts — Twitter, Facebook (1 day).
 - Information for staff (1 day).
 - News release (2 days).
 - Facebook/Instagram advertising (2 days).
 - Information for community partners (2 days).
 - Signage on site (if new, 5-7 days).
 - Ad in Peace Arch News (5-7 days).
 - Banner at the Pier arch (5-7 days).
2. Fence off the entire Promenade. The estimated timeline to implement this would be one week and dependent upon contractor availability. The cost would be approximately \$30K depending on the extent of the closure. Fencing would only be necessary if people are to be kept off the Promenade.
3. Close parking lots. This would be accomplished with concrete barriers and the timeline to implement this would be one week with an approximate cost of \$5K, recoverable through the COVID-19 Safe Restart Program.
4. Create parking spaces specifically for the pickup of takeout in designated lots adjacent to restaurants.
5. Limit waterfront parking lots to White Rock residents with parking decals only.

6. Reserve a parking lot for restaurant patrons only. Restaurants would issue temporary passes that patrons would display on their vehicles while dining in the restaurant.
7. Fencing off specific problematic areas including areas in front of restaurants where lineups occur.
8. Close the Pier. The timeline to implement a closure would be one day with limited cost.
9. Installation of additional signage. Some signs are available within current inventory and would take one week to implement.
10. Close Marine Drive. Physical barriers would be required with one week to install, along with detour signage and communication. It may be possible for some of the signage from the Marine Drive Hump Stabilization Project to be utilized. There would be considerable impact to residents along the detour routes of Columbia and Victoria. In addition, emergency response access would be required.
11. Marine Drive be designated to one way traffic only as was done during the Marine Drive Hump Stabilization Project. The unused lane could be offered to local businesses to expanded patio services, as what was carried out by the community of Deep Cove. Since parking lanes are not part of existing sidewalk use licences, a bylaw may be required to allow liquor consumption in these public areas if the direction is to allow restaurants to use this space for takeout liquor service and consumption.
12. Close the West Beach Parkade. The timeline to implement this would be immediate with no additional cost, other than loss of revenue.
13. Hiring private security to help with enforcement efforts. Private security would not have the ability to issue fines for public health order violations. While their presence may potentially deter COVID-19 non-compliance, any issuance of fines would still require an RCMP member. The approximate cost for private security is \$250 per 8-hour shift, per guard or \$1000 a week for two guards working two days for eight hours. This option is not recommended as communication around conduct and performance must take place through the employer rather than the individual.
14. Initiate communication with Semiahmoo First Nation to consider a partial or full closure of their public parking lot.
15. Add one or more additional RCMP officers on the weekends dedicated to the waterfront and to conduct proactive COVID-19 safety checks, assist bylaw officers when required and have a general uniformed presence in the area. Cost for two days of coverage is \$1600 per officer. Recommendation is two officers be utilized for safety reasons while on foot patrol in dense crowds at a cost of approximately \$3200 for two officers for two days.
16. Adjust the bylaw schedule to allow for more flexibility with hours to assist with enforcement efforts. There are three regular full-time Bylaw Enforcement Officers with shifts that cover the entire week. Bylaw Enforcement Officers do not have the authority to issue fines for non-compliance of public health orders. Shifts could be adjusted to reflect coverage of our busiest days and times (typically weekend afternoons and evenings).
17. Hire additional Bylaw Enforcement Officers. The recruiting for additional Bylaw Enforcement Officers would likely take 1-2 months with these positions currently being in high demand. The current draft Financial Plan includes approximately \$28,000 for casual Bylaw Enforcement Officers, who are used to cover vacation or absences. Some of the casual officers have other jobs and may not always be available. The City is currently recruiting for

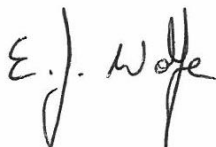
a Bylaw Patroller level position that would specifically target afternoon and weekend hours and enforcement of the no dogs on the promenade. The Bylaw Patroller position is expected to be filled in May/June 2021 at the earliest.

18. Request the province consider the City of White Rock for community vaccination as other communities in the province. The popularity of our community as a destination has greatly increased our vulnerability.
19. Initiate communication with BNSF police regarding the need for uniformed officers from their organization to assist with enforcement efforts along the railway and initiate communication with the province for enforcement at the beach.

CONCLUSION

The popularity of White Rock as a destination community particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic and desire to be outdoors has resulted in regular crowding on the waterfront. The influx of people in our community during the pandemic creates additional risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission. In support of the Public Health Officer's recommendations and to protect the health and safety of White Rock residents, following Council's direction, staff have generated a list of COVID-19 prevention measures included in this report for Council's consideration.


Respectfully submitted,



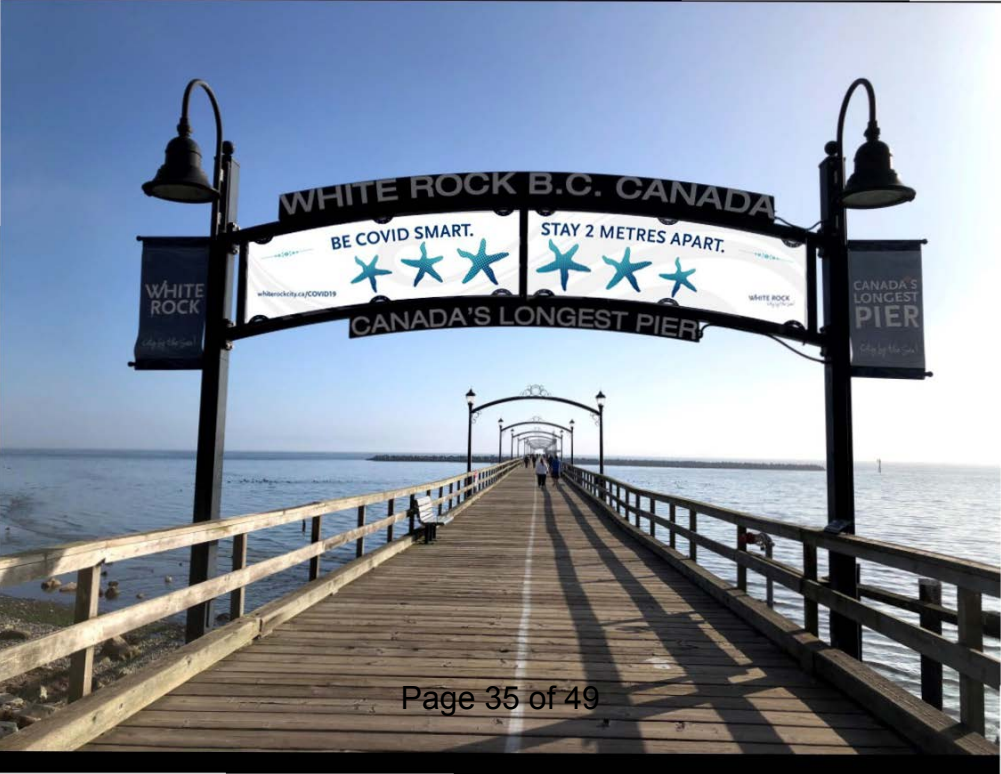
Ed Wolfe
Fire Chief

Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer

The corporate report is provided for Council's consideration.



Guillermo Ferrero
Chief Administrative Officer



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Tracey Arthur

From: Tracey Arthur
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 3:39 PM
To: Tracey Arthur
Subject: FW: On Table inclusion for tonight

From: Blessin, Scott [PHSA] <Scott.Blessin@phsa.ca>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 6:38 AM
To: Edward Wolfe <ewolfe@whiterockcity.ca>
Cc: Guillermo Ferrero <GFerrero@whiterockcity.ca>
Subject: RE: Corporate report

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning Ed,

My colleague Amy Lubik has provided the following feedback for your consideration:

Hi Scott,
Please let me know if you think this is what they are looking for.

With gratitude,
Amy

Regarding limiting congestion on the waterfront, recommendations were evaluated based on public health recommendations from the National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health.
<https://nceh.ca/documents/guide/covid-19-and-outdoor-safety-considerations-use-outdoor-recreational-spaces>

The summary recommendations are below:

Options for risk reduction in outdoor spaces

The evidence presented here informs a number of potential actions for reducing the risk of transmission. However, each recreational area must be assessed for transmission risks such that the appropriate combination of measures can be implemented.

- **Maximize distance and minimize interaction** between park users, particularly where narrow trails or passages may bring people closer together (e.g., unidirectional traffic on trail loops).
- **Close or remove features** that cause visitors to gather, such as viewpoints or seating. If such gathering points can't be closed (e.g., entrances and exits to the park), provide limited supervision to those areas to encourage physical distancing.
- **Close features** on which virus may have settled, particularly those that have been in close contact with potentially ill people (e.g., playgrounds).
- **Sanitizing surfaces** may be necessary in specific situations, in which case priority should be given to smooth, non-porous surfaces on which the virus is most persistent.
- **Discourage activities that involve physical contact**, by closing sports fields and/or providing limited supervision to ensure distancing during activities.
- **Washrooms** may be a necessity. However, because of the presence of virus in feces and the potential for that virus to be aerosolized by toilets, public washrooms will require additional sanitation if they remain open. Users should be advised to close the toilet lid if possible. Ventilation of these spaces should be maximized.

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COVID-19 and outdoor safety: Considerations for use of outdoor recreational spaces

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[Infectious Diseases \(https://ncceh.ca/topics/infectious-diseases\)](https://ncceh.ca/topics/infectious-diseases) [Outdoor Air \(https://ncceh.ca/topics/outdoor-air\)](https://ncceh.ca/topics/outdoor-air)

[NOTE: a printer friendly version of this document is attached at the bottom]

Introduction

Outdoor recreational spaces make important contributions to social well-being as well as physical and mental health. During a public health emergency such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of these spaces by large numbers of people may also increase the risk of community spread. Public health strategies to minimize disease transmission risk in outdoor spaces have focused on individual actions as well as community-based approaches. Key individual actions include quarantine if one has symptoms of COVID-19, or (for asymptomatic people) staying at least 2 metres (m) away from others, observing hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (e.g., coughing or sneezing into a tissue, mask or elbow).¹ In contrast, community-based approaches to COVID-19 management of outdoor spaces in Canada have involved precautionary closures and limits on activities and access.

However, closure of parks, amenities, and green spaces also restrict opportunities for healthy outdoor activity and stress relief, and may drive individuals to access less suitable and more congested spaces. Thus, the management of outdoor recreational spaces requires a thoughtful analysis to balance the needs of the population against the potential risks of community spread.

This document was developed to address concerns related to the safe use of public spaces during the COVID-19 outbreak. The available evidence is synthesized in order to increase the understanding of the types of community-based precautions available and options for implementing them.

Challenges associated with park closures due to COVID-19

There are a number of reasons why closing parks and green spaces may be highly undesirable. These challenges include the mental health impacts of the pandemic, the overall health benefits of access to green space, the potential for riskier alternatives, and health inequities created by closing public spaces.

Mental health impacts and the benefits of green spaces

The impact of the pandemic on mental health is expected to be severe. There are already numerous media reports of surges in the use of crisis hotlines,² and new centres have been established across the country to deal with the anticipated high volumes of calls. Many agencies have added recommendations for dealing with COVID-19-related stress. For example, the Canadian Association for Mental Health has a dedicated webpage with information and advice to help people deal with quarantine and self-isolation; supporting children, family and friends; and stigma and prejudice related to the pandemic.³

Access to outdoor green space is a demonstrated public health asset. Spending time in outdoor spaces is important for avoiding social isolation and engaging in physical activities, outdoor play or simply enjoying a change of scenery and fresh air.^{4,5} Due to restrictions on gatherings, movement, and related closures of workplaces and indoor recreational spaces, the pandemic has further amplified the overall contribution of outdoor public spaces to physical and mental health. It is therefore unsurprising that park use is increasing especially when weather is fair. Metro Vancouver reported higher than average use in 60% of its parks in the two weeks following the implementation of physical distancing measures.⁶ With many people unable to work and milder weather approaching, it is reasonable to assume that demand for outdoor recreational space will continue to rise.

Creating drivers for risky behavior

In a time of extraordinary stress related to the uncertain health and financial well-being of self and family, removing a potential resource for stress relief creates its own health challenges and may drive other negative behaviors. If parks and squares are inaccessible, people may move to other less desirable options, such as sidewalks and pavements that are not designed to encourage physical distancing when occupancy is high.⁷ More people crowding onto these high-traffic zones will inevitably result in failure to maintain a 2-m distance. Research on influenza outbreaks has suggested that crowding, even in an outdoor environment, may make a difference in the occurrence of an outbreak.⁸ Thus, allowing and enabling people to spread out as much as possible in outdoor spaces will reduce the risk of disease transmission.

Contribution of park closures to health inequities

Park closures are a health equity issue. Unlike higher-income families living in detached housing, those living in multi-unit residential buildings in urban centres often do not have access to private green space.⁹ Closing public green spaces amplifies a number of pandemic-driven stressors (Income loss, food insecurity, health comorbidities) that will disproportionately impact the ability of these families and individuals to weather the emergency. Thus, the management of green spaces, like all other aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic, requires a health equity lens.¹⁰

Potential factors that impact the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in outdoor environments

Maintaining safe access to green spaces is a challenge given that our knowledge of disease transmission is evolving rapidly. Most SARS-CoV-2 studies pertain to indoor environments, primarily from hospital and homecare settings and, in a few notable cases, cruise ships. At the time of writing, there is very limited research regarding SARS-CoV-2 in outdoor environments. However, SARS-CoV-2 studies in healthcare and laboratory settings and previous research on other respiratory outbreaks can be used to frame some key questions about the risks of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in outdoor spaces.

How is SARS-CoV-2 transmitted and what routes are relevant for outdoor spaces?

The primary modes of SARS-CoV-2 transmission are direct contact with an infected person or their respiratory droplets.¹¹ Respiratory droplets are generated by talking, breathing, coughing, and sneezing, and are thought to travel less than 1 m before dropping to the ground.¹² For this reason, maintaining a 2-m radius (i.e., double the "fall out" zone) is central to strategies for limiting the spread of the COVID-19 disease.^{11,13} Because maintaining a 2-m radius is logically easier in outdoor spaces, we would expect a reduced risk of transmission in uncrowded outdoor spaces compared to indoor spaces.

Contact with contaminated surfaces (hand to the eyes, mouth, or nose) is another recognized mode of SARS-CoV-2 transmission,^{11,14} and one that is not affected by the 2-m physical distancing rule. Surfaces become contaminated when respiratory droplets settle upon them. Transmission risk then depends on several factors, including the concentration of viable virus deposited and its viability on a specific surface for a given time period. In a recent laboratory study, SARS-CoV-2 was still detectable (but greatly reduced) on polypropylene plastic at 72 h, on stainless steel at 48 h, on cardboard at 24 h, and on copper at 4 h.¹⁵ This is consistent with Chin et al.,¹⁶ who found that the virus remained viable and detectable on plastic and steel for four days, on glass for two days, and on wood for one day (all at 22°C). The virus persisted much longer on smooth, nonporous surfaces compared to porous surfaces (wood, paper, cloth). Surfaces were not analyzed at different temperatures, but when suspended in culture fluid, the virus remained detectable for twice as long at 4°C than at 22°C. This may be a concern for viral persistence on outdoor surfaces in cooler weather, although more data is required.

There is some evidence that the SARS-CoV-2 virus is shed via the feces¹⁷ and the virus has been detected in the toilets of ill people.^{18,19} In one study that collected air samples throughout a busy hospital environment, the highest virus levels were found in the air in a "mobile toilet".²⁰ This was attributed to people coughing or sneezing in an enclosed space, as well as the potential for aerosolization of the virus from flushing. "Toilet plumes" have been previously discussed as a means for disease transmission.²¹ Although there is insufficient evidence to determine whether this pathway is significant in the current pandemic, fecal transmission may be a consideration for the management of public washrooms.

Aerosol transmission: a key concern for park users

One of the key concerns for park users is whether COVID-19 can be transmitted via the exhalations of other users. Coughing, sneezing, talking and even breathing all produce aerosols that range in size from the larger respiratory droplets (> 5 µm), which settle quickly, to very fine droplets or particles (< 5 µm) that can remain suspended in the air for longer, travel greater distances, and can be inhaled deeply into the lungs.²² Aerosol transmission in this manner raises concerns that the 2-m "safe distance" may not be adequately protective, given research demonstrating that human sneezes can propel aerosols up to 8 m from an infected person.²³ Recent modelling data (from an unpublished, non-peer-reviewed source) suggests that turbulence created by biking, running, and walking can entrain droplets, causing them to remain suspended longer and thus also increasing the safe radius.²⁴ However, the risk of disease transmission depends not only on the generation of virus-containing aerosols, but also on the ability of the aerosolized virus to remain sufficiently concentrated and infectious by the time it reaches the next host.

Although the existing research on SARS-CoV-2 does support the generation of aerosols containing the virus, it does not yet support the virus remaining suspended or remaining infectious in suspension. Viral RNA has been detected in the air in hospital rooms and corridors, in the presence of sick patients, and even outdoors,^{19,20} although not in all cases.¹⁸ Viral RNA has also been found widely dispersed in the environment around an infected person, even on surfaces that the patient could not have touched or was distant from.^{18,19,25} These studies suggest that virus moved around the environment, perhaps as an aerosol, but does not indicate how long the virus remained viable and/or suspended. In the laboratory, a highly concentrated virus aerosol remained infectious for 3 h.¹⁵ In contrast, in a healthcare setting, virus recovered in air samples from patient rooms and corridors was not able to reinfect cultured cells.¹⁹ This indicates that either the aerosolized virus was no longer viable or that the amounts recovered were too low to cause infection. Thus, a great deal of additional information is required to understand whether COVID-19 can be transmitted via aerosols, particularly outdoors where virus-containing aerosols can be rapidly dispersed.

However, we do have reason to believe that aerosol transmission, if it is occurring, is not a primary mode of transmission in this pandemic. Research looking at healthcare workers, travellers on air planes, and the household contacts of tens of thousands of COVID-19 cases has consistently shown that transmission is strongly dependent on being in close proximity to a sick person for some period of time.²⁶ This is in stark contrast to some well-known airborne diseases, like measles, in which the generation of a long-lived aerosol allows transmission even if the person has never been in the presence of an infected case. For this reason, the World Health Organization does not currently consider airborne transmission to be a primary mode of transmission for the general public.¹¹ In Canada, healthcare workers who are performing procedures that artificially generate large amounts of aerosols (e.g., intubating a patient) are asked to use "airborne precautions." However, all other patient care is conducted under droplet and contact precautions only.²⁷

Although virus particles may be detected in the air, physical distancing protects park users from the primary modes of transmission: direct contact and respiratory droplet transmission. However, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette are also necessary to protect park users from SARS-CoV-2 that has been deposited on surfaces. Airborne precautions for the general public are not recommended by the Public Health Agency of Canada at this time, although it is acknowledged that wearing a non-medical face mask may be helpful if it serves to limit virus emitted by sick people who may or may not be symptomatic.²⁸

How might the SARS-CoV-2 virus be affected by outdoor environmental factors?

A number of factors could influence the presence and viability of SARS-CoV-2 in outdoor spaces. Because there is insufficient evidence to assess the risk of transmission in outdoor environments, precautions must be based on what is known about SARS-CoV-2 in indoor and laboratory environments and other pathogens in outdoor environments. These factors include:

- **Crowding.** Previous research on mass gatherings has suggested that holding events in uncrowded outdoor venues was the least likely to result in influenza outbreaks.⁸
- **Wind speed and direction.** Particles settle more quickly in disturbed air because they are more likely to be intercepted by surfaces.¹² However, in highly turbulent air particles may also remain suspended longer.
- **Meteorological conditions (temperature, humidity, and UV).** There is some evidence that SARS-CoV-2 transmission may be affected by changes in temperature and humidity,^{29,30} which may affect the viability of the virus on surfaces and in droplets, but also independently modulate host immunity/susceptibility.³¹ It is also thought that UV radiation from sunlight affects the viability of influenza virus suspended in aerosols,³² such that changes in UV index may influence influenza transmission and the seasonality of outbreaks.³³ Overall, however, the effects of meteorological conditions are expected to be quite small, as the current determining factor in transmission is the number of vulnerable hosts and the contact between them.³¹

Actions taken in other jurisdictions

There are currently several different approaches being taken to manage outdoor recreational spaces in Canada and elsewhere, and these have different implications at the federal/provincial versus municipal levels. At the federal level, all motor vehicle access to national parks, historic sites, and marine conservation areas was suspended on March 25, 2020. At the time of writing, the majority of provincial parks and recreational areas are also closed. This is intended to reduce non-essential staffing at park sites and minimize the risk of wildfires or the need for search and rescue.³⁴ However, it also serves the key purpose of discouraging non-essential travel or pandemic tourism by members of the public who would or should remain at home.³⁵ Discouraging travel to distant parks also discourages incidental contacts with services and people along the route, which might otherwise bring the virus into smaller or remote communities.

The decision to close parks in urban areas is more complex. Because urban provincial and national parks are closed, the available green space in or near many cities has been reduced. Parks controlled by municipalities therefore need to be managed thoughtfully to avoid some of the adverse impacts of lack of green space. Many Canadian cities have tried to address transmission risk by closing specific amenities that people touch or that cause people to interact, such as playgrounds, skateboard parks, courts, spray parks, picnic areas, shelters and gazebos, and outdoor exercise equipment.³⁶⁻⁴⁰ The province of Ontario's emergency orders specify that areas not otherwise closed would be available for walk-through access only,⁴¹ and the City of Richmond has implemented one-way traffic on walking trails to minimize interaction.⁴² In some cases, enforcement officers have been deployed to maintain physical distancing in problem areas.^{43,44} In Vancouver, park "champions" dressed in colourful clothing and carrying props are being used to remind users of physical distancing, alongside park rangers issuing fines, as well as parking lot and road closures to discourage non-local users and increase distancing between cyclists and pedestrians.⁴⁵ Full park closures remain an option if these partial measures do not have the desired effect.

However, not all jurisdictions are moving to close or limit recreational spaces. In some cities, the lack of road traffic has created opportunities to open streets as pedestrian thoroughfares, particularly when there are no parks or green spaces nearby.^{9,46} Opening new spaces encourages dispersion in the local environment, rather than resorting to non-essential travel or aggregating on sidewalks. This approach also addresses the fundamental inequity of access to green space for those living in multi-unit residential complexes. In London, park users have been asked to keep to local parks (to minimize travel) or better yet to remain in their own yard if they have one, in order to prioritize the use of public parks for those with no access to private green space.⁴⁴ Given that the pandemic will require long-term changes to how people interact in public spaces, finding strategies that increase rather than decrease outdoor recreational opportunities is preferred.

Options for risk reduction in outdoor spaces

The evidence presented here informs a number of potential actions for reducing the risk of transmission. However, each recreational area must be assessed for transmission risks such that the appropriate combination of measures can be implemented.

- **Maximize distance and minimize interaction** between park users, particularly where narrow trails or passages may bring people closer together (e.g., unidirectional traffic on trail loops).
- **Close or remove features** that cause visitors to gather, such as viewpoints or seating. If such gathering points can't be closed (e.g., entrances and exits to the park), provide limited supervision to those areas to encourage physical distancing.
- **Close features** on which virus may have settled, particularly those that have been in close contact with potentially ill people (e.g., playgrounds).
- **Sanitizing surfaces** may be necessary in specific situations, in which case priority should be given to smooth, non-porous surfaces on which the virus is most persistent.

- **Discourage activities that involve physical contact**, by closing sports fields and/or providing limited supervision to ensure distancing during activities.
- **Washrooms** may be a necessity. However, because of the presence of virus in feces and the potential for that virus to be aerosolized by toilets, public washrooms will require additional sanitation if they remain open. Users should be advised to close the toilet lid if possible. Ventilation of these spaces should be maximized.
- **Provide opportunities for hand hygiene**, particularly if washrooms have been closed. Vandallism-proof hand sanitizer or hand wash stations may be needed.
- Ensure that **trash containers** are available for discarding personal protective equipment (e.g., masks and gloves), which may otherwise become a public health hazard.
- **Consider neighbourhood access** to parks before moving to restrict already limited options. If many residents need to access the same space, **weekly scheduling by home address** may be an option. Park space can be limited to local residents by closing parking lots.
- **Increase space available** to encourage dispersion and non-collective activities. Additional spaces may include streets and parking lots closed to vehicles, as well as private green spaces in urban areas, such as golf courses and other sports fields. **Update online park information** to reflect these new options for dispersion.
- **Increase enforcement of health orders** regarding physical distancing measures through deployment of sufficient numbers of authorized personnel.
- **Recommendations on the use of masks** should refer to the Public Health Agency of Canada's position on non-medical masks and disease transmission.²⁸ At present, airborne transmission is not considered a primary mode of transmission; however, there are many other considerations around masks that may inform their use by the public, such as reducing risk from people who may be shedding the virus through coughing and sneezing.

Summary

The management of outdoor public spaces to limit the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus needs to be guided by updated evidence on the main routes of transmission as well as an understanding of the important beneficial role played by parks, green spaces, and other open areas in reducing stress and promoting health for people of all ages. Currently, direct physical contact and close proximity are regarded as the most important transmission risk factors and community-based measures are largely focused on physical distancing. The evidence on the risks of aerosol transmission and transmission from touching surfaces in outdoor environments is at this time weak, but research is ongoing and results could lead to changes in recommendations.

There are a number of uncertainties surrounding transmission of COVID-19 in outdoor environments that are relevant for public health decision-making:

- **What is a "safe distance"?** Although the majority of public health agencies recommend a 2-m radius, this safe distance may have to be amended if it proves that SARS-CoV-2 can be transmitted as an aerosol in a public setting. However, the current evidence strongly suggests that close proximity is a key factor in transmission.
- **How effective are non-medical masks used by the public?** There are many unanswered questions about the effectiveness of using cloth face coverings (e.g., masks, scarves, bandanas) in protecting against COVID-19.⁴⁷ Although the US CDC has recently advised people to wear face coverings in public spaces,⁴⁸ PHAC continues to emphasize that physical distancing, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette are the key means to slow transmission. Masks may be of use to prevent ill people from emitting virus, but mask use alone is insufficient to prevent healthy people from contracting the virus.²⁸ However, much additional work is needed to understand how effective these home-made cloth barriers are when worn by either healthy or ill people.
- **How long does the virus survive outdoors?** All of the currently available studies on viruses in air, on surfaces, viability and disinfection are from experimental or clinical settings. Results for outdoor environments are not yet available but have been prioritized for research.⁴⁹

Unlike many previous public health emergencies, the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to involve long-term cycles during which infection rates will rise and fall over several years. Policies and interventions will need to adapt and change through these cycles and societal systems will need to evolve to control future outbreaks.⁵⁰ Public health decision-making concerning outdoor recreational spaces is part of this evolving system. The effectiveness of park closures will depend on how well they are coordinated with other prevention strategies, ongoing public education, and the engagement and mobilization of personnel and community groups in communication, monitoring, and enforcement.

Acknowledgements

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**The Corporation of the
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
BYLAW 2385**



A Bylaw to establish the "Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw"

The CITY COUNCIL of the Corporation of the City of White Rock, in open meeting assembled, ENACTS as follows:

1. This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the "Consumption of Liquor in Public Places Bylaw, 2021, No. 2385".

2. **INTERPRETATION:**

In this bylaw:

"City" means the Corporation of the City of White Rock;

"Highway" has the meaning ascribed to it in "Street and Traffic Bylaw, 1999, No. 1529," and, for greater certainty, includes Boulevards, Lanes, Roadways and Sidewalks;

"Liquor" means, subject to the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulations, beer, wine, spirits or other product that is intended for human consumption and that contains more than 1% of alcohol by volume;

"Liquor Control and Licensing Act" means Liquor Control and Licensing Act, SBC 2015, Chapter 19, as amended;

"Liquor Control and Licensing Regulations" means the "Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation, B.C. Reg. 241/2016, as amended;

"Peace Officer" means an officer as defined in the Police Act or a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who is deemed to be a provincial constable under the Police Act;

"Permitted Space" means a Public Place or part of a Public Place that has been designated by Council by this Bylaw as a place where liquor may be consumed, but does not include a building, structure, vehicle or other installation within the Public Place unless this has been specifically designated by Council in this Bylaw;

"Public Place" includes a place, building or vehicle to which the public is invited or has or is allowed access;

"Sidewalk" has the meaning ascribed to it in the "Street and Traffic Bylaw, 1999, No. 1529;"

"Sign" has the meaning ascribed to it in the "White Rock Sign Bylaw, 2010, No. 1923."

3. **DESIGNATION OF PERMITTED SPACES / HOURS**

a. The Public Places or parts thereof listed in Schedule A to this Bylaw and further identified by signage posted in accordance with this Bylaw are hereby designated as Permitted Spaces where liquor may be consumed.

- b. The hours that liquor may be consumed in any of the Permitted Spaces are from 11:00am to 9:00pm, seven (7) days a week.
- c. Liquor may not be consumed in parts of Public Places that are outside of the boundaries of the Permitted Spaces identified by signage posted in accordance with this Bylaw.

4. **SIGN SPECIFICATIONS**

- a. Signage identifying the boundaries of each Permitted Space and the hours during which which liquor may be consumed in the Permitted Space is required, to the satisfaction of the Director of Engineering and Municipal Operations or their delegate.
- b. Signage posted in Permitted Spaces designating where liquor may be consumed must:
 - (1) be minimum 0.61 metres (24 inches) by 0.43 metres (17 inches);
 - (2) have minimum four (4) signs to designate the boundaries of the Permitted Space;
 - (3) state the hours that liquor may be consumed; and,
 - (4) be posted on posts or affixed to other items forming the boundary of the Permitted Space.

5. **SEVERABILITY**

If any section, clause, sub-clause or phrase of this bylaw is for any reason held to be invalid by the decision of any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this bylaw.

RECEIVED FIRST READING on the _____ day of _____, 2021
 RECEIVED SECOND READING on the _____ day of _____, 2021
 RECEIVED THIRD READING on the _____ day of _____, 2021
 RECONSIDERED AND FINALLY ADOPTED on the _____ day of _____, 2021

 Mayor

 Director of Corporate Administration

SCHEDULE "A"

