

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
CORPORATE REPORT



DATE: March 25, 2024

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Corrine Haer, P.Eng., Manager, Engineering

SUBJECT: Parks Regulation Bylaw and Ticketing for Bylaw Offences Bylaw Amendments

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive the March 25, 2024, corporate report from the Manager of Engineering, titled "Parks Regulation Bylaw and Ticketing for Bylaw Offences Bylaw Amendments" for review and consideration of the bylaw under Agenda Item 9.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this corporate report is to recommend amendments to the City's Parks Regulation Bylaw and to the City's Ticketing for Bylaw Offences Bylaw in support of closing the City's waterfront parks between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. to maintain the safety and integrity of the community.

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Concerns regarding noise disturbance, incidents of violence and vandalism have been raised in the early morning hours after the nearby restaurants close. In order to maintain the safety and integrity of the community and mitigation these concerns, staff recommend closing the following parks between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.:

- Promenade
- Pier
- Bayview Park
- Memorial Park
- Grand Chief Bernard Robert Charles Memorial Plaza

The closure of these parks between the suggested times is expected to mitigate the potential for noise, violence and vandalism provided that the RCMP have the Bylaw authority to direct persons to leave the area.

In order to support the recommended closures, amendments to the City's Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 675 and Ticketing for Bylaw Offences Bylaw No. 1929 are required.

Parks Regulation Bylaw

Updates to support the suggested park closures included in the amendment bylaw are:

- In Section 1 the interpretation of Section A and Section B are replaced with a definition of the Promenade and the Pier;
- Section 7.2 is added to indicate that no person shall loiter or remain in the waterfront park areas including the Promenade, Pier, Bayview Park, Memorial Park and Grand Chief Bernard Robert Charles Memorial Plaza between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. on any night; and
- Schedule A is added to the bylaw to outline the areas of closure for clarity.

In addition to edits required to support the park closure, the following housekeeping updates are recommended:

- Section 2 – repealing paragraph (j)

Ticketing for Bylaw Offences Bylaw

Updates to support the suggested park closures included in the amendment bylaw are:

- Schedule A is updated to include RCMP as a designated enforcement officer; and
- Schedule B7 is updated to add a fine for loitering or remaining in waterfront park areas between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.

In addition to edits required to support the park closure, the following housekeeping updates are recommended:

- Schedule B7 is reformatted to align with the Community Charter Bylaw Enforcement Ticket Regulation; and
- The penalty for cutting, destroying, damaging or removing a park tree/plant was updated to match the penalty in Schedule B10 for a City tree.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Bylaw updates were drafted and reviewed by the City's Solicitor.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS

In the development of the recommended bylaw updates to support the recommended park closures, staff collaborated with several departments to ensure a comprehensive and sound approach. In addition to Engineering and Municipal Operations, the departments involved in this process as stakeholders included Planning & Development Services and White Rock RCMP. Each department provided valuable input and expertise to help shape the bylaw updates and ensure their successful implementation.

IMPLICATIONS FOR TREE PRESERVATION AND TREE CANOPY ENHANCEMENT

Staff recommend updating the penalty for cutting, destroying, damaging or removing a park tree or plant to align with Schedule B10 of the Ticketing for Bylaw Offences Bylaw. This amendment is in addition to the protection of City trees offered by the City's Tree Protection Bylaw No. 2407.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

These amendments are in alignment with the Community, Organization & Governance and Waterfront Priorities. The Community Priority identifies that we foster a livable city with connected residents enjoying distinctive places and activities, the Organization & Governance Priority identifies that the City commit to continuous process improvement, efficient service delivery, and foster positive relations with Semiahmoo First Nation and other stakeholders and the Waterfront Priority identifies that the City support a prosperous and vibrant waterfront.

OPTIONS / RISKS / ALTERNATIVES

The following option is available for Council's consideration:

1. Maintain the current bylaws without any changes. This will limit RCMP's ability to manage noise, loitering and vandalism between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.

CONCLUSION

This report provides Council with information on bylaw amendments required to support a waterfront park closure request between 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. Staff request Council's endorsement of the subsequent bylaw amendments that have been brought forward concurrently with this report and under Agenda Item 9.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by,

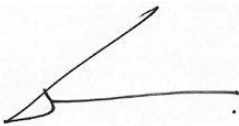


Corrine Haer, P.Eng.
Manager, Engineering

Jim Gordon, P.Eng.
Director, Engineering & Municipal Operations

Comments from the Chief Administrative Officer

I concur with the recommendation of this corporate report.



Guillermo Ferrero
Chief Administrative Officer