

Memorandum

To: Mayor & Council
From: Larry Plourde, Administrator
Date: September 14, 2017 9:27:00 AM
Re: Off Leash Dog Park

At the September 5, 2017 Council Meeting a member of the Public in attendance requested Council clarification regarding the use of Nimpkish Park as an off leash Dog Park. It was uncertain if at any specific date or upon closure of the Splash Park Nimpkish Park would return to a “seasonal” Dog Park as has been done in recent years. Staff was requested to research the Council resolution regarding the opening, closing, seasonality of Nimpkish Park as an off leash Dog Park.

In November 2009 Council approved Nimpkish Park on a trial basis as an off leash Dog Park and extended the trial period during the summer of 2010 through to July 2015 when Council suspended the off leash Dog Park area from August 1-31, 2015 for the 50th Birthday Celebration events. In 2016 concerns were expressed regarding the use of the Nimpkish Park as a Dog Park with the planned opening of the new Splash Park and the Gold River Day Events. At that time, August 23, 2016 Council closed Nimpkish Park as an off leash Dog Park offering the park area behind the Aquatic Center as a temporary Dog Park with plans to identify an area within Nimpkish Park or elsewhere as a permanent Dog Park.

At the Council Meeting of November 21, 2016 after hosting a Public Consultation/Open House to receive public input Council reopened Nimpkish Park until April 30, 2017 as an off leash Dog Park. The date of April 30, 2017 was specific and did not reference this as a seasonal closure of the off leash Dog Park.

To ensure no uncertainty with regards to the April 30th closing of Nimpkish Park to dogs after some members of the Public expressed their concerns Staff returned the matter to Council. At the May 15, 2017 Meeting Council received the report outlining the April 30th closure.

Council did not at that time provide any direction that Nimpkish Park would be reopened to dogs as of any specific date or in conjunction with the closure of the Splash Park in September. Council outlined that *“Council will look at the off leash Dog Park as part of the Nimpkish Park revitalization review”*.

During the Grant Application review for the BC Rural Dividend Program to fund further revitalization of Nimpkish Park the matter of a permanent off leash Dog Park at Nimpkish Park was not determined or resolved.

In response to the member of the Public’s inquiry at the September 5, 2017 Council Meeting clarification is sought as to Council’s wishes with regards to reopening Nimpkish Park as an off leash Dog Park on a seasonal or permanent basis or not at this time. Upon Council confirmation Staff will undertake posting notice and signage as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Plourde
Administrator