



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

TO GP- MAY 6 2013

To: General Purposes Committee
From: Dave Semple
General Manager, Community Services
Re: Admiralty Point Federal Lands

Date: April 16, 2013
File: 01-0157-20-
EPAR1/2013-Vol 01

Staff Recommendation

That a letter be sent to the Federal Government in support of the request to transfer the Admiralty Point Federal Lands in fee simple to Metro Vancouver, or lease the lands in perpetuity, to ensure the preservation of these lands for park-use by future generations of Metro Vancouver's citizens.

Dave Semple
General Manager, Community Services
(604-233-3350)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 	
REVIEWED BY DIRECTORS 	INITIALS: DW
REVIEWED BY CAO	INITIALS: GD

Staff Report

Origin

The 99-year lease between the Government of Canada and Metro Vancouver for the use of the 76 hectare Admiralty Point Military Reserve recently expired. The Government of Canada is considering options for disposition of the land including the potential disposition to a third party.

The Admiralty Point Military Reserve land is an important waterfront portion of Belcarra Regional Park. The Council of the Village of Belcarra recently passed a resolution requesting the Government of Canada lease or transfer the land to Metro Vancouver in perpetuity to ensure the preservation of these lands for park-use by future generations. The Village of Belcarra is seeking support for this position from other regional municipalities including Richmond.

Analysis

Metro Vancouver staff recently presented a report to the Metro Vancouver Environment and Parks Committee recommending the following:

That the Board:

- a. affirm the importance of the Admiralty Point waterfront lands as part of Belcarra Regional Park and the Regional Parks system (as described in attachment 1 – Statement of Significance); and*
- b. request the fee simple transfer of the Admiralty Point land to Metro Vancouver for addition to Belcarra Regional Park in perpetuity.*

The committee considered these recommendations on April 11th and the outcome of that meeting will be considered by the Metro Vancouver board on April 26th.

In addition to the recommendations, Metro Vancouver staff provided a report for consideration. Key points within the report for consideration are as follows:

- The Government of Canada has invited Metro Vancouver to submit a statement of the significance of the Admiralty Point lands to assist in its deliberations about the range of options for disposition.
- Belcarra Regional Park is the “Stanley Park” of Metro Vancouver’s Northeast sector. It is composed of 1104 hectares of land include 76 hectares of waterfront Admiralty Point Lands.
- The 99-year Admiralty Point lease had no renewal provision and expired in 2011. Since then one-year renewals have been extended for 2012 and 2013 and one contemplated for 2014.

- A statement of significance has been prepared by Metro Vancouver staff which includes characteristics of the land, role in the park, environmental importance, uses, visitation and improvements.
- Metro Vancouver's best interests would be to achieve a fee-simple transfer of lands; failing that, a new 99-year lease with a renewal clause would be the second best choice.
- The Admiralty Point lands are within the traditional territories of 31 First Nations, Tribal Councils and Treaty groups and some of these First Nations have identified the lands as an area of interest.

Based on the information provided in the Metro Vancouver staff report and in recognition of the importance of the Admiralty Point lands to the regional parks system, staff recommend that Council write a letter to the Federal Government supporting the request to transfer the Admiralty Point Lands in a fee simple manner or lease the lands in perpetuity to Metro Vancouver.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The Admiralty Point Lands are an important part of the regional parks system. Richmond's support for the lands remaining under the management of Metro Vancouver will assist in ensuring the Federal Government understands this importance when considering its options for disposition.



Serena Lusk
Manager, Parks Programs
(604-233-3344)

To: GVRD Board of Directors

From: Environment and Parks Committee

Date: April 11, 2013 Meeting Date: April 26, 2013

Subject: **Belcarra Regional Park - Admiralty Point Lands Statement of Significance**

ENVIRONMENT AND PARKS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the Board affirm the importance of the Admiralty Point waterfront lands as part of Belcarra Regional Park and the Regional Parks system, as described in attachment 1 of the March 28, 2013 report titled "Belcarra Regional Park – Admiralty Point Lands Statement of Significance."

At its April 11, 2013 meeting, the Environment and Parks Committee considered the attached report titled "Belcarra Regional Park - Admiralty Point Lands Statement of Significance", dated, March 28, 2013. The Committee subsequently passed part a) of the recommendation as presented above and referred part b) of the recommendation to a closed meeting for consideration.

Attachment:
"Belcarra Regional Park - Admiralty Point Lands Statement of Significance", dated, March 28, 2013