



Regional Board Report

TO: Regional Board

FROM: Murray Kopp
Director, Parks Services

DATE: June 14, 2019

SUBJECT: Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park – UBC/RDCO Memorandum of Understanding and Lease Agreement Renewal

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors – Weighted Vote – Simple Majority – LGA 210.2*

Purpose: To seek approval from the Regional Board to renew both a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Lease Agreement (Lease) with the University of British Columbia (UBC) for the facilities at the 969 Raymer Road parcel of Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park (Woodhaven).

Executive Summary:

The Regional District and UBC-Okanagan Campus Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies, in 2013, entered into a MoU and Lease agreement for use of park facilities at the park's 969 Raymer Road property (Eco Cultural Centre). The intent of the agreements were to develop a partnership, integrate academia into Regional Parks, and to create a joint opportunity to widen the spectrum on the delivery of public programming, particularly in the area of ecological art. In addition, UBC intends to continue with an artist-in-residence and visiting artist program with a unique outreach focus and development of the student and to the community. The agreements were renewed in 2016 and are due for renewal at the end of June this year. The partnership is continuing to grow with expectations to more deeply engage in community activities, and develop connections to other faculties over the next 3 year term.

RECOMMENDATION #1:

THAT the Regional Board approve the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with the University of British Columbia for a three-year term from June 2019 – 2022 for the delivery of an Artist-in-Residence Program within a portion of Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park located at 969 Raymer Road.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

THAT the Regional Board approve the renewal of the Lease Agreement for a three-year term from June 2019 – 2022 with the University of British Columbia for the delivery of an Artist-in-Residence Program within a portion of Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park located at 969 Raymer Road as described in Schedule 'A' of the Lease Agreement attached to this report.

Respectfully Submitted:

Murray Kopp, Director – Parks Services

Approved for Board's Consideration

Brian Reardon, CAO

Prepared by: Wayne Darlington, Manager – Park Planning & Capital Projects

Implications of Recommendation:

- Strategic Plan:** The partnership with UBC is consistent with the Regional District's Strategic Priorities, provide proactive and responsive governance, ensure asset service and financial sustainability, protect and promote our environment and lifestyle, and champion communications and engagement.
- General:** Safety and security of the lands and infrastructure of Woodhaven Nature Conservancy Regional Park will be greatly enhanced through UBC's presence and operation on the leased portion of the lands.
- Financial:** It is anticipated that the Regional District will see minor financial savings as a result of UBC being responsible for minor maintenance, property security/presence, lease hold improvements, and utilities.
- Policy:** In respect of lease holder privacy and rights the lease agreement waives portions of the Regional Parks Regulatory Bylaw #1427 that may infringe upon those lease holder rights.
- Legal/Statutory Authority:** As per the land title act a portion of land may not be leased for a period of more than 3 years without invoking subdivision of those lands. Therefore since only a portion of the lands are to be leased to UBC the maximum number of years for a lease term is 3 years.
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Background:

The Regional District and UBC have had a long standing relationship with Woodhaven which dates back to 2010 where a number of Eco Art Incubator projects were delivered in a manner that left no impacts to the park and environment. This relationship then grew to include a MoU and Lease arrangement in 2013 for a portion of the parks 969 Raymer Road property. These agreements provided details on the rationale for the partnership and the ability for UBC to operate their programming.

Since 2013, UBC has named the facility at Woodhaven the Woodhaven Eco Cultural Centre a moniker for the programs and events that are being delivered in partnership with the Regional District, centred on Eco Art and an Artist-in-Residence program. Over the 6 years of partnership a number of programming activities has taken place, everything from poetry readings, to music events, public art workshops and elementary school programming.

The program model relies on suitable graduate students to be a part of an Artist-in-Residence program on the property. These students as part of their curriculum will have the expectation of including public programming and education in their residency, following the overarching main objectives for both UBC and Regional District.

The main objectives of UBC for delivery of the program are to:

- (a) develop and highlight the Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies MA and PhD as well as MFA graduate programs;
- (b) contribute to UBC Okanagan Campus sustainability initiatives;
- (c) contribute to UBC Okanagan Campus research into eco-cultures; and
- (d) build connections between UBC and the local community.

The main objectives of the Regional District for supporting and delivery of the Program are to:

- (e) utilization of RDCO facilities in the Park that is consistent with RDCO and RDCO Parks Services overall strategic objectives;
- (f) engage the public in environmental education through ECO-Art;
- (g) aid in expanding a greater diversity of programming for the residents of the RDCO;
- (h) build connections between RDCO and the higher level educational community; and
- (i) foster continued local community support for RDCO Park Services initiatives.

In addition to the main objectives identified for both the Regional District and UBC, both parties have agreed that over the next 3 years we will focus on improving the partnership and delivery of community programming and develop cross faculty connections for potential expansion of the connection to academia to Woodhaven and the greater Regional Park system.

In conclusion, the MoU provides guidance to the Regional District and UBC on the purpose, objectives, and activities related to the Artist-in-Residence partnership. The lease agreement provides the legal mechanism and identifies the responsibilities for both parties over the lease area. This partnership directly links to both the corporate and departmental strategic objectives for the Regional District and to other national initiatives such as Parks for All and connecting our residents to nature.

Alternative Recommendation:

No alternative recommendation provided.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

- *Organizational*

Attachment(s):

- 2019-2022 UBC/RDCO Lease Agreement
- 2019-2022 UBC/RDCO Memorandum of Understanding Agreement