

From: Park Board GM's Office
To: PB Commissioners
Cc: PB SLT (Senior Leadership Team) - DL; PB Communications
Subject: Strathcona Park Encampment Update - May 28, 2021
Date: Friday, May 28, 2021 9:20:47 AM
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Hello Commissioners,

I am writing to provide an update on the work of the City and Park Board at Strathcona Park. I am pleased to advise that Raymur Ave is now clear.

Raymur Avenue

- Yesterday morning, with the support of VPD who assisted with keeping the peace, Engineering Services helped the remaining three individuals who had erected tents on Raymur Avenue to move from the site. On May 22, Engineering staff had issued a by-law violation notice to the group stating that they had to move from the street and clear away all structures, tents, debris and their possessions but, despite continual offers of assistance to help them move, the group had not abided by the notice. This morning's work was met with a small amount of initial resistance but was relatively conflict free.
- Most materials were moved with/by their owners as of this afternoon. Items removed by Sanitation crews were documented and will be stored free of charge for the next 30 days in case owners would like to collect them. Sanitation staff also helped one person place her possessions into long term storage and paid for the arrears on their storage locker in order to gain access.
- The parking lane of 1000 block of Raymur, adjacent to the park, has now been fenced off and will stay fenced over the coming weeks to provide additional space for Park Board staff to use for storage as they undertake remediation of the park.

Next steps

- The east side of the park remains closed and fenced off. The fence has been reinforced, and brought all the way to the curb along Raymur Avenue.
- Park operation crews have completed a needs assessment of the park, and have received quotes from contractors.
- Park leadership is checking in with the Park Board's Indigenous experts on how best to proceed with remediation work and what special considerations need to be made.
- The community conversations team have been learning about suitable ways to move forward in partnership with the community, including learning from Indigenous knowledge-holders and matriarchs on healing the land. Pamphlets with information and the opportunity for input are being distributed to the public through local community centres, government partners and at neighbourhood bulletin boards in order to reach groups such as seniors, families in public housing and people working in the area.
- Staff will issue an email to the Strathcona community tomorrow providing an update regarding today's work and outlining the next steps.

In what I hope will be our final update on this issue, I want to acknowledge and reiterate my sincere appreciation to all the leaders and operational staff from Park Board, ACCS, Engineering, VFRS, VPD, Communications and Corporate Security who contributed to this resolution. This outcome, achieved without resort to the Courts, reflects an immense amount of effort and personal commitment on their part.

Regards,

Donnie

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pronouns: she/they

I live and work on the unceded, ancestral territories of the x^wməθk^wəy^əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) peoples.