

----- Original Message ----- From: "John McBride" <john_mcbride@sfu.ca>
To: <pbcomment@vancouver.ca>
Cc: <bill.manning@vancouver.ca>; <jerics@shaw.ca>; <daniela@livingcode.org>;
<kellykovach@telus.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2008 10:53 PM
Subject: Attention Susan Mundick General Manager

Dear Ms. Mundick,

The False Creek South Neighbourhood Association has raised the concern over the difficulty families face in using the waterfall area of Charleson Park. The on leash times 10am to 7pm, June to September, have not been observed. We have met with Mr. Manning and agreed to go along with his plan for drawing attention to the regulations in place by erecting a snow fence to demarcate this area. We have asked for clearer signage and that has been put in place. We asked for enforcement, and there has been some evidence of that.

However, we don't agree with Mr. Manning's suggestion we should meet with the dog owners and come to some compromise. We don't think there is a climate at this time in which that would be a positive action. That climate, we believe, is due to the lack of Parks enforcement over the last 4 years.

Now, the climate has worsened. The snow fence has been pulled down twice and a member of our committee dealing with the issue has been singled out and threatened on Facebook, and recently confronted in the Park. When we asked Mr. Manning what action he was intending to take, we received no response.

We asked in a previous letter to you that you seek the necessary permissions to change the regulations at the end of the summer in the event the existing regulations do not work for families. Your short reply did not reassure us that you support our efforts.

What we expect is for Parks to take a principled approach - that is to state that there is a priority that needs to be given to families. This is not a question of compromise.

Second, we expect respectful and timely communication. We think the answer to this issue is to ultimately dialogue with the dog owners. We have before and it worked well. We expect we will be a part of finding a solution and think you should work with us as an equal partner.

Third, we understand there is no plan for an off-leash park in S.E. False Creek development. We have heard that as many as 25% of the 15,000 owners there will have pets. We expect that will mean we become more of a destination off-leash park. We believe the difficulties we have encountered in making a peaceful and respectful place for families at the waterfall is compounded by dog owners who

come from outside the community. They don't seem to have the same sense of civility that we see in our neighbours. We don't want more outsiders. We would like you to address this issue, and the other issues with us.

Please forward our email to the Park Commissioners. We look forward to your reply.

John McBride, FCSNA liaison for the dog sub-committee