

**Subject: Agenda Item #8 - April 4/2005 - Commercial Dog Walking**

**Date:** Sun, 03 Apr 2005 20:33:01 -0700

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Your Worship & Members of Council,

Of the three staff options mentioned on page 147 of the Council package I urge council to consider Option 3 - "That Council not approve Commercial Dog Walking in the District of North Vancouver".

The primary rationale is based on three aspects:

1. The substantial majority (2/3 in 2005) of such business would come from outside the District.
2. The Commercial use of our parkland is contrary to their permitted use. A rezoning - with associated public hearing would be required to allow such use.
3. Increased conflict with existing park users.

On (1) - see page 143 of council package.

On (2) - see for example the recent document - Lynnmour / Inter-River Local Plan Bylaw as well as section 9 of District Zoning Bylaw stating allowed uses in the various designated parks.

On (3) - The measures/definitions adopted do not adequately protect other park users. For example - the definition of "under control" described in the staff report on page 145 lacks the usual, and obvious requirement, that off-leash dogs stay within eyesight of the handler (and be no more than say 30 ft from the handler). The requirement of having all dogs on leash when a horse approaches is not a credible solution since in practice there is often little warning and rounding up/ leashing the stray dogs in time is impractical.

If council still wishes to go forward with allowing commercial dog walking in our parks then:

- please hold the required public hearings
- please restrict the hours /days when this is allowed.
- please restrict all dogs to on-leash - as these dogs are often not as familiar with their handlers as they are to their owners. As well, the mix of on-leash / off-leash for a handler is potentially a bad mix. It is not hard to imagine the consequences of handlers attempting to run after an errant dog - especially down-hill with leashed dogs in tow.

It should be noted that for over 25 of the 33 years our family has lived in the District we owned a dog.

In summary, this bylaw could have serious consequences on the future commercialization of our parks and the

enjoyment of them by local users. I urge you  
to chose wisely.

Yours truly,

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