



**PARK BOARD COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

FEBRUARY 16, 2015

A Regular Park Board Committee meeting was held on Monday, February 16, 2015, at 7:03 pm, at the Park Board Office.

PRESENT: Commissioner Casey Crawford, Chair
Commissioner John Coupar
Commissioner Sarah Kirby-Yung
Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon
Commissioner Erin Shum, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Michael Wiebe

ABSENT: Commissioner Catherine Evans (Leave of Absence)

**GENERAL MANAGER'S
OFFICE:** Malcolm Bromley, General Manager
Cheryl Chan, Business Support Lead
Pat Boomhower, Meeting Clerk

MINUTES

1. Park Board Committee - February 2, 2015

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Kirby-Yung

THAT the Park Board Committee minutes of the February 2, 2015, meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGENDA ITEMS

1. UPDATE: Local Food Action Plan Implementation

Thomas Soulliere, Director, Recreation, and Lindsay Cole, Park Planner, provided an overview on the following: local Food Policy and Action Plan, its timeline over the years, urban agriculture, community gardens and fruit trees added from 2012 - 2014, food programming and local food sales in parks, community partners, and plans for 2015 - 2016. They noted this work is done with close community partners and collaboration.

Ms. Cole, along with Tiina Mack, Manager, Parks Development, responded to questions.

The Committee heard from Marc Schutzbank, Executive Director, Fresh Roots Urban Farm Society, who spoke in support of the work the Vancouver Park Board has been doing and described their Society's educational programs and gardens on School Board land. He also responded to questions.

2. REPORT: Urban Agriculture Policy

Lindsay Cole, Park Planner, reviewed the report, the Urban Agriculture Policy, and consultation process. Ms. Cole responded to questions.

The Committee heard from the Executive Director, Fresh Roots Urban Farm Society, who spoke in support of the proposal and provided comment on opportunities to engage and connect people in a diverse community.

Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, responded to questions regarding additional language in the guidelines.

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Wiebe

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the Urban Agriculture Policy (as outlined in Appendix A of the report dated February 10, 2015, titled "Urban Agriculture Policy"), which will replace the Community Garden Policy, adopted in September 2005 (Appendix B of the above-mentioned report).

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Kirby-Yung

THAT the motion be amended to insert:

AND FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Park Board require signage, interpretation and information about the purpose of the gardens and the community partners involved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The amendment having carried, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

FINAL MOTION AS ADOPTED

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the Urban Agriculture Policy (as outlined in Appendix A of the report dated February 10, 2015, titled "Urban Agriculture Policy"), which will replace the Community Garden Policy, adopted in September 2005 (Appendix B of the above-mentioned report); and

FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Park Board require signage, interpretation and information about the purpose of the gardens and the community partners involved.

3. REPORT: Community Garden License Agreement for Stanley Park Community Garden

Lindsay Cole, Park Planner, reviewed the report and noted that a portion of this community garden is a demonstration garden managed by the Stanley Park Ecological Society. Ms. Cole responded to questions.

MOVED by Commissioner Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Commissioner Wiebe

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board

THAT the Vancouver Park Board grant a new Community Garden License Agreement for a term of one year to the Stanley Park Community Garden Society for the Stanley Park Community Garden (975 Lagoon Drive).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. REPORT: Special Event Approval - East Van Summer Jam 2015

Octavio Silva, Manager, Business Development, reviewed the report and introduced Angus Ramsey, Executive Director, Music Tree Foundation, who was present for questions.

Mr. Silva, along with Jenny Jung, Special Events and Filming Coordinator, and Mr. Ramsey, responded to questions.

The Committee heard from one speaker who expressed concern about the availability of alcohol at events.

MOVED by Commissioner Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Commissioner Coupar

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve a request from The Music Tree Foundation, organizers of the East Van Summer Jam, to increase the capacity of this event from 3,000 to 3,500 people, at Strathcona Park on July 4th, 2015, from 1:00pm to 9:30pm.
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve a request for a 500-person Public Special Occasion License, during the East Van Summer Jam event, at Strathcona Park on July 4th, 2015, from 1:00pm to 9:30pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Shum

THAT the Committee meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 8:26 pm.

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REGULAR BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 16, 2015

A Regular Board meeting was held on Monday, February 16, 2015, at 8:38 pm, at the Park Board Office following the Park Board Committee meeting.

PRESENT: Commissioner John Coupar, Chair
Commissioner Casey Crawford
Commissioner Sarah Kirby-Yung, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon
Commissioner Erin Shum
Commissioner Michael Wiebe

ABSENT: Commissioner Catherine Evans (Leave of Absence)

GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE: Malcolm Bromley, General Manager
Cheryl Chan, Business Support Lead
Pat Boomhower, Meeting Clerk

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Regular Board Meeting - February 2, 2015

MOVED by Commissioner Wiebe
SECONDED by Commissioner Crawford

THAT the minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on February 2, 2015, be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk noted recent emails from the public were received by the Board that afternoon regarding the Motions on Notice: one for motion #1, three for motion #3, one for motion #4, and one for motion #5.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, advised that Park Board related items at Council meetings included: a report on earthquake preparedness; an update from the Vancouver Foundation on the Greenest City Fund; and a report regarding grant applications towards renewal of Sun Yat-Sen Park/Garden in Chinatown and for capital funds for parks and open spaces asset management.

COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Park Board Committee February 16, 2015

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Commissioner Mackinnon raised a Point of Information about the process of voting at the Committee meetings and the subsequent vote in the Regular Board meetings, and requested clarification if there was distention in the vote. The Chair and General Manager responded and noted previous email on the topic and the next Board orientation session. The Chair also advised that a vote is needed at Regular Board. Staff will follow up.

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The Board considered the report containing recommendations and actions taken by the Park Board Committee. Its items of business included:

1. UPDATE: Local Food Action Plan Implementation
2. REPORT: Urban Agriculture Policy
3. REPORT: Community Garden License Agreement for Stanley Park Community Garden
4. REPORT: Special Event Approval - East Van Summer Jam 2015

MOVED by Commissioner Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Commissioner Crawford

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Park Board Committee at its meeting of February 16, 2015, as contained in items 1 through 4.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTIONS

Motions on Notice

1. Creating Greater Community Engagement

The following motion includes changes to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 in the Preamble and paragraphs A and B in the Resolveds, subsequent to when the motion was originally submitted by the Mover.

MOVED by Commissioner Kirby-Yung
SECONDED by Commissioner Shum

WHEREAS:

1. The Vancouver Park Board typically holds its meetings twice monthly at the Park Board office located on Beach Avenue in downtown Vancouver.
2. Plans are underway to begin live streaming Park Board meetings to increase public access to the Park Board and its proceedings.

3. The 2014-2018 Park Board held its Inaugural meeting at VanDusen Gardens in an effort to provide greater public access to the Board.
4. There is an opportunity to increase public access to the Board, build community connections, and create greater public engagement across Vancouver's neighbourhoods and communities by taking Park Board meetings and open house sessions to different locations across the city.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board hold a regular Park Board meeting or public forum at a minimum of twice per year, or up to once per calendar quarter, in different neighbourhood locations throughout Vancouver; and

FURTHER THAT priority be given to use of facilities under Park Board jurisdiction and to rotation throughout quadrants of the city.

- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to report back to the Board by April 2015 with a cost effective plan for holding such meetings including proposed dates and locations.

carried

AMENDMENT MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Wiebe

THAT the motion be amended to change the word "or" to the word "with" in A.

LOST

(Commissioners Crawford, Coupar, Kirby-Yung, and Shum opposed)

The amendment having lost, the main motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Support for the Regional Transportation Funding Initiative

Commissioner Mackinnon introduced the motion and during discussion, Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, responded to questions, and the Board agreed to separate the vote on the components of the motion.

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Wiebe

WHEREAS:

1. The City of Vancouver believes in a robust, comprehensive, regional transportation policy;
2. The Province of British Columbia has requested that the Metro Vancouver municipalities hold a referendum (now a plebiscite) on future transportation funding measures;

3. The Metro Vancouver Mayors' Council has put forward a regional transportation investment plan, which includes transit, biking and road upgrades for the region;
4. The Ministry of Transportation has accepted this plan in principle;
5. The Provincial Government has decided, however, that the new tax, if approved by the public in a plebiscite, would be administered by the BC Government and not TransLink;
6. Mail-in ballots for the plebiscite are expected to be sent to Metro Vancouver residents between March 16 and May 31, 2015;
7. The City of Vancouver and the Region face significant challenges should this plebiscite fail.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation support the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Vancouver, to establish a broad coalition of interests to ensure that the plebiscite will succeed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- B. Staff report back urgently on initiatives that the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation could undertake to ensure the success of the plebiscite.

LOST

(Commissioners Crawford, Coupar, Kirby-Yung, and Shum opposed)

- C. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation support the Mayor to ensure that the plebiscite succeeds.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FINAL MOTION AS ADOPTED

WHEREAS:

1. The City of Vancouver believes in a robust, comprehensive, regional transportation policy;
2. The Province of British Columbia has requested that the Metro Vancouver municipalities hold a referendum (now a plebiscite) on future transportation funding measures;
3. The Metro Vancouver Mayors' Council has put forward a regional transportation investment plan, which includes transit, biking and road upgrades for the region;
4. The Ministry of Transportation has accepted this plan in principle;

5. The Provincial Government has decided, however, that the new tax, if approved by the public in a plebiscite, would be administered by the BC Government and not TransLink;
6. Mail-in ballots for the plebiscite are expected to be sent to Metro Vancouver residents between March 16 and May 31, 2015;
7. The City of Vancouver and the Region face significant challenges should this plebiscite fail.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation support the Mayor, on behalf of the City of Vancouver, to establish a broad coalition of interests to ensure that the plebiscite will succeed.
- B. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation support the Mayor to ensure that the plebiscite succeeds.

3. Shoreline Protection from Boat Discharge

Commissioner Wiebe provided an update with regard to the City of Vancouver's Engineering Services letter on the matter, Schedule 2, and advised that Transport Canada will not be proceeding with the regulatory change from three nautical miles to one.

MOVED by Commissioner Wiebe
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

WHEREAS:

1. In the summer of 2014, E. coli bacteria peaked in the waters of False Creek to over 26 times the recommended safety limit for swimmers.
2. Beaches in Vancouver are one of the biggest tourist attractions and help to promote physical activity with access to nature.
3. Vancouver Park Board direction is to move towards Blue Flag Certification for international standards in water quality for our beaches.
4. The Federal Transportation Regulator is considering changing its rules to allow boats fewer than 400 gross tones certified for less than 15 passengers to discharge their toilet tank within one nautical mile from the shoreline down from the current 3 nautical miles.
5. New regulations would affect pleasure crafts, which have the ability to pump at their local marinas.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation support Burrard Inlet as a "no-discharge" zone for all boaters.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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At 9:32 pm, Commissioner Coupar stepped down as Chair in order to put forward two motions and participate in debate. Commissioner Kirby-Yung, as Vice-Chair, assumed the Chair for the next two items.

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4. Parks and Gardens Seasonal Staffing Levels and Service Standards

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Shum

WHEREAS:

1. Vancouverites take great pride in the over 230 parks within the Vancouver Park Board system, representing 11% of Vancouver's land mass;
2. Due to significant budget pressures, Park Maintenance has suffered as a result of shifting priorities and ever increasing demands on our declining percentage of the City of Vancouver's operating budget, which was 7% fifteen (15) years ago and has been reduced to 4.9% today;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to develop a plan to identify needs and set temporary staffing levels to improve the care and appearance of parks and gardens city-wide for the 2015 spring and summer season; and

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to report back to the Board by March 23, 2015.

carried

REFERRAL MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Wiebe

THAT the motion be referred to staff to go through the budget process.

LOST

(Commissioners Crawford, Coupar, Kirby-Yung, Mackinnon, Shum and Wiebe opposed)

The referral having lost, the motion was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Temporary Expansion of Fenced, Off-Leash Dog Area at Hinge Park

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar

SECONDED by Commissioner Crawford

WHEREAS:

1. Many Vancouverites value the opportunity to take dogs to parks for exercise and socialization, a healthy activity for both dogs and dog owners;
2. Dog owners are some of the city's most frequent park users, often using parks at off-peak hours and providing valuable 'eyes' in our parks;
3. The Vancouver Park Board provides 36 designated "off-leash areas", four of which are fenced including Hinge Park;
4. The Park Board has received many comments about off-leash areas, including concerns that current off-leash area locations and hours are not satisfying demand.
5. The new development at the Village on False Creek and the surrounding area appear to have a greater concentration and number of dogs than was previously anticipated;
6. The Vancouver Park Board is currently exploring ways to improve the City's off-leash area network;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Vancouver Park Board, subject to conducting a suitable public consultation similar to that of the recently-approved temporary community garden located on City-owned land to the east of the Village on False Creek, support a temporary expansion of the fenced, off-leash area for dogs on City-owned land on the west side of Hinge Park, with all details to the satisfaction of Real Estate Services and the General Manager of the Park Board.

amended

REFERRAL MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon

SECONDED by Commissioner Wiebe

THAT the motion be referred to staff so that it does not predispose staff's work on improving City's off-leash network.

LOST

(Commissioners Coupar, Crawford, Kirby-Yung and Shum opposed)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Commissioner Wiebe
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

THAT the motion be amended by:

- (i) striking out the word "suitable" in the RESOLVED and
- (ii) inserting the words "positive results" before "similar".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The amendment having carried the motion as amended was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

FINAL MOTION AS ADOPTED

WHEREAS:

1. Many Vancouverites value the opportunity to take dogs to parks for exercise and socialization, a healthy activity for both dogs and dog owners;
2. Dog owners are some of the city's most frequent park users, often using parks at off-peak hours and providing valuable 'eyes' in our parks;
3. The Vancouver Park Board provides 36 designated "off-leash areas", four of which are fenced including Hinge Park;
4. The Park Board has received many comments about off-leash areas, including concerns that current off-leash area locations and hours are not satisfying demand.
5. The new development at the Village on False Creek and the surrounding area appear to have a greater concentration and number of dogs than was previously anticipated;
6. The Vancouver Park Board is currently exploring ways to improve the City's off-leash area network;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Vancouver Park Board, subject to public consultation with positive results similar to that of the recently-approved temporary community garden located on City-owned land to the east of the Village on False Creek, support a temporary expansion of the fenced, off-leash area for dogs on City-owned land on the west side of Hinge Park, with all details to the satisfaction of Real Estate Services and the General Manager of the Park Board.

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MOVED by Commissioner Wiebe
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

THAT the Board meeting continue past 10:00 pm to complete the business items.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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At 9:58 pm, Commissioner Coupar resumed in the chair.

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Notice of Motions

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. REPORT: Grant Applications for Sun Yat-Sen Park/Garden Renewal and Asset Management Planning

Tiina Mack, Manager, Park Development, reviewed the report which sought Board endorsement for two time-sensitive grant applications. Ms. Mack noted that applications to other governments must come from the municipality, therefore, it would be going to Council for approval as well.

Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, responded to questions.

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon

SECONDED by Commissioner Kirby-Yung

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board support a grant application to the Federal National Historic Sites Cost-Sharing Program for \$100,000 toward the renewal of Sun Yat-Sen Park/Garden located in Chinatown, a National Historic Site.
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board support a grant application to UBCM's Asset Management Planning Program for \$10,000 to advance the City's and Park Board's capital asset management for parks and open spaces.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ENQUIRIES

- 1. A Board member requested an update on Marpole Community Association's renewal. The Park Board Director of Recreation and General Manager noted the process, current focus for facilities' renewal and building and offered to provide a timeline.
- 2. A Board member requested information on the Blue Flag feasibility study. The General Manager offered to have a staff report and presentation.
- 3. A Board member enquired as to when the report on dog off-leash areas is anticipated. The General Manager advised of the RFP for a consultant and plan to have a report by year end.
- 4. A Board member enquired on Parks' capacity to have a street sweeper service similar to regular streets. The General Manager and Director of Parks will work with Engineering Services.

5. A Board member enquired about the issue of garbage totes/receptacles in parks during warm weather, prior to completion of the dog area strategy. The Director of Parks will follow-up.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Commissioner Wiebe
SECONDED by Commissioner Shum

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board adjourned at 10:13 pm.

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