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June 9, 2015

Mayor and Council  
City of Vancouver  
453 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC  
V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor Robertson and City Councillors,

**Re: Hastings Park Governance**

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and its Commissioners are committed to the protection, stewardship and expansion of parks, gardens, and green spaces in the City of Vancouver, for the benefit of all citizens. At our meeting on June 8, 2015, the Park Board Commissioners unanimously approved the following:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct the Chair, on behalf of the Board, to write to Mayor Gregor Robertson and Vancouver City Council expressing the Park Board's deepest opposition to the elimination of an elected Park Board official from the composition of the PNE Board of Directors; and
- B. THAT in this letter the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation recommit to the view, previously articulated unanimously by Park Board Commissioners at the Board's May 27, 2013 meeting, that Park Board governance of Hastings Park is the best option for achieving transparency and accountability in decision-making and increasing public access to the park's green spaces and recreational uses.

As you may be aware, the Park Board passed a unanimous motion at their May 27, 2013 meeting calling for Hastings Park to be governed directly by the Park Board, as outlined in the Hastings Park Governance review, considering it to be the best option for achieving transparency and accountability in decision-making and increasing public access to the park's green spaces and recreational uses.

Hastings Park is historically the Park Board's second park, dating back to 1889 (just two years after Stanley Park was established), and was originally intended to be a premier destination park in the northeast corner of the city. Over many decades, the Park Board has been dedicated to re-establishing Hastings Park as a destination park with year round public access by adding green space, including the Sanctuary, the Italian Garden, Plateau Park, and improving greenway connections throughout the site.

The elimination of elected Park Board oversight for one of our city's largest parks represents a significant step backward and raises concerns about possible changes in direction at Hastings Park that could shift away from re-establishing Hastings Park as a premier destination park in the city.

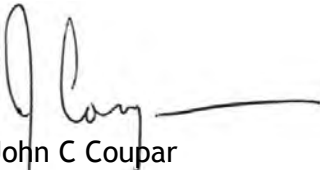


The basis for this recommendation is unclear, and the public will likely perceive this as an unfortunate measure and not in keeping with the historic long term respectful relationship between the Mayor, Council, and the elected Park Board.

To that end, I am writing to request that you seriously consider the Park Board's position on this matter at the upcoming Vancouver City Council meeting where you will be receiving a staff report entitled "Hastings Park/Pacific National Exhibition Governance Review and By-Law Update". The report asks City Council to approve updated By-laws for the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) that will serve to eliminate elected Park Board representation from the PNE Board of Directors and preclude elected Park Board oversight of Hastings Park.

It is the Park Board's sincere desire that you do not proceed with this element of the staff report.

Sincerely,



John C Coupar  
Chair - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

Copy to: PB Commissioners  
PB Senior Management Team  
PB Communications  
City Clerk's Office