



Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

Creating Greater Community Engagement Town Hall Meetings

July 20, 2015

Visit the Park Board website at: vancouverparks.ca



Recommendation

THAT the Vancouver Park Board hold a Town Hall meeting in early October 2015, in a location yet to be determined, as a pilot for a series of community meetings to be held in different quadrants of the city; and

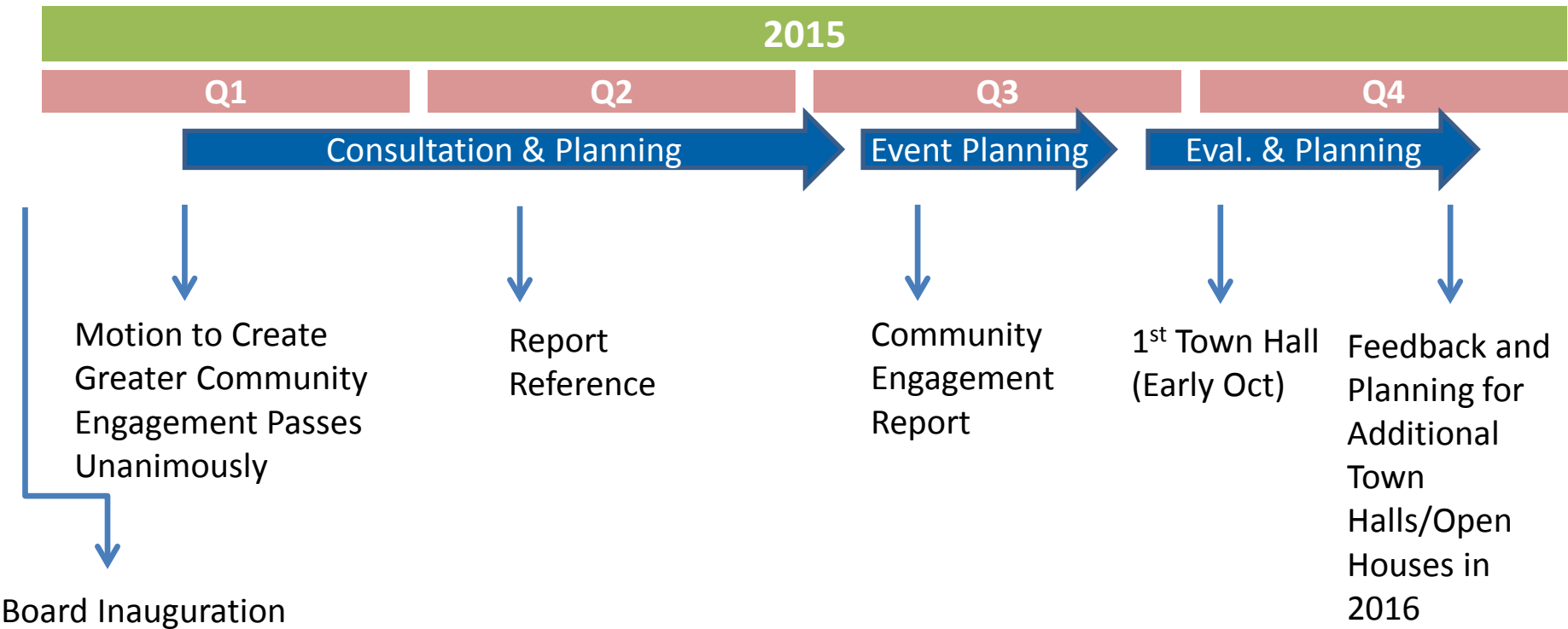
FURTHER THAT the October pilot be reviewed and public feedback sought to plan three additional Town Hall meetings in 2016.

Strategic Framework





Timeline



Background

- In 2003, the Vancouver Park Board decided to take meetings to community to increase public participation and encourage attendance;
- Meetings held at various community centres were generally well attended and successful;
- Practice discontinued in 2011 as other priorities emerged;



December 2014 – The Board held their inaugural meeting in the community at VanDusen Botanical Gardens



February 16, 2015- Approved motion

- Create greater engagement by taking the Park Board meetings or open houses to different neighbourhoods
- Give priority to Park Board facilities





Background

April 2015

Live streaming of all regular Committee & Park Board meetings held in the Board Room at 2099 Beach Avenue.





Background

April 2015 – Progress update

- Staff recommended a “pilot” community meeting be held in fall of 2015
- Town Hall/Open House format to include a large group lead by facilitator with small table break-out discussions and roles for each Commissioner
- Consultation with stakeholders to provide feedback on format and assist in refining topics.
- Report from pilot will inform planning and development of future policies and programs



Discussion

June 2015 – Meeting with Stakeholders

- Representatives from Trout Lake and Dunbar Community Centre Associations, Jericho Sailing Centre and Brock House
- Preferred Town Hall/Open House meeting to formal Board meeting
- First meeting should be pilot for proposed format
- Be transparent about criteria for choosing topics and location
- Pilot guides planning for future meetings in diverse areas



Discussion

June 2015 - Meeting with Stakeholders

- Pick issues of city-wide interest
 - Changing demographics of recreation: active seniors
 - Gardens: how best to use Park Board gardening dollars.
 - Urban forests: how do citizens support planting goals?
 - Corporate Sponsorship of Park Board assets
- Provide opportunity to submit questions in advance and subject experts as resource



Recommendation

- Move forward with community-hosted Town Hall/Open House meeting in a Park Board facility
- Facilitated discussion on issue of significant community impact
- Town Hall/Open House format preferable as Board Meetings now web streamed
- Streaming technology difficult and expensive to duplicate in community



Next Steps

- **July:** Issue call to all CCAs, partners and stakeholders asking for expressions of interest with deadline of August 15 to apply
- **Late August:** Assess applicants, meet with potential partners to review hosting and cost sharing arrangements
- **Early September:** Review topic selection, draft hosting agreement and strike organizing committee



Next Steps

- **Mid-September:** Status update to Board, advertising and publicity begins
- **Early October:** Hold pilot Town Hall/Open House meeting
- **After Pilot Meeting:** Using feedback, develop plan for 2016 meetings



Summary

- **Town Hall/Open House** meeting on issue of broad public interest will inform future policies and programs
- **Opportunity** to increase public awareness and strengthen community connections



Creating Greater Community Engagement



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