



February 12, 2016

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: NEFC Park Design Advisory Group - Terms of Reference

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the formation of a Northeast False Creek Park Design Advisory Group; and
- B. FURTHER THAT the Board approve the Northeast False Creek Park Design Advisory Group Terms of Reference and Recommended Process, as outlined in Appendix A of this report.

PARK BOARD POLICIES & STRATEGIES

Vancouver Park Board Strategic Plan (2012)

- **Relevant Programs & Services:** deliver parks and recreation services that meet the needs of our communities both now and in the future
- **Healthy Ecosystems:** grow green neighborhoods by providing our communities with easy access to nature and advocating for healthy and sustainable environments
- **Community:** committed to connecting people, facilitate healthy lifestyles and enrich communities and actively promote collaboration and participation
- **Fiscally Resourceful:** efficient and effective practices and resource use
- **Well Managed Infrastructure:** provide, maintain and plan for exceptional recreational, social, and cultural amenities that contribute to the livability of Vancouver

Vancouver Sport Strategy (2008)

- Physical literacy for all
- Active for life
- City recognized as premier event destination

Vancouver Urban Forest Strategy (2014)

- Plant 150,000 trees by 2020
- Plant the right tree in the right place
- Ensure resiliency to disease and climate change
- Integrate with storm water management and utility planning

Vancouver Biodiversity Strategy (2016)

- Restore habitats and species
- Support biodiversity within parks, streets, and other City-owned lands
- Protect and enhance biodiversity during development

COUNCIL POLICIES AND DECISIONS

Removal of the Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts (2015)

- Approved removal of the Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts
- Direction to work with the Vancouver Park Board and interested citizens on planning for new waterfront parks and open space of no less than 13.75 acres as well as options for the expedited delivery of the new parks and open space

Northeast False Creek: Issues Report (2011)

Northeast False Creek: Directions for the Future: Part 1 (June, 2009)

Northeast False Creek: Directions for the Future: Part 2 (October, 2009)

False Creek North Official Development Plan (1990)

Healthy City Strategy (2014)

Greenest City 2020 Action Plan (2011)

BACKGROUND

On October 27, 2015, City Council approved the removal of the Dunsmuir and Georgia Viaducts and the *Northeast False Creek (NEFC) Conceptual Plan* to guide future planning without the viaducts. The *NEFC Conceptual Plan* includes the accelerated delivery of the Creekside Park Extension and an addition of 13.89 acres of new park and open space area. Park Board staff has since been developing the process for designing the new waterfront park and open spaces, including a strategy for community engagement.

Since June 2013, there has been a significant amount of consultation and outreach regarding NEFC planning and the future of the viaducts. Planning for a complex of city-serving, waterfront parks and open spaces that are associated with the NEFC Conceptual Plan merits significant public engagement at a variety of levels. Consistent with the Park Board Strategic Plan to engage the community, staff are proposing the formation of the Park Design Advisory Group (PDAG) to advise Park Board staff, City staff and consultant team in the design and programming of the park system in Northeast False Creek.

On February 3, 2016, City Council approved the terms of reference for a 15-member Northeast False Creek Stewardship Group. The Stewardship Group is intended to reflect broader perspectives to guide the development of this last remaining waterfront community on the downtown peninsula. This group will be responsible for monitoring the incorporation of the eleven Guiding Principles during the detailed planning, design and implementation of the NEFC Conceptual Plan. Overlap in membership will be considered to help bring continuity between the PDAG and the Stewardship Group.

DISCUSSION

A major objective of the upcoming NEFC Park and Open Spaces Schematic Design project is to engage local and city-wide stakeholders, as an expression of Park Board's commitment to broad, meaningful and innovative public engagement.

The Northeast False Creek PDAG will represent a broad range of community interests to provide input on the evolving design and programming of the new park system in NEFC. The consultation program is anticipated to take place in 2016 and 2017 and will encompass the full range of community interests that could be affected by this plan.

The Park Design Advisory Group will be formed to provide specific advice on the design of the new Creekside Park Extension and its integration with existing park spaces, including Andy Livingstone Park, the Downtown Skate Plaza, the existing Creekside Park and the broader public space network. The PDAG will also advise on the approach and progress of the engagement process, and outreach to individual networks to seek advice or opinions at strategic points in the park design process.

The Park Board will appoint 10-12 members to the PDAG following an open public call for applications. The membership composition will be determined based on balanced representation from local and city-wide stakeholders. Members will be expected to have direct knowledge, experience or expertise within their representation group and/or have an interest in the development of the parks and open spaces in NEFC.

Please refer to the terms of reference in Appendix A for more details on the roles and responsibilities, membership and recommended process for the NEFC PDAG.

SUMMARY

The Creekside Park Extension and additional open spaces created as part of the Northeast False Creek Conceptual Plan will be the final new park amenities delivered through the last phase of the NEFC redevelopment. The impending removal of the Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts presents a significant city-building opportunity with a large destination waterfront park as the central component. The NEFC PDAG will provide focused and valuable input, and enhance public engagement on this key addition to Vancouver's park and open space network.

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Northeast False Creek Park Design Advisory Group: Terms of Reference and Recommended Process

Introduction

The Vancouver Park Board is seeking interested individuals to form a Northeast False Creek (NEFC) Park Design Advisory Group (PDAG) to advise Park Board and City staff in the design and programming of the parks and open spaces in NEFC.

The PDAG will have a broad representation of community and city-wide interests, and ensure a balanced approach to the uses in NEFC's park and public space system, in a way that meets the needs and reflects the aspirations of Vancouverites today and into the future.

Background

On October 27, 2015, City Council approved the removal of the Dunsmuir and Georgia Viaducts and the *Northeast False Creek Conceptual Plan* to guide the future planning without the viaducts. The NEFC Conceptual Plan is the foundation for the creation and renewal of a connected complex of waterfront park and open spaces adjacent to the heart of downtown Vancouver.



These parks will be iconic destinations where residents and visitors can experience nature, rest and relax, or partake in a range of outdoor activities and festivities. They will also be conveniently adjacent to recreation, shops, restaurants and transit - all in the heart of a dense, urban village.

The Park Board will lead the schematic design of this complex of park and open spaces. The scope of the design is comprised of, but not limited to, the following key components:

1. Creekside Park Extension - a new destination waterfront park, seawall and pier
2. Andy Livingstone Park (existing) - reconfigured road network will trigger the renewal of this park and Downtown skate plaza, allowing a re-think of these recreation, social and natural spaces

3. Creekside Park (existing) - this waterfront park will play a key connecting role to adjacent green spaces and seawall
4. Dunsmuir Connection - an elevated linear park that will provide a green link for pedestrians and cyclists between the downtown core and the new park spaces

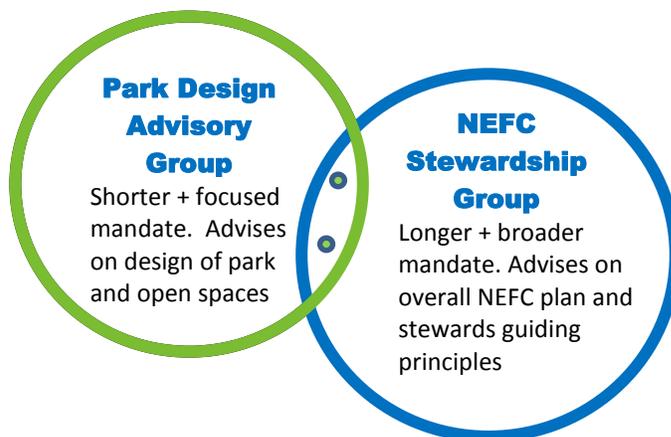
Context of the PDAG in relation to other participants

The role of the PDAG will be to work in tandem with staff, other stakeholders, Park Board and City Council.

	Manage NEFC planning process	Outreach	Process check-in & advice	Draft design and programing options	Suggest uses, Identify opportunities and challenges, Review design and programing	Plan approvals	Plan implementation	Monitoring implementation
Participants (general public)					✓			
Participants (stakeholder groups)					✓			
Working Groups (eg. Park Design Advisory Group)		✓	✓		✓			
Stewardship Group		✓	✓		✓			
Land Owners (Concord, Aquilini, PavCo, CMP, etc.)		✓			✓		✓	
City Staff, Park Board Staff	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
Infrastructure Asset Owners / Operators		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Regulatory Agencies (Translink, DFO, etc)		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Council / Park Board						✓		

The input from the PDAG will be considered in conjunction with input from other community engagement efforts (e.g. public events, online surveys) as well as other criteria and considerations such as technical and financial factors. Input from the PDAG will also be balanced with the Park Board and City of Vancouver's strategic goals and objectives.

The Park Design Advisory Group is a part of the broader public engagement process for Northeast False Creek. Overlap in membership between the PDAG and the NEFC Stewardship Group led by the City of Vancouver, will be considered to help bring continuity between the two groups.



Specific Role of the Park Design Advisory Group

The role of the PDAG is to provide input on the design of the new park and open spaces in NEFC, in particular:

1. To ensure a balanced approach to park uses, as part of a thoughtful and comprehensive design process
2. To provide feedback to the project team (Park Board staff, City staff and consultant team) on the approach and progress of community engagement; and
3. To encourage the education and contribution of the public in the design of parks and open space.

PDAG members' responsibilities:

- Review material in advance of meetings in order for meetings to be focused and time-effective
- Engage in positive and constructive discourse respectful of other member's perspectives
- Provide individual and collective input on all new and emerging topics
- Provide input on translation, graphic design or creative art, videography, and facilitation, to enrich the engagement process
- Offer outreach avenues (such as newsletters and contact lists) and the potential for partnering on events
- Contribute ideas for popular places and ideal dates to hold events that allow the Park Board to partner with existing events, and
- Encourage people to participate in engagement opportunities (such as filling out an online survey or attending a public workshop)

Membership Composition

The PDAG will be comprised of local and city-wide stakeholders, and will include 10-12 members at large and individuals who represent a larger user group. Members will have direct

knowledge, experience, or expertise within their representational group and/or have an interest in the development of the parks, plazas and open spaces in NEFC. Members will reflect Vancouver's ethnic, age and gender diversity and include (but not limited to) representation from the following groups or interest areas:

- Local residents in the False Creek Basin and adjacent areas/neighbourhoods
- Children
- Youth
- Seniors
- Sports and outdoor recreation, including skateboarding
- Water recreation, including non-motorized boating
- Community Centres, Charities and Non-profits
- Public space design and large event/festival organizers
- Active Transportation and Accessibility
- Environmental design, with interest in waterfront sites
- Arts and Culture

Application and Selection

Members will be appointed by the Park Board following an open public call for applications. Concurrently, applications for membership to the NEFC Stewardship Group will be considered. Where applicable, applications for both groups should include rationale about the relevance and importance of membership and if requested, why overlap is considered important.

Mandate

The Park Design Advisory Group will specifically provide feedback during the schematic design and public consultation phases of the Northeast False Creek Park and Open Spaces Design project expected to begin in 2016 and last to the end of 2017. The mandate of the PDAG will conclude when these phases are complete. Activities will include:

- Regular meetings - frequency of which will depend on need - with Park Board staff, City staff, consultant team, etc.;
- Outreach to individual networks to seek advice or opinions at strategic points in the park design process;
- Attendance at workshops and public events; and
- Staying up to date and knowledgeable on the overall NEFC Conceptual Plan, the Vancouver Park and Recreation Services Master Plan (expected to start in 2016) and other relevant planning initiatives in the area.

It is expected that members will attend the majority of meetings and will keep active correspondence with the group. Any members unable to participate will be replaced by other representatives of their organization, if applicable. As part of its commitment to the group, staff support for the PDAG will be provided by the Northeast False Creek project team. The Park Board and City will provide:

- A facilitator and note taker;
- Staff time and resources;
- Meeting space; and
- Supporting technical resources and consultancies