



## Seeking Alternatives to Wading Pool Decommissioning

*Excerpted from Minutes 2016-06-13*

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MOVED by Commissioner Shum  
SECONDED by Commissioner Coupar

### *Final motion as amended:*

#### WHEREAS:

1. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation operates several concrete wading pools, mainly in neighbourhood parks;
2. Wading pools are a popular summertime recreational activity for young children and families;
3. Vancouver Coastal Health regulates and monitors recreational beaches during the swimming season and inspects and approves public and commercial pools throughout the year, including Park Board wading pools;
4. Among the key findings of the Park Board's 2011 Pool Assessment Study, it was noted that spray parks are preferable to wading pools due to health regulations;
5. For sanitary reasons, Park Board wading pools are drained and refilled each day during the summer months, placing a wasteful drain on the city's water supply at a time of year when the supply is at or approaching its lowest point;
6. Since 2001, the Park Board has decommissioned five wading pools and replaced them with water spray parks (Norquay Park in 2011, Prince-Edward Park in 2012, Pandora in 2015, Carnarvon in 2015 and Riley Park in 2016);
7. The Park Board has issued a Request for Proposals for Consultant Services (RFP No. PS20160504, issued on March 31, 2016) to develop a comprehensive Aquatic Services Strategy;
8. The scope of work and expected key outcomes referenced in the Aquatics Strategy Development RFP include recommendations for wading pool replacement and spray parks development or redevelopment;
9. Approximately \$400,000 has been allocated toward decommissioning wading pools in the Park Board's 2015 - 2018 Capital Plan;
10. The Aquatics Strategy Development RFP states that "innovative or novel approaches" to meeting the objectives and requirements of the Aquatic Services Strategy are welcomed;



11. Saltwater pools use dissolved salt instead of chlorine tablets to cleanse and sanitize pool water on a continuous basis, potentially obviating the need to drain and replace the water in wading pools on a daily basis.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to report back to the Board by the end of summer of 2016 with wading pool locations suitable for a pilot project to retrofit the pool with a salt water sanitization system and a custom safety cover and liner; and
- B. FURTHER THAT this wading pool retrofit pilot project be operational for the summer 2017 wading pool season, with funds to be reallocated from existing capital funds earmarked for decommissioning wading pools.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY