



July 4, 2016

**TO:** Park Board Chair and Commissioners  
**FROM:** General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation  
**SUBJECT:** Trans\* and Gender Variant Inclusion Steering Committee - Member Appointments

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## RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Vancouver Park Board appoint the following community members to fill the two vacancies on the Trans\* and Gender Variant Inclusion Steering Committee, with their terms to commence immediately and end June 30, 2017:

- Felix Gilliland
- Lisa Salazar

## BACKGROUND

The Park Board has identified "inclusion and accessibility" as a priority objective for parks and recreation services in the current Strategic Plan.

On May 13, 2013, the Park Board established the [Trans\\* and Gender Variant Inclusion \(TGVI\) Working Group](#) to assist the organization with identifying barriers Trans\* and Gender Variant citizens face in accessing parks and recreation services.

On April 28, 2014, the Park Board received the report "[Building a Path to Parks and Recreation for All: Reducing Barriers for Trans\\* & Gender Variant Community Members](#)" from the TGVI Working Group and directed staff to create a new Trans\* and Gender Variant Inclusion (TGVI) Steering Committee to assist staff with the implementation of short, mid- and long-term priority actions recommended in the report. The Steering Committee was to be established upon conclusion of the first year of implementing quick wins noted in the TGVI Working Group report.

In April 2015, members of the public were invited to submit applications to participate in the TGVI Steering Committee. Applications were reviewed by a panel of current TGVI Working Group community members and staff. In June 2015, the Park Board appointed the eight public positions of the TGVI Steering Committee for a two-year term commencing July 1, 2016 and running until June 30, 2017.

Liaisons to the TGVI Steering Committee include a Vancouver Park Board Commissioner (Commissioner Wiebe), a senior staff member to act as Committee Co-Chair, and a staff member to provide support and act as a resource to the Committee.

## DISCUSSION

We currently have two community member vacancies on the TGVI Steering Committee which has necessitated a public call for new members.

Kai Scott, former TGVI steering committee co-chair, resigned due to a conflict of interest after his consulting firm successfully tendered a contract with the City of Vancouver Equal Employment Office.

Lorimer Shenher resigned stating they could not effectively serve on the steering committee due to increased demands from their recently published book.

A three week call for applications was posted mid-May on the TGVI Steering Committee's webpage and was promoted through the steering committee members' personal and professional networks. Four applications, which were forwarded to steering committee members to review, were received by the June 3 deadline.

Nominees were chosen based on their ability and experience to provide expert advice and insight from an inclusive range of the trans\* and gender variant community. Consideration was also given to the group's current overall community representation including, but not limited to: a diversity of genders, cultures, and age, plus cis allies, families, and guardians.

The TGVI Steering Committee community members and staff propose that Felix Gilliland and Lisa Salazar be appointed to the TGVI Steering Committee, with their terms to commence upon appointment and end June 30, 2017.

Felix Gilliland is currently employed by Raincity Housing, providing transitional and supportive housing to homeless LGBTQ2+ youth.

Lisa Salazar raised her family in the Little Mountain area before moving to Champlain Heights. Lisa is described as a solutions-focused advocate whose disarming presentation style creates open dialogue on the challenges the transgender and gender variant communities encounter.

## **SUMMARY**

Staff recommend that the Vancouver Park Board approve the appointment of Felix Gilliland and Lisa Salazar to the Trans\* and Gender Variant Inclusion Steering Committee. Filling these vacancies will strengthen the committee's ability to continue their work on the phased implementation of the recommendations in the "Building a Path to Parks and Recreation for All" report, which supports the Park Board's vision to be leaders in Parks and Recreation. A progress update on the committee's work will be provided at a future meeting.

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