



Park Board General Manager's Report February 20, 2017

The following report is intended to provide an overview and update on recent and upcoming activities within the Park Board.

PARK DEVELOPMENT

BC Hydro Proposal for Downtown Parks

Staff are working with the Vancouver School Board, City of Vancouver and BC Hydro on various aspects of the proposal, including attending public meetings as observers and reviewing a draft Impact Assessment and Mitigation Strategy report from the consultants. The proposal is called "SEED" in which BC Hydro is proposing to construct underground substations in Emery Barnes Park and the Lord Roberts School Annex site with cabling under Nelson Park and a request to extend the Lease for the Cathedral Square Substation. Public engagement is ongoing until February 20, 2017 and a Board Report is being drafted by staff for consideration at the March 27, 2017 meeting.

Stanley Park Seawall Repairs

Staff are currently working with consultants to finalize the construction tender package and the work was posted on BC Bid the week of February 14, 2017. The work includes repairs to the wall, face and toe. This project includes a \$500K Federal Infrastructure Grant and work is targeted for the June and July low tide windows.

Tatlow and Volunteer Park - 1st Creek Daylighting Project

A donation for this project has been confirmed from a local resident to support the creek daylighting and foreshore enhancement project that aligns with the Park Board's Bio-diversity Strategy. Two concept plans will be introduced to residents at an Open House in early March 2017.

PARK RESEARCH & PLANNING

North East False Creek (NEFC) Parks and Open Spaces

The consultants are completing Stage 1 and summarizing the analysis and early directions for NEFC parks and open spaces. Final Early Directions + Guiding Principles report are due February 24, 2017.

The pop-up storefront with the NEFC Area Planning and Emerging Directions took place January 31 to February 8, 2017. 622 people attended the two main open houses and 80 people attended park day. The TalkVancouver survey was launched on January 31, 2017 and closed on February 17, 2017. 700 people have responded to the online survey to date.

People, Parks and Dogs (Dogs in Parks Strategy)

The consultants and staff have summarized emerging directions, supported by draft recommendations. This material is being presented in the second phase of engagement which is currently underway and expected to be completed in March 2017. A final report will be presented to the Board for review in June 2017.



VanSplash (Vancouver Aquatics Strategy)

The consultants and staff have completed Phase 1 which included a public engagement, a current state analysis and a precedent study. The Board received an update from staff on February 6, 2017. The consultant team is currently working on draft recommendations, and staff will bring a draft Phase 2 report to the Board in September 2017. Phase 2 (final round) of engagement will begin in mid to late May 2017.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Clinton Park Concept Plan

Open House #2 was held on January 19, 2017 to receive feedback on the renewal concept Plan for Clinton Park to refurbish the play area and other amenities near the field house. The plan will review the usage and condition of existing park features, and identify priorities for park improvements. Included in the engagement process were a TalkVancouver survey that closed on February 9, 2017, resident notification, and project signage.

Brewer's Park Renewal

Open House #2 will be held on February 23, 2017 to receive feedback on the renewal concept plan for Brewer's Park. Similar to the Clinton Park process, this plan will review the usage and condition of existing park features, and identify priorities for park improvements. Included in the engagement process will be a TalkVancouver survey, resident notification and project signage.

PARK OPERATIONS

- Security awareness patrols in Stanley park focusing on the west side of the park has been increased
- Over-all Parks security plan now underway with corporate security assistance
- Andy Livingstone fieldhouse satellite Ranger station is now active
- Phase 3 of Parks hard assets inventory getting underway - benches, pathways, tennis courts, playgrounds and all other hard assets to be recorded
- Satellite lunchroom selection completed and will be launched in time for spring

COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS

Burrard Marina Upgrades

- \$3.35M in float and electrical upgrades projected to start Q3 2017 and expected completion in Q1 2018
- Final design under review and construction tender posting anticipated mid-March 2017
- Floats will be built off- site and delivered by barge to minimize disruption
- There are currently 423 regular moorage slips and no liveaboard moorage at this marina.
- Staff continues to consult with moorage users and, at the time of improvement installation, staff will work with occupants to minimize disruption.

Heather Marina Upgrades

- Permits closed out on February 3, 2017 and M Float replacement project complete.



New Harbour Green Restaurant Site - Sequoia/Harbour Air

As part of the Development Permit and Building Permit Approval Process, Text Amendment to current zoning is required to accommodate design features of roof overhang; process is now underway. Anticipated permits are in place and construction is expected to start in November 2017.

Prospect Point Café Restaurant Renovation

Permits are in place and improvements to building are underway. Completion of work is anticipated to be in April 2017.

Stanley Park Brewing (Fish House)

- Development and Building Permit currently under review
- Lease currently being drafted
- Under demolition permit Interior deconstruction to start July 2017
- Development and Building Permits and construction anticipated to be in place with construction to start August-September 2017

RECREATION

Recreation staff continued to support warming centres throughout January and February. Youth workers, who have experience and training working with vulnerable communities, managed all overnight shifts. Debriefs have taken place at the front line and sharps containers were ordered and are onsite and being installed by Real Estate and Facilities Management for all centres.

Hillcrest Pool hosted the Provincial Eating Disorders Awareness Campaign (PEDAW) Purple Pool event held on February 3, 2017 which was well received.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following are the key communications projects to-date:

- People, Parks & Dogs Round 2 consultation: News release on January 31, 2017 with positive coverage on CBC TV and Radio, Courier and Vancouver Magazine
- NEFC park public engagement - pilot of Facebook Live technology for James Corner public lecture commenced on January 30, 2017
- First monthly Park Board internal staff newsletter "Park Board Buzz" distributed to all staff on February 10, 2017
- Digital Asset Management project - Park Board piloting new digital asset management system to ensure all our photo and video archives are catalogued and accessible for enhanced Board reports and external communications
- Challenger Field opening April 22, 2017 - working with internal partners, Variety Club, Jays Care Foundation and Vancouver Canadians to plan a major celebration/ recognition event along with an adaptive ball game for funders and community
- Heron Cam Year 3 - Staff are working with the digital teams and SPES on the launch of a new and improved Heron Cam.



Social Metrics:

Twitter Followers		
Growth in the past year: 21%	January 2015	13,237
Growth since 2015: 49%	January 2016	16,319
	January 2017	19,723
Facebook Fans		
Growth in the past year: 64%	January 2015	4,318
Growth since 2015: 117%	January 2016	5,734
	January 2017	9,385
Instagram followers		
Growth in one year: 26%	January 2015	1,430
Reactivated Instagram in Dec 2015	January 2016	1,801

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING

30 Days for \$30 Flexipass Promotion

The campaign ran from January 2 to February 7, 2017 and the objective was to attract new users to Park Board recreation facilities and to allow them to purchase 30-day Flexipass for \$30 (35% savings). There were approximately 5,000 passes sold, an all-time campaign high.

SPECIAL EVENTS

National Flag of Canada Day Event - February 15

- Event organized to celebrate National Flag of Canada Day and commemorate 150th anniversary of Canada’s Confederation
- 60-foot flag pole installed at Queen Elizabeth Park
- Event program included speakers (Commissioner John Coupar, Deputy Mayor Geoff Meggs and Nelson Kwan, Vice Chair of SUCCESS), raising of the flag, music and fireworks; well-attended by both the public and media.

STAFFING UPDATES

- Three regular full-time Lead Rangers have been hired recently to support and ensure the success of the Park Ranger operation.