



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 15, 2019

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Monday, April 15, 2019, at 9:27 pm, at the Park Board Office.

PRESENT: Commissioner Tricia Barker
Commissioner John Coupar
Commissioner Dave Demers, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Camil Dumont
Commissioner Gwen Giesbrecht
Commissioner John Irwin
Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon, Chair

GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE: Malcolm Bromley, General Manager
Shauna Wilton, Deputy General Manager
Cheryl Chan, Manager, Executive Office and Board Relations
Carol Lee, Meeting Clerk
Jessica Kulchyski, Meeting Assistant

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. The meeting is being held on the land respectfully and with honour to each other, the land and the communities that the Commissioners serve. The Chair invited Commissioners to join him in committing to actions of reconciliation in their deliberations and decisions.

IN CAMERA

1. In Camera Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

THAT the Board will go into meetings prior to the next Regular Board Meeting, which are closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*, to discuss matters related to paragraphs:

- (c) labour relations or other employee relations;
- (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the City or Park Board;
- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

- (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of an activity, work or facility that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Board, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the City and Park Board if they were held in public.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Regular Board Meeting – April 1, 2019

MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the Park Board minutes of the April 1, 2019 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Mackinnon highlighted the participation of Park Board Commissioners at official Park Board events since the April 1, 2019 Board meeting:

- Apr 07: VanPlay “Big Moves” Community dialogue
- Apr 12: Information session regarding the design and installation of gates at both Pender and Carrall Street entrances of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board was advised that two emails were received in support and two in opposition to the Motion on Notice titled “Golf in our Parks – A Deep Dive Analysis”. In addition, there were two emails in support of golf and golf courses, generally. All emails have been sent directly to Commissioners.

COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Park Board Committee – April 15, 2019

The Board considered the report containing recommendations and actions taken by the Park Board Committee. Its items of business included”

1. REPORT: Harbour Green Dock – Proposed Change of Use, Management and Maintenance
2. REPORT: Playing Field Upgrades – Synthetic Turf and Lighting.

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Park Board Committee at its meeting of April 15, 2019, as contained in items 1 and 2.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Extension of Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT the Park Board extends the meeting to 11:00 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Agenda Varied

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT the agenda be varied by deferring consideration of “Report Reference: Emissions Free Landscape Equipment Renewal Strategy” to the next Regular Park Board Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS

1. General Manager’s Office Report

Shauna Wilton, Deputy General Manager, Park Board, reported on:

- The Flats Arterial Community Panel selection of National-Charles as the recommended option for an arterial route that will be presented to the Park Board at a Special Board Meeting on April 30, 2019
- The Echium Pininana “Snow Tower” plant is in full bloom at Bloedel Conservatory
- Completion of the Law Enforcement Bike Association Training by four Park Rangers
- Park Board sponsorship of the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival which runs from April 4 to May 5, 2019
- The next Council Meeting is on April 23, 2019 and the agenda has not yet been released
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from April 2 to 15, 2019.

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

1. Golf in Our Parks – A Deep Dive Analysis

Commissioner Demers introduced the motion and noted the need to consider golf within the discussion of the park system and through the lens of the VanPlay criteria. Commissioner Demers responded to questions from the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

WHEREAS:

1. The Board of Parks and Recreation has complete jurisdiction over three 18-hole golf courses (Langara, Fraserview and McCleery) and three Pitch & Putt courses (Stanley Park, Queen Elizabeth and Rupert Park);
2. Langara, Fraserview, and McCleery golf courses total 464 acres, or approximately 15% of all park land under Park Board jurisdiction;
3. The number of golfers using the 3 golf courses owned by the Park Board decreased by 6% between 2013 and 2018; since the late 1990s, it has decreased by over 31% while the population of Vancouver has increased by 20%;
4. Golf admission fees for adults during the peak summer season range from \$59-\$67 for 18-holes, which takes an average of 4-5 hours to complete; low season rates for 18-holes range from \$28.25-\$36.50;
5. Golf currently generates over \$9M in revenue annually, of which \$300K goes to the Golf Reserve Fund with the remainder going toward funding the rest of the parks and recreation system; as per March 2019, the Golf Reserve Fund contained \$516K of unallocated funding; and
6. Golf courses require regular grooming (currently by gas-powered machinery), irrigation, and maintenance to provide healthy & resilient playing surfaces (as with all sport playing fields) and best practices are employed: irrigation water is provided primarily via aquifer or storm water; and fungicides are only applied to golf greens (about 1.5% of total course area).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to build on the findings and recommendations of `VanPlay, Greenest City 2020 Action Plan, Biodiversity Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy, and:

- A. Evaluate the full spectrum of realized and unrealized benefits of Park Board land currently used for golf;
- B. Compare the past, current and expected demands for, and requirements by golf with those of the rest of our recreational system;
- C. Identify ways to align the managerial, financial and planning of golf with that of the rest of our park and recreational system; and

- D. Report back to the Board with findings and recommendations prior to starting master-planning work for our golf courses.

Motion to Refer

MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht
SECONDED by Commissioner Coupar

THAT the Park Board defer consideration of the Motion on Notice titled “Golf in Our Parks – A Deep Dive Analysis” until Park Board staff have presented recent staff reports on the analysis of golf.

CARRIED

In favour: Barker, Coupar, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin

Opposed: Demers, Mackinnon

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

1. Expanding Downtown Eastside Greenspace and Waterfront Access

Commissioner Irwin gave notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board request the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority to identify further opportunities to make investments in the local community with a particular focus on parks, recreation, and Reconciliation, and to engage with the City, Park Board, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and Urban Indigenous communities on future planning processes and opportunities for the Central Waterfront area, including CRAB Park, that would support:
- i. vulnerable populations in the Downtown Eastside through equitable access to expanded, high quality greenspace;
 - ii. improving community access to existing parks and greenspace;
 - iii. exploring the feasibility of a new healing centre or cultural centre;
 - iv. creating and enhancing significant shoreline habitat; and
 - v. the city-wide focus of expanding waterfront park access; and
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board copy Vancouver City Council, the federal Minister of Transportation, the local Member of Parliament, and the local Member of the Legislative Assembly on this request to the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Safety Concerns Regarding Increased Crowds at 2019 4/20 Event at Sunset Beach

The Chair advised that Commissioner Coupar has urgent business in connection with public health or safety.

Commissioner Coupar introduced the motion and noted the need for the Park Board to ensure the parks are kept safe and secure. Commissioner Coupar responded to questions from the Board.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

WHEREAS:

1. The Vancouver Park Board has jurisdiction over Vancouver parks per the Vancouver Charter;
2. The Vancouver Sun reported that with the addition of a performance by legendary California hip-hop band Cypress Hill, record crowds are expected at Vancouver's 4/20 pot event being held at Sunset Beach on Saturday, April 20;
3. 4/20 event organizer Dana Larsen told Postmedia News that the band had been booked by 4/20's main sponsor -- Crop King Seeds -- to bring more people to the un-permitted event;
4. It is the first time in 4/20 Vancouver's history that the event has had a headline act with Cypress Hill's mainstream popularity; the band is very openly a pro-cannabis advocate and has sold over 20 million records since forming in the early 1990s; hits include "Insane in the Brain", "I Wanna Get High", and "Hits from the Bong";
5. Backing his big-crowd claim, Larsen said the event was also on a Saturday this year and marked the 25th 4/20 event in Vancouver, and was the first mass pot event since October's legalization of cannabis;
6. According to the Weather Network, on April 20 in Vancouver it is forecast to be sunny, with no chance of rain and a high of 10°C;
7. On February 11, 2016, Commissioners were advised by the Park Board General Manager, Malcolm Bromley, that the City of Vancouver had, at that time, agreed to cover "all costs arising from this event, including any damage to the park";
8. On February 15, 2016, Park Board Chair Kirby-Yung wrote a letter to the Mayor expressing the Board's grave concerns;
9. On March 6, 2017, the Park Board passed a motion stating, that in the interest of upholding the Parks Control By-Laws, the Vancouver Park Board will not permit or approve future 4/20 and/or cannabis day events on any property that falls under Park Board jurisdiction;

10. On March 15, 2017, a letter signed by four Commissioners was sent to the Park Board GM as a follow-up to the March decision to ensure that Park Board staff will not be facilitating access to Sunset Beach by protestors; while it is fully expected that measures to support public safety will be put in place by the Vancouver Police and by Park Board staff as needed, it is expected that the Park Board team would not provide any other support, such as facilitating the set-up of staging, electronic equipment, and booths for the purpose of selling cannabis and related products;
11. On February 11, 2019, the Park Board passed a motion directing staff to:
 - a. explore options available to preclude the sale of cannabis and cannabis related products at the upcoming 2019 4/20 event, in consideration of the new legal framework now in place;
 - b. send a letter to Mayor Kennedy Stewart, Vancouver City Council, and the organizers of the 4/20 event to request a continuation of the exploration of alternate venues within the City of Vancouver in order to move this event to a more appropriate location that will not cause disruption to West End area residents, seawall users and Vancouver Aquatic Centre patrons, with the goal of having this event relocated by 2020; and
 - c. prioritize all possible means to minimize impacts on local residents in regard to air quality, noise and music levels, traffic disruption, and restricted access to the seawall.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT an urgent meeting be convened of senior staff of all relevant agencies (Vancouver Police, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services, Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Ambulance Service), including Park Rangers and any additional appropriate agencies to review safety issues around this expanded unpermitted commercial event;
- B. THAT Park Board staff immediately contact the 4/20 organizers to request a cancellation of the Cypress Hill performance in an effort to control crowd size and possible damage to Sunset Beach Park; and
- C. THAT Park Board staff continue to not provide any support, such as facilitating the set-up of staging, electronic equipment, and booths for the purpose of providing entertainment or for the purpose of selling cannabis and related products.

Commissioner Dumont requested the motion be separated into distinct propositions.

Question on Item A

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT an urgent meeting be convened of senior staff of all relevant agencies (Vancouver Police, Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services, Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Ambulance Service), including Park Rangers and any additional appropriate agencies to review safety issues around this expanded unpermitted commercial event.

CARRIED

In favour: Barker, Coupar, Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin

Opposed: Mackinnon

Question on Item B

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Park Board staff immediately contact the 4/20 organizers to request a cancellation of the Cypress Hill performance in an effort to control crowd size and possible damage to Sunset Beach Park.

CARRIED

In favour: Barker, Coupar, Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Mackinnon

Opposed: Irwin

Question on Item C

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Park Board staff continue to not provide any support, such as facilitating the set-up of staging, electronic equipment, and booths for the purpose of providing entertainment or for the purpose of selling cannabis and related products.

DEFEATED

In favour: Barker, Coupar, Irwin

Opposed: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Mackinnon

2. Special Board Meeting – April 30, 2019

The Chair announced that a Special Board Meeting will be held on April 30, 2019 at 6:30 pm to receive the report from the Flats Arterial Community Panel.

ENQUIRIES

Commissioner Giesbrecht advised that she intends to submit enquiries regarding the following topics:

1. Public Engagement for VanPlay Dialogue
2. 2020 Operating Budget Calendar.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 10:13 pm.

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Malcolm Bromley
General Manager

Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon
Chair