



PARK BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

MAY 27, 2019

A Regular Park Board Committee meeting was held on Monday, May 27, 2019, at 6:36 pm, at the Park Board Office.

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

GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE: Malcolm Bromley, 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.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Park Board Committee Meeting – May 13, 2019

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT the Park Board Committee minutes of the May 13, 2019 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGENDA ITEMS

1. REPORT: Volleyball BC Vancouver Open Event - Licensed Area Expansion

Octavio Silva, Manager of Business Development, Park Board, introduced Jenny Jung, Supervisor of Special Events and Filming, Park Board.

Mr. Silva led the review of a presentation on the Volleyball BC's application to expand the licensed area at the 2019 Vancouver Open beach volleyball tournament and highlighted:

- Background of Volleyball BC and the Vancouver Open beach volleyball tournament
- Proposal to expand the licensed area capacity from 500 to 650 guests
- Anticipated benefits of the proposal

- Preliminary site plan
- Key considerations.

Mr. Silva responded to questions from the Committee. There was discussion on: concerns with continued requests to for incremental increases of the licensed area; the need to work with the event organizers to increase awareness of the ban on smoking on Kitsilano Beach; and whether the Park Board has the ability to limit the alcoholic beverages that are permitted to be served at the event.

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve a request from Volleyball BC, organizers of the Vancouver Open beach volleyball tournament, to increase the capacity of the event's licensed area at Kitsilano Beach from 500 guests to 650 guests on July 12, 13 and 14, 2019, with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager of the Park Board.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Mackinnon

COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee was advised that, from May 14, 2017 to 3:00 pm on May 27, 2019, there were six pieces of correspondence received in support of the Motion on Notice titled "Expanding Downtown Eastside Greenspace and Waterfront Access". The correspondence has been forwarded directly to Commissioners by email.

REFERRED ITEMS

1. Expanding Downtown Eastside Greenspace and Waterfront Access

Commissioner Irwin introduced the motion and commented on the opportunity to leverage the Centerm Expansion Project to expand Downtown Eastside (DTES) greenspace and waterfront access. Commissioner Irwin responded to questions from the Committee.

The Committee heard from 16 speakers. All speakers spoke in support of the motion and offered the following comments:

- The opportunity to leverage Centerm Expansion Project to create an Aboriginal healing or cultural centre
- The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) should fund an Aboriginal healing or cultural centre to compensate for the loss of the park land
- CRAB Park is under pressure of industrialization
- The need to make CRAB Park accessible for the DTES residents with mobility issues
- Request that Commissioners support an increase to the amount of greenspace in the DTES

- Suggestion to obtain funding from the VFPA to operate a shuttle bus, independent of TransLink, to transport DTES residents to CRAB Park
- A highly visible healing centre would facilitate reconciliation and give the Indigenous community a sense of belonging
- Concern that the city views will be impacted by the Centerm Expansion Project
- Request that the Park Board obtain support for an Aboriginal-driven healing centre as a tool to address addiction issues and disconnection in the Indigenous community
- An Aboriginal harm reduction healing centre will preserve the autonomy of the DTES
- CRAB Park is integral to the mental health and stability of the residents of the DTES
- Health benefits of access to greenspace
- The quality of the CRAB Park greenspace will decline with the Centerm Expansion Project, even if the quantity of park land remains the same
- Concern regarding the safety of the current access infrastructure for individuals who are mobility impaired
- The need for Commissioners to support community efforts to create the Aboriginal healing centre
- Suggestion that the Park Board remind the VFPA of their obligation to offset the impacts of the Centerm Expansion Project
- Suggestion to provide a detoxification centre at CRAB Park to prepare residents for participation in the healing centre
- Elders and Chiefs have expressed support for the Aboriginal healing centre
- The concept of a healing and cultural arts lodge at CRAB Park has been discussed for over 50 years
- Request that the Park Board collaborate with the City of Vancouver, the DTES community and the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations to create an Indigenous health, healing and wellness centre in the DTES
- The importance of connection to the waterfront to Indigenous people
- The healing centre was identified as a “quick start” action in the 2012 DTES Local Area Plan.

By consensus, the Board agreed to hear from three speakers who had failed to register prior to the deadline. The three additional speakers expressed support for the motion and offered the following comments:

- The internment of Japanese Canadians during the Second World War destroyed the Japanese community in the DTES and Strathcona neighbourhoods
- The importance of CRAB Park to the residents of the DTES
- An Aboriginal healing centre received the unanimous support of those who participated in the development of the DTES Local Area Plan.

The speakers responded to questions from the Committee.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin

SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

WHEREAS:

1. In 2015, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority announced the Centerm Expansion Project, which involves a series of improvements at the Centerm container terminal, including extending the terminal to the west;
2. On May 24, 2017, the Vancouver Park Board sent a letter to the Port Authority outlining four potential enhancements to improve CRAB Park to offset impacts from the Centerm Expansion Project, which included:
 - i) expanding CRAB Park onto Port Authority lands to the west of the existing park to mitigate lost North Shore views, support equitable access to greenspace, enhance shoreline habitat, and expand city-wide focus of increasing waterfront access;
 - ii) improving park facilities, such as paths, recreation features, seating areas, plantings, beach areas and shoreline facilities;
 - iii) improving access and transportation to better connect the park to the surrounding neighbourhood; and
 - iv) enhancing marine habitat areas;
3. On April 18, 2018, a project permit was approved for the Centerm Expansion Project;
4. On June 20, 2018, City Council approved recommendations for staff to continue to work with community, health sector, foundation and government partners to plan for the development and operation of an Indigenous Healing and Wellness Centre in the Downtown Eastside;
5. Waterfront spaces are critically important both culturally and ecologically to the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and every opportunity should be sought to partner with them on the potential of such spaces;
6. Based on the Park Board park provision targets, the Downtown Eastside is park deficient and would benefit from the addition of greenspace;
7. Community members have expressed an interest for an arts and cultural centre in CRAB Park;
8. The Park Board's Biodiversity Strategy identifies shoreline habitat as a key priority; and
9. The Port Authority has stated its commitment to being a good neighbour to local communities, municipalities and First Nations, and to demonstrating this commitment through its investments in those communities.

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 and/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.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

THAT Item B be amended to:

- B. FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Park Board request that Vancouver City Council, the federal Minister of Transportation, the local Member of Parliament, and the local Member of the Legislative Assembly work in collaboration with the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority to achieve points i) to v) of Item A.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

THAT the following be added as Item B and the subsequent item be renumbered:

- B. FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Park Board explore the initiation of a working group to partner with the City of Vancouver and community stakeholders with a goal to transition the development and construction of an Indigenous-focused healing, wellness and/or cultural centre out of the theoretical and into action and reality.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

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 and/or cultural centre;
 - iv) creating and enhancing significant shoreline habitat; and
 - v) the city-wide focus of expanding waterfront park access;
- B. FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Park Board explore the initiation of a working group to partner with the City of Vancouver and community stakeholders with a goal to transition the development and construction of an Indigenous-focused healing, wellness and/or cultural centre out of the theoretical and into action and reality; and
- C. FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Park Board request that Vancouver City Council, the federal Minister of Transportation, the local Member of Parliament, and the local Member of the Legislative Assembly work in collaboration with the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority to achieve points i) to v) of Item A.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 9:47 pm.

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Malcolm Bromley
General Manager

Commissioner Gwen Giesbrecht
Chair