



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 30, 2020

A Special Park Board meeting was held on Monday, November 30, 2020, at 6:03 pm, via videoconference and at the Park Board Office.

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

GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE: Donnie Rosa, General Manager
Steve Jackson, Acting 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Mackinnon acknowledged that December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance to commemorate the 1989 massacre of female students at the École Polytechnique in Montreal. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there will not be a ceremony at the Women's Memorial in Thornton Park to mark the 31st anniversary of the tragic event. He asked for a commitment to end gender-based violence in Vancouver and around the world.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board was advised that the General Manager's office received two emails regarding VanSplash and the Mount Pleasant Pool; comments on the Burrard Civic Marina were submitted by one registered speaker; and one email requesting an exemption to the current policy to allow people with disabilities to purchase an annual pass for the Vanier Park parking lot.

All emails have been sent directly to Commissioners.

STAFF REPORTS

1. REPORT: 2021 Fees and Charges – Parks and Recreation

Donnie Rosa, General Manager, Park Board, commented on the application of an equity lens in the development of the budget in a time of uncertainty created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposed budget reflects the challenges faced by the Park Board and attempts to balance priority areas.

Sarah Kapoor, Acting Director of Financial Planning and Analysis, Park Board, led the review of a presentation on the proposed 2021 Fees and Charges and highlighted:

- Proposed average increase of 2% across all service categories
- Approximately 32% of the Park Board Operating Budget is funded by fees and charges, compared to 47% in 2020
- Residents support user fees as a means to balance the City's budget
- User fee increases are expected to generate \$745,000 to \$940,000 of incremental revenue to offset operating cost increases and to ensure high service levels are maintained

Ms. Kapoor, along with Daisy Chin, Director of Recreation, Park Board, responded to questions and comments from the Board. There was discussion on:

- The strategy to increase in child and youth pricing at pools and child minding strip tickets to achieve alignment with other fees
- Suggestion that user fees be rounded to the nearest \$0.25 or \$0.50 rather than the nearest \$0.05, considering that most payments are now made through credit cards.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 6:36 pm and reconvened at 6:46 pm.

The Board heard from three speakers who provided the following comments:

- Request for an exemption to the current policy to allow people with disabilities to purchase an annual pass for the Vanier Park parking lot
- Opposition to the proposed 2% rate increase at the Burrard Civic Marina
- Whether the proposed 2% rate increase to the Burrard Civic Marina user fees complies with the previous Park Board decision to limit rate increases to the consumer price index (CPI)
- Concerns regarding the reduction in services provided at the Burrard Civic Marina.

The speakers responded to questions from the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Demers

SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve changes to the 2021 Fees and Charges, as summarized in the body of this report and detailed in Appendix A.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. REPORT: 2021 Service Plan, Operating and Capital Budgets – Parks and Recreation

Sarah Iacoe, Manager of Special Projects, Park Board, Sarah Kapoor, Acting Director of Financial Planning and Analysis, Park Board, and Dave Hutch, Director of Planning and Park Development, Park Board, jointly led the review of a presentation on the proposed 2021 Service Plan, Operating and Capital Budgets and highlighted:

- 2020 accomplishments
- 2021 Service Plan and Budget:
 - Challenges
 - Priority areas of focus for 2021
 - Core service overview, 2021 priority initiatives and anticipated operating expenditures in each service area:
 - General Manager’s Office and Support Services
 - Parks and Green Spaces
 - Recreation Service
 - Business Services
 - Planning and Park Development
- 2021 Operating Budget:
 - Budgeting scenarios
 - Net incremental change of \$20 million over 2020
 - Anticipated \$20 million reduction in revenues million due to public health restrictions resulting from COVID-19
 - Year-over-year change to the expenditure and transfer budget of \$0.8 million
 - Operating budget investments:
 - Investments excluded due to financial constraints
- Capital Budget:
 - 2021 capital budget consisting of the annual capital expenditure budget of \$133.0 million and Multi-Year Capital Project Budget of \$77.4 million
 - Notable capital projects aligned with VanPlay:
 - Park land acquisition
 - Urban forest and natural features
 - Seawall and waterfront
 - Programmed activity areas
 - Park amenities
 - General features and infrastructure
 - Park buildings
 - Recreational facilities

- Service yards – Sunset Service Yard renewal
- Next steps.

Mses. Iacoe and Kapoor and Mr. Hutch, along with Steve Jackson, Acting Deputy General Manager, Park Board, Amit Gandha, Director of Parks, Park Board, and Doug Shearer, Manager, Planning, Policy and Environment, Park Board, responded to questions and comments from the Board. There was discussion on:

- Development of the Harbour Green by the leaseholder, with no capital contribution required from the Park Board
- The Mount Pleasant pool study is underway and capital costs will be included in the next budget cycle
- The current public health restrictions were assumed in the development of the revenue and operating expense projections:
 - There is capacity in the operating expenses to proceed with the holiday events in December 2021 if provincial health orders permit
- The rationale for expending funds to improve the drainage at Langara Golf Course before the long-term golf strategy is developed
- Confirmation that there are no plans for a new community centre in the East Fraser Lands neighbourhood in the current capital budget.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 8:26 pm and reconvened at 8:33 pm.

The Board heard from one speaker who expressed support for the proposed 2021 Capital Budget, particularly the inclusion of the Mount Pleasant pool replacement.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon

SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2021 Service Plan as outlined in this report and as attached as Appendix A;
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2021 Board of Parks and Recreation Operating Budget of \$136,236,910 in expenditures and transfers, funded by \$43,565,200 in revenues and \$92,671,710 of tax-based operating funds, as outlined in this report and as attached in Appendix A;
- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2021 Parks and Recreation Multi-Year Capital Project Budget in the amount of \$77,357,700 which consists of \$66,697,700 in the Parks and Open Spaces service category, and \$10,660,000 in the Recreation Facilities and Service Yards service categories as outlined in Appendix A of this report;
- D. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2021 Parks and Recreation Annual Capital Expenditure Budget in the amount of \$132,990,951, which consists of \$112,301,563 in the Parks and Open Spaces service category, and \$20,689,388

in the Recreation Facilities and Service Yards service categories as outlined in Appendix A of this report; and

- E. FURTHER THAT subject to approval of recommendations A, B, C and D above, the Parks and Recreation 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets be submitted to Vancouver City Council for consideration in the approval of the City of Vancouver's 2021 Operating Budget and 2021 Capital Budget.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the following items be added to the Main Motion:

- F. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to postpone all non-essential capital investments and all non-essential maintenance improvement investments drawn from the Capital Reserve Fund for Golf Course Improvements (Golf Reserve), with the exception of investment(s) approved by the Board prior to November 30, 2020, until full completion and adoption of the Golf Strategy; and
- G. FURTHER THAT current funds from the Golf Reserve be redirected to finance and expedite the Golf Strategy.

Amendment to the Amendment

MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT Item F be amended to read:

- F. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to defer all investments drawn from the Capital Reserve Fund for Golf Course Improvements (Golf Reserve), with the exception of investment(s) approved by the Board prior to November 30, 2020, until full completion and adoption of the Golf Strategy.

The amendment was withdrawn by the Mover with the unanimous consent of the Commissioners.

Question on the Amendment to the Main Motion

THAT the following items be added to the Main Motion:

- F. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to postpone all non-essential capital investments and all non-essential maintenance improvement investments drawn from the Capital Reserve Fund for Golf Course Improvements (Golf Reserve), with the exception of investment(s) approved by the Board prior to November 30, 2020, until full completion and adoption of the Golf Strategy; and
- G. FURTHER THAT current funds from the Golf Reserve be redirected to finance and expedite the Golf Strategy.

CARRIED

In favour: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin, Mackinnon

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2021 Service Plan as outlined in this report and as attached as Appendix A;
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2021 Board of Parks and Recreation Operating Budget of \$136,236,910 in expenditures and transfers, funded by \$43,565,200 in revenues and \$92,671,710 of tax-based operating funds, as outlined in this report and as attached in Appendix A;
- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2021 Parks and Recreation Multi-Year Capital Project Budget in the amount of \$77,357,700 which consists of \$66,697,700 in the Parks and Open Spaces service category, and \$10,660,000 in the Recreation Facilities and Service Yards service categories as outlined in Appendix A of this report;
- D. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2021 Parks and Recreation Annual Capital Expenditure Budget in the amount of \$132,990,951, which consists of \$112,301,563 in the Parks and Open Spaces service category, and \$20,689,388 in the Recreation Facilities and Service Yards service categories as outlined in Appendix A of this report;
- E. FURTHER THAT subject to approval of recommendations A, B, C and D above, the Parks and Recreation 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets be submitted to Vancouver City Council for consideration in the approval of the City of Vancouver's 2021 Operating Budget and 2021 Capital Budget;
- F. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to postpone all non-essential capital investments and all non-essential maintenance improvement investments drawn from the Capital Reserve Fund for Golf Course Improvements (Golf Reserve), with the exception of investment(s) approved by the Board prior to November 30, 2020, until full completion and adoption of the Golf Strategy; and
- G. FURTHER THAT current funds from the Golf Reserve be redirected to finance and expedite the Golf Strategy.

Commissioner Dumont requested that the motion be separated into distinct propositions.

Question on Item A

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2021 Service Plan as outlined in this report and as attached as Appendix A.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on Item B

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2021 Board of Parks and Recreation Operating Budget of \$136,236,910 in expenditures and transfers, funded by \$43,565,200 in revenues and \$92,671,710 of tax-based operating funds, as outlined in this report and as attached in Appendix A.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on Item C

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2021 Parks and Recreation Multi-Year Capital Project Budget in the amount of \$77,357,700 which consists of \$66,697,700 in the Parks and Open Spaces service category, and \$10,660,000 in the Recreation Facilities and Service Yards service categories as outlined in Appendix A of this report;

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on Item D

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2021 Parks and Recreation Annual Capital Expenditure Budget in the amount of \$132,990,951, which consists of \$112,301,563 in the Parks and Open Spaces service category, and \$20,689,388 in the Recreation Facilities and Service Yards service categories as outlined in Appendix A of this report;

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on Item E

FURTHER THAT subject to approval of recommendations A, B, C and D above, the Parks and Recreation 2021 Operating and Capital Budgets be submitted to Vancouver City Council for consideration in the approval of the City of Vancouver's 2021 Operating Budget and 2021 Capital Budget;

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on Item F

THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to postpone all non-essential capital investments and all non-essential maintenance improvement investments drawn from the Capital Reserve Fund for Golf Course Improvements (Golf Reserve), with the exception of investment(s) approved by the Board prior to November 30, 2020, until full completion and adoption of the Golf Strategy.

CARRIED

In favour: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin, Mackinnon

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

Question on Item G

FURTHER THAT current funds from the Golf Reserve be redirected to finance and expedite the Golf Strategy.

CARRIED

In favour: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin, Mackinnon

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

The Board adjourned at 9:38 pm.

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Donnie Rosa
General Manager

Commissioner Camil Dumont
Chair