



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22, 2021

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Monday, February 22, 2021, at 9:20 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.

Extension of Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

THAT the Park Board extends the meeting until all items on the agenda are completed.

CARRIED

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

Absent: Irwin

IN CAMERA

1. In Camera Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT the Board will go into meetings next month/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 paragraph(s):

- (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Council [Board] considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city;
- (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 – February 8, 2021

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT the Park Board minutes of the February 8, 2021 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board was advised that there are no communications of note related to the Board agenda items.

COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Park Board Committee – February 22, 2021

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

1. REPORT: Gourmet Cirque Cabaret Event (Bacio Rosso) – Report Back and New Location.

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Park Board Committee at its meeting of February 22, 2021, as contained in item 1.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS

1. Queen Elizabeth Park Little Mountain Reservoir Maintenance

Ian Stewart, Manager of Park Development, Park Board, introduced:

- Tim Collins, Supervisor of Commercial Operations, Park Board
- Kate McIntyre, Civil Engineer, Park Board
- Ali Nayeri, Civil Engineer, Park Board.

K. McIntyre led the review of a presentation on the Queen Elizabeth Park Little Mountain Reservoir maintenance to be undertaken by Metro Vancouver and highlighted:

- Project background
- Proposal to implement a full closure of the upper parking lot from June 1 to August 31, 2021 to undertake the construction
- Mitigation measures
- Relocation and addition of accessible parking stalls during the construction
- Parking impact during the construction period
- Next steps.

K. McIntyre responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on:

- Confirmation that Metro Vancouver will provide traffic control at the access to the parking area during the construction period
- Request for information regarding the provision of traffic control at the accessible parking spaces
- Confirmation that access to fire trucks, operational vehicles and food trucks will continue
- Request to determine if it would be possible for Metro Vancouver to expedite commencement of construction
- Confirmation that the artwork in the plaza area will not be impacted by the construction.

2. General Manager's Report

Donnie Rosa, General Manager, Park Board, reported on:

- The 1988 Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) between the Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES) and Park Board has been updated to reflect SPES and Park Board's current relationship and obligations including the use of property, communications, programming and funding
- Request for proposal (RFP) has been issued to characterize the goose population and study future options to manage the population
- Staff highlights of the Operations Crew

- Upcoming Council business of interest to the Park Board:
 - Report on Quarterly Capital Budget Adjustments and Closeouts requesting Council approval of an increase of \$8.1 million to the 2019-2022 Capital Plan and \$12.4 million increase to Multi-Year Capital Projects Budgets
 - Motion on Commemorating COVID-19 in the City of Vancouver
 - Report on Enhanced Enforcement of Amplification Devices
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from February 9 to 22, 2021.

D. Rosa, along with Dave Hutch, Director of Planning and Park Development, Park Board, responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on:

- Federal government involvement in the geese management study as geese are categorized as wildlife within federal jurisdiction
- the JOA with SPES not being presented to the Board like other partner JOAs have been

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

1. Bodyweight Exercising and General Fitness in Parks – 2021 Pandemic Communications Plan and VanPlay Target Adjustment

Commissioner Demers introduced the motion and responded to questions from the Board.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

WHEREAS:

1. Bodyweight exercises are strength-training exercises that use the individual's own weight to provide resistance against gravity. The simplest bodyweight exercises require no equipment. Most bodyweight exercises require limited equipment such as bars, rings, benches, etc.;
2. Basic outdoor fitness equipment such as bars, rings, and benches may be used by people of all ages and abilities, including people with restricted mobility, and present zero financial accessibility barriers and only limited logistical barriers;
3. VanPlay, the Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan, recommends one new outdoor fitness location per capital plan;
4. The Park Board currently has jurisdiction over 240 parks, of which a few contain at least some purpose-built elements that would qualify for outdoor bodyweight exercising. These parks are unevenly distributed throughout the city and, in most cases, offer only a limited (and limiting) selection of equipment. The most notable include:
 - Traditional rings & bars at Kitsilano Beach, Stanley Park, and Prince Edward Park;
 - New equipment at China Creek Park (Fall 2019) and Jones Park (Fall 2020);

- A 'parkour' facility at Empire Fields (2015);
 - A seniors' wellness circuit at Tisdall Park; and
 - A seniors-friendly outdoor fitness area in South Memorial Park (Spring 2019);
5. The Park Board also has many parks that offer natural features (such as steep hills) and built features (such as walls, boulders, benches, etc.) that can be activated for bodyweight exercising;
 6. The COVID-19 pandemic is having major impacts on the ability of the Park Board to deliver the recreational services required by the residents of Vancouver. For example, indoor gyms were closed for several months in 2020 then re-opened only at limited capacity; fitness classes were cancelled. Financial and sanitary uncertainty remains for 2021 and beyond;
 7. The COVID-19 pandemic is having financial impacts on the residents of Vancouver; is undermining their confidence towards indoor public spaces and group activities. Such shifts in financial ability and attitude may remain for 2021 and beyond; and
 8. In the last 20 years, the world faced 6 significant viral threats – the current COVID-19 has turned out to be the worst. Such virus-induced pandemics will most likely occur again, to degrees and intensity difficult to predict.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to develop a communications plan for 2021 to promote and facilitate the usage of Vancouver parks and installations for outdoor bodyweight exercising and general fitness, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic health and safety restrictions impacting indoor and group fitness activities;
- B. FURTHER THAT staff encourage the Vancouver School Board to participate and contribute to the development of this communication plan; and
- C. THAT, in order to increase the resiliency of Vancouver's recreational system against disruptions such as health crises and financial shortfalls, the Park Board direct staff to evaluate the VanPlay target of one new outdoor fitness location per capital plan and report back to the Board with recommendations.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

That Item D be added as follows:

- D. That the VanPlay evaluation include consideration of the inclusion of adapted equipment suitable for seniors or for those with a range of ability.

CARRIED

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

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to develop a communications plan for 2021 to promote and facilitate the usage of Vancouver parks and installations for outdoor bodyweight exercising and general fitness, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic health and safety restrictions impacting indoor and group fitness activities;
- B. FURTHER THAT staff encourage the Vancouver School Board to participate and contribute to the development of this communication plan;
- C. THAT, in order to increase the resiliency of Vancouver's recreational system against disruptions such as health crises and financial shortfalls, the Park Board direct staff to evaluate the VanPlay target of one new outdoor fitness location per capital plan and report back to the Board with recommendations; and
- D. That the VanPlay evaluation include consideration of the inclusion of adapted equipment suitable for seniors or for those with a range of ability.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

1. Stanley Park Temporary Bike Lane on Park Drive – 2021

Commissioner Dumont gave notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to plan for and implement a temporary bike path on Park Drive in Stanley Park dedicated to cyclists, with an aim to have it in use as soon as is operationally reasonable, and to remain in place until approximately October 31, 2021;
- B. THAT staff work closely with park stakeholders, communicate and consult with the appropriate City of Vancouver advisory committees including but not limited to the Seniors Advisory Committee and the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, implement improvements and innovations, and apply learnings from the 2020 temporary traffic management plan in Stanley Park, and that the temporary changes in 2021 be observed as a case study as part of the Stanley Park Mobility Study and support the Beach Avenue Interim Design; and
- C. FURTHER THAT the Board direct staff to report back with a summary of the data, outcomes, and observations of the 2021 measures.

2. Protecting the Irreplaceable View from the Pinnacle of Vancouver

Commissioner Coupar gave notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board opposes any change to the protected views from Queen Elizabeth Park;
- B. FURTHER THAT the Park Board General Manager be directed to advise the City of Vancouver planning team of this decision by the Vancouver Park Board; and
- C. FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Park Board Chair advise the City of Vancouver and the Mayor and Council of Park Board opposition to any planned or proposed change to the protected views from Queen Elizabeth Park.

3. Low-intensity Turf Maintenance for Increased Financial and Ecological Resilience

Commissioner Demers gave notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to establish incremental targets and develop an implementation plan, including any new equipment required, to defer and/or alter mowing regimes on appropriate turf surfaces maintained by Park Board staff, with consideration to park typologies and usage intensity;
- B. THAT the current temporary changes in mowing practices (COVID-19-related pilot) be tracked and documented as to quantify and qualify their effect on biodiversity, ecological benefits, operational efficiency/diversification, emission comparability, and financial sustainability; and
- C. FURTHER that staff to report back to the Board with their findings.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Irwin wished the Jewish Community a happy Purim on February 25, 2020.

Commissioner Irwin recognized Pink Shirt Day and condemned the increase in anti-Asian attacks since the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ENQUIRIES

1. A Board member enquired about the status of the CRAB Park advisory committee.
2. A Board member asked whether staff had considered applying to Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada for Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP) funding to support the establishment of the proposed Indigenous Cultural Centre in CRAB Park.

3. A Board member asked if the Portland Loo pilot project for CRAB Park could be deferred until the advisory committee meets, and possible funding is sought for other infrastructure.
4. A Board member enquired about the current admission limits to the Bloedel Conservatory for members of the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA); whether the number of available spots per hour could be increased, and if this could be safely accommodated by increasing the overall number of patrons admitted, rather than by reducing the number of public admissions allowed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 10:31 pm.

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Donnie Rosa
General Manager

Commissioner Camil Dumont
Chair