



BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 29, 2021

A Board Committee meeting was held on Monday, November 29, 2021, at 6:42 pm, via videoconference and 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: Donnie Rosa, General Manager
Cheryl Chan, Manager, Executive Office and Board Relations
Carol Lee, Meeting Clerk
Jessica Kulchyski, Board Support and 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. Board Committee Meeting – November 15, 2021

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

THAT the Board Committee minutes of the November 15, 2021 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board Committee was advised that from November 22, 2021 to 3:00 pm on November 29, 2021, two emails in support of the staff recommendation on Low Intensity Turf Maintenance were received via the PBCommissioners@vancouver.ca account.

All emails sent to the above-noted email account and through the Park Board website are distributed automatically to Commissioners.

STAFF REPORTS

1. REPORT BACK: Low Intensity Turf Maintenance

Amit Gandha, Director of Park Operations, Park Board, and Krista Voth, Environmental Stewardship Coordinator, Park Board, led the review of a presentation on low intensity turf maintenance and highlighted:

- Background
- 2021 pilot site selection
- Meadow pilot findings:
 - Cooler moister soils during the summer months
 - Climate action benefits
 - Improved tree health
 - Increase in soil microbes
 - Flower and pollinator abundance
 - Increased biodiversity
 - Opportunities for citizen science and research partnerships
- Public feedback on the pilot program
- Meadow enhancements
- Operational considerations:
 - Diversifying turf maintenance practices
 - Development of best management practices and design guidelines
 - Fire prevention and risk mitigation
- Financial considerations.

A. Gandha and K. Voth, along with Chad Townsend, Senior Environment and Sustainability Planner, Park Board, responded to questions from the Board Committee. There was discussion on:

- Whether the size of the meadow at Queen Elizabeth Park will be reduced in response to negative public feedback
- The perceived concern about increased fire risk
- Communications strategy to inform the public of the benefits of meadows
- Mowing regimes are site specific
- Opportunities to identify sites where an annual mow is not required
- Request for the survey findings on the 2021 pilot project
- The rationale for the recommended target of a total of 42 hectares of naturally managed lands by 2030:
 - The number of hectares will be increased if opportunities arise.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 7:31 pm and reconvened at 7:42 pm.

The Board Committee heard from one speaker who expressed support for the staff recommendation. The speaker responded to questions from the Board Committee.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to continue the transition of 37 hectares of piloted low-use turf on park managed lands to natural management, and expand to a total of 42 hectares by 2030 (7% of total park managed turf).

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

THAT the motion be amended to read:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to continue the transition of 37 hectares of piloted low-use turf on park managed lands to natural management; and
- B. FURTHER THAT staff report back in Q1 of 2022 on the full extent of low-use turf on park managed lands that may be considered for transition to natural management.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the motion be amended by adding Item C:

- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to work with City of Vancouver Engineering Services to establish a plan to transition all suitable medians, road, etc. to natural management and report back in Q1 of 2022.

Amendment to the Amendment

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT Item C be amended to read:

- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to work with City of Vancouver Engineering Services to establish a plan to transition all suitable medians, road, etc. to natural management and report back.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

Question on the Amendment, as Amended

THAT the motion be amended by adding Item C:

- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to work with City of Vancouver Engineering Services to establish a plan to transition all suitable medians, road, etc. to natural management and report back.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to continue the transition of 37 hectares of piloted low-use turf on park managed lands to natural management;
- B. FURTHER THAT staff report back in Q1 of 2022 on the full extent of low-use turf on park managed lands that may be considered for transition to natural management; and
- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to work with City of Vancouver Engineering Services to establish a plan to transition all suitable medians, road, etc. to natural management and report back.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

The Board Committee adjourned at 8:41 pm.

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Donnie Rosa
General Manager

Commissioner Gwen Giesbrecht
Chair