



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

JULY 20, 2022

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 6:33 pm, via videoconference and at the Park Board Office.

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

**ABSENT** Commissioner John Coupar (with leave)

**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. 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 Barker  
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

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 paragraphs:

- (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;
- (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the City or Park Board;
- (j) information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 [disclosure harmful to business interests of a third party] of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*; and

- (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. Special Board Meeting – June 27, 2022**

MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht  
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT the Park Board minutes of the June 27, 2022 Special Board meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **2. Regular Board Meeting – July 4, 2022**

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin  
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT the Park Board minutes of the July 4, 2022 Regular Board 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 July 4, 2022 Board meeting:

- Commissioners Barker and Coupar attended the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk with the Dragon fundraising event hosted by S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
- Commissioner Mackinnon served as the Master of Ceremonies at the Clean Building Tax Credit announcement hosted by the Province of British Columbia at the Kitsilano Ice Rink, which was recently retrofitted
- Commissioner Irwin spoke at the Vancouver Heritage Foundation's Places That Matter plaque project celebrating the lesser-known people, places and events that have helped shape Vancouver's history
- Commissioner Giesbrecht spoke at the Lotus Light Community Day Caring Day hosted by Lotus Light Charity Society.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The Board was advised that from July 18 2022 to 3:00 pm on July 18, 2022, the following emails were received via the [PBCommissioners@vancouver.ca](mailto:PBCommissioners@vancouver.ca) account and the [Contact Park Board Commissioners](#) webform:

- Five in support of the Member’s Motion titled “Vancouver Park Board’s Approach to Climate Change”
- One in support of the Member’s Motion titled “Creating a Sonic Park”.

## BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

### 1. Report of the Board Committee – July 18 and 19, 2022

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

1. REPORT: Park Board Code of Conduct Policy
2. REPORT: Jericho Pump Station Replacement Project in Jericho Beach Park
3. REPORT: Dunbar Pump Station Replacement Project in Musqueam Park
4. REPORT: Indigenous Community-Led Cultural Events – Corporate Sponsorship Fund Request
5. REPORT: Stanley Park Mobility Study – Initial Findings and Directions.

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont  
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Board Committee at its meeting of July 18 and 19, 2022, as contained in items 1 through 5.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## STAFF REPORTS

### 1. Colonial Audit - Update

Spencer Lindsay, Reconciliation Planner, Park Board, led the review of a presentation providing an update on the colonial audit and highlighted:

- Timeline of the colonial audit and progress since the November 2021 update to the Board
- Nahanee Creative Inc. has been engaged as the design consultant for the report and will also develop the communications strategy
- Dr. Selena Couture has been retained as the subject matter expert and will be sharing her research and providing advice on the structure and tone of the document
- Updated directions:
  - Focus on Stanley Park as “ground zero” of colonial impact
  - Gathering stories, not case studies

- Reduced focus on a “data driven” process
- Reflections and learnings from the process to date:
  - Some subtle resistance and trepidation encountered at times
  - Lack of capacity to support the colonial audit
  - Roadblocks, inefficiencies, inherited decisions and inequities in the system
- Effects on staff:
  - Expectation that the Colonial Audit will solve other departments’ stagnancy in addressing reconciliation
  - Mental, emotional and spiritual impact experienced by the Reconciliation Team while conducting the colonial audit
- Next steps.

S. Lindsay responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on:

- Suggestion to utilize post-secondary students to undertake the data analysis
- Whether consideration has been given to the way the stories will be told
- The decolonization action plan will be developed after the colonial audit is completed
- Suggestion that an update on the colonial audit and decolonization as part of the orientation of newly elected Commissioners
- The need for people of all ages to engage in reconciliation.

### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 7:33 pm and reconvened at 7:39 pm.

## **2. General Manager’s Report**

Members of the Park Board Leadership Team presented the General Manager’s Report and highlighted:

- The Decolonization, Arts and Culture team’s announcement that the video series “Doing it for Love: Five Stories from Creative Communities in a Global Pandemic” is now publicly available on the [Park Board YouTube channel](#)
- Creation of a pop-up indoor skateboard park on the dry floor in the Vancouver Curling Club at the Hillcrest Community Centre:
  - Drop-in skateboarding sessions will be offered from July 2 to August 12, 2022
  - Skateboard lessons for neurodivergent children and youth will be provided by the Spectrum Skateboard Society
- Construction of the new Champlain Heights Playground is expected to commence in August 2022, with an expected completion date of March 2023, subject to lead times of materials and equipment
- The Park Board will be participating in the Pride Parade on July 31, 2022 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

- Upcoming Council business related to or impacting parks and recreation:
  - Council will reconvene on July 22, 2022 to continue debate and discussion on the Vancouver Plan from July 6, 2022
  - Report on the 2030 Winter Games Bid Update
  - Skeena Terrace Policy Statement was brought to Council for decision on July 19, 2022
  - Report on the first phase of the City’s Accessibility Strategy for approval
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from July 5 to 18, 2022.

## **MEMBERS’ MOTIONS**

### **1. Park Board Staff to Maintain all Public Parks Under Park Board Jurisdiction**

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

#### **Main Motion**

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin

SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

#### WHEREAS:

1. At its July 9, 2018 meeting, the Vancouver Park Board approved a vision-plan for the Westbank Oakridge development, which includes 9 acres, some of which is `airspace` park located over a privately-owned mall;
2. The new park will be maintained by workers contracted by the mall owners;
3. Very experienced, capable Park Board staff may have their work contracted out; and
4. The Park Board gardeners and staff already maintain ‘green roofs’ (Coal Harbour, Harbour Green Park).

#### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board have fully qualified Park Board staff maintain and carry-out all work for any future, or proposed ‘airspace’ parks, similar to, but not including the new ‘airspace’ park at Oakridge Centre Mall with the Westbank development, or in all parks that are in any way different from traditional, surface parks;
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board write management of the Oakridge development to request that Park Board staff be contracted to carry-out work in the new park at Oakridge Centre; and
- C. THAT only Park Board staff maintain and tend Vancouver Park Board public parks, and lands under Park Board jurisdiction.

### **Amendment to the Main Motion**

MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht  
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT the motion be amended as follows:

- A. THAT Vancouver Park Board staff are consulted in the creation of any future, or proposed 'airspace' parks or in all parks that are in any way different from traditional, surface parks;
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board write management of the Oakridge development to request that Park Board staff, where feasible, be contracted to carry-out horticultural services in the new park at Oakridge Centre;
- C. THAT Park Board staff maintain and tend Vancouver Park Board public parks, and lands under Park Board jurisdiction; and
- D. FURTHER THAT where contracting out is required, it is in consultation with any affected union group through the City of Vancouver Contracted Services Committee.

Commissioner Irwin challenged the Chair's ruling that the amendment to Item A is in order on the basis that the amendment significantly changes the intent of Item A of the Main Motion.

### **Challenge of the Chair**

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the ruling of the Chair be sustained.

CARRIED

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

### **Amendment to the Amendment**

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont  
SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

THAT the motion be amended by deleting Item D.

CARRIED

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

### **Question on the Amendment, as Amended**

THAT the motion be amended as follows:

- A. THAT Vancouver Park Board staff are consulted in the creation of any future, or proposed 'airspace' parks or in all parks that are in any way different from traditional, surface parks;

- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board write management of the Oakridge development to request that Park Board staff, where feasible, be contracted to carry-out horticultural services in the new park at Oakridge Centre; and
- C. THAT Park Board staff maintain and tend Vancouver Park Board public parks, and lands under Park Board jurisdiction.

Commissioner Irwin requested that the amendment be separated into distinct propositions

**Question on Item A**

THAT the motion be amended as follows:

- A. THAT Vancouver Park Board staff are consulted in the creation of any future, or proposed 'airspace' parks or in all parks that are in any way different from traditional, surface parks.

CARRIED

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

*Opposed: Barker, Irwin*

**Question on Item B**

THAT the motion be amended as follows:

- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board write management of the Oakridge development to request that Park Board staff, where feasible, be contracted to carry-out horticultural services in the new park at Oakridge Centre.

CARRIED

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

*Opposed: Barker*

**Question on Item C**

THAT the motion be amended as follows:

- C. THAT Park Board staff maintain and tend Vancouver Park Board public parks, and lands under Park Board jurisdiction.

CARRIED

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

*Opposed: Barker*

**Question on the Main Motion, as Amended**

THAT the motion be amended as follows:

- A. THAT Vancouver Park Board staff are consulted in the creation of any future, or proposed 'airspace' parks or in all parks that are in any way different from traditional, surface parks;

- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board write management of the Oakridge development to request that Park Board staff, where feasible, be contracted to carry-out horticultural services in the new park at Oakridge Centre; and
- C. THAT Park Board staff maintain and tend Vancouver Park Board public parks, and lands under Park Board jurisdiction.

CARRIED

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

*Opposed: Barker*

## **2. Creating a Sonic Park**

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At this point in the proceedings, Commissioner Mackinnon stepped down as Chair in order to introduce a motion and to participate in the discussion. Commissioner Giesbrecht, as Vice-Chair, assumed the chair.

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

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon

SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

WHEREAS:

1. One of the greatest Canadian composers, R. Murray Schafer (1933 – 2021) invented the concept of Acoustic Ecology in the City of Vancouver in the 1970s, defining it as “the study of the Soundscape – the sounds in our everyday environment – in relationship to life and society” in the 1970s;
2. The concept of Soundwalks – a walk focused on listening to that environment – was first invented by members of the World Soundscape Project under the leadership of R. Murray Schafer in Vancouver in the 1970s; that work has led to a worldwide Soundscape and Soundwalk movement; and
3. Vancouver composer Hildegard Westerkamp is internationally recognized as one of the foremost creators of Soundscapes and Soundwalks in the world.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board investigate the creation of a sonic park to commemorate that unique legacy featuring an interactive sonic environment utilizing natural sounds to create a sonic oasis in the busy and noisy city of Vancouver.

CARRIED

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

*Opposed: Barker*



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At 8:30 pm Commissioner Mackinnon reassumed the Chair.

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### **3. Vancouver Park Board's Approach to Climate Change**

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

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont  
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

WHEREAS:

1. Significant policy work has been done on a global scale by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), but much of this work will need to be implemented on more local scales;
2. In January 2019, the City of Vancouver became one of the first cities in the world to declare a Climate Emergency. This declaration was in direct response to the landmark IPCC report released in the fall of 2018 calling for urgent action to limit global warming to 1.5°C;
3. The City of Vancouver passed a Climate Emergency Action Plan in 2020, and in November 2021, approved recommendations presented in the Big Move 6 (BM6) – Natural Climate Solutions report that focussed on carbon sequestration targets. Many of the projects referenced in the BM6 report, such as urban forest expansion, Lost Lagoon rehabilitation, and the expansion of naturally managed areas, will be led by Park Board staff. Other relevant Big Moves include Transportation and Buildings, but an action plan specific to the necessary changes to Park Board service delivery has not yet been developed;
4. The Park Board manages extensive municipal lands, facilities, and tree canopy within Vancouver. It is also responsible for significant capital and operational budgeting and spending. Connection to Nature and Equity are two key themes of VanPlay (2020), and the Board is well-placed for institutional leadership in the climate realm, with potential replicability for other jurisdictions; and
5. As evidenced by sea level rise and coastal park damage experienced by recent extreme weather events, such as the king tide and winter storms that occurred this past winter, parks and recreation specific climate adaptation will be key to future planning. The endorsed Capital Plan (2023-2026) identifies and allocates 15.5M to address coastal adaptation planning and implementation, among other initiatives in response to climate change.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to conduct an audit, informed by the most recent climate science, of existing parks and recreation capital projects and operational systems with the aim to adapt them through the lens of GHG reduction and climate change mitigation; and that staff prioritize this work by redirecting

existing resources and/or by seeking funding for additional resources through the next budget process;

- B. THAT the Park Board direct staff to prioritize, accelerate and consider expansion of any projects currently on record that aim to advance climate change mitigation and adaptation actions for the organization, reassess projects that do not, and report back to the Board with recommendations;
- C. THAT staff include a “Climate Considerations” section in all Park Board reports to ensure that the climate emergency lens is applied to all future projects and initiatives; and
- D. THAT Park Board staff develop a climate change mitigation and adaptation dashboard that can track the progress of the adaptation of parks and recreation capital projects and operational systems, and that this information be reported to the Board annually.

CARRIED

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

*Opposed: Barker*

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioners offered condolences to those whose lives were touched by Elder Kat Norris and Chrissy Brett.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 8:53 pm.

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Donnie Rosa  
General Manager

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Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon  
Chair