

Improving and Expanding Disc Golf at Vancouver Parks

Excerpted from Minutes April 22, 2024

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MOVED by Commissioner Christensen SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

WHEREAS

- 1. In accordance with the Vancouver Charter, the Park Board has exclusive jurisdiction and control over park land use in the City of Vancouver, including any events, activities, programs, fees, structures, and improvements that occur within designated parks;
- 2. Disc golf is a free-to-play, low barrier-to-entry sport that is accessible to a wide range of ages and abilities, and can be played year-round;
- 3. Disc golf is a popular and growing sport; according to <u>2021 estimates by Udisc</u>, the largest disc golf scoring app, there is an estimated 85,000 rounds of disc golf played in Vancouver per year;
- 4. Vancouver currently has 3 disc golf courses located at Jericho Lands, Quilchena Park, and Queen Elizabeth Park, which were designed and are managed in collaboration with local disc golf organizations;
- 5. The Jericho Lands course, a local favourite accounting of 25% of rounds played, will be removed with the <u>upcoming development of the Jericho Lands</u>, adding additional traffic to the already busy remaining courses; and
- 6. Tournament and pop-up events in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland have been popular and successful; local events fill within 10 minutes of opening registration and the <u>2023 BC Open</u>, a 3-day tournament hosted in Langley, had 577 players, with divisions from all genders and ages.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Board direct staff to report back in Q3 2024 on the scope, budget, and schedule required to develop a plan for the expansion of disc golf in Vancouver;
- B. THAT the report back shall provide the opportunity to incorporate this work into the 2025 Service Plan;

FURTHER THAT such a plan for the expansion of disc golf in Vancouver would include, at minimum:

- i. Analysis of industry best practices from across North America;
- ii. Inventory of the current Vancouver Park Board disc golf courses including, but not limited to, site conditions (drainage, grade, tree cover), conflict with other park uses, and proximity to transit/active transportation routes;



- iii. Engagement with the local disc golf community to identify usage trends, needs and wants in the community;
- iv. Suggest compatible park amenities that can be co-located with disc golf courses;
- v. Recommend improvements to existing courses that would improve playability and user experience;
- vi. Recommend and prioritize potential locations for new and/or expanded disc golf courses within existing Vancouver parks,
- vii. Include estimated capital and operating funding required for any recommendations;
- viii. Advisability of appointing a Park Board Commissioner liaison to VanCity Disc Golf; and,
- ix. Identify opportunities for disc golf events/activations, such as pop-ups and tournaments, at Park Board facilities, such as golf or pitch-and-putt courses, that aligns with the Board approved "Think Big" strategy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

(Commissioners Haer and Howard absent for the vote)