



MOTION (New Business)

Hastings Park Governance: Elected Park Board Representation on the PNE Board of Directors

MOVER: Commissioner Shum

SECONDER: Commissioner Crawford

WHEREAS:

1. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and its Commissioners are committed to the protection, stewardship and expansion of parks, gardens, and green spaces in the City of Vancouver, for the benefit of all citizens;
2. Vancouver City Council will be receiving a staff report entitled "Hastings Park/Pacific National Exhibition Governance Review and By-Law Update" at Council's Jun 10, 2015, Standing Committee on City Finance and Services. The report asks City Council to approve updated By-laws for the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) that will serve to eliminate elected Park Board representation from the PNE Board of Directors and preclude elected Park Board oversight of Hastings Park;
3. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation passed a unanimous motion at the Board's Monday, May 27, 2013 meeting calling for Hastings Park to be governed directly by the Park Board, as outlined in the Hastings Park Governance review, considering it to be the best option for achieving transparency and accountability in decision-making and increasing public access to the park's green spaces and recreational uses.
4. Hastings Park is historically the Park Board's second park, dating back to 1889 (just two years after Stanley Park was established), and was originally intended to be a premier destination park in the northeast corner of the city. Over many decades, the Park Board has been dedicated to re-establishing Hastings Park as a park site by adding green space including the Sanctuary, the Italian Garden, Plateau Park, and improving greenway connections throughout the site;
5. The lack of elected Park Board oversight for one of our city's largest parks represents a huge step backward and raises concerns about possible changes in direction at Hastings Park that could shift away from re-establishing Hastings Park as a premier destination park in the city;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct the Chair, on behalf of the Board, to write to Mayor Gregor Robertson and Vancouver City Council expressing the Park Board's deepest opposition to the elimination of an elected Park Board official from the composition of the PNE Board of Directors.

- B. THAT the Commissioners of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation recommit to the view, previously articulated unanimously by Park Board Commissioners at the Board's May 27, 2013 meeting, that Park Board governance of Hastings Park is the best option for achieving transparency and accountability in decision-making and increasing public access to the park's green spaces and recreational uses, and that this view be conveyed in writing to Mayor Robertson and Council.