



Marker of Change - the Women's Monument in Thornton Park
Excerpted from Minutes 2015-09-14

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MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Kirby-Yung

WHEREAS:

1. On December 6, 1989, fourteen women were murdered at L'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, Canada, by a man deliberately targeting women on campus. This event was one of the worst massacres in Canadian history. Canada-wide efforts were made from that day forward to change society's pattern of naming murderers rather than victims. The Women's Monument Project committee was formed, and collaborated with Capilano College and the Vancouver Park Board; and
2. The goal of the Women's Monument Project was to create a monument/public artwork that would permanently name the fourteen women, and be dedicated to all women murdered; and
3. *Marker of Change* in Thornton Park now exists to remember and honor women and girls who have been murdered, and to provide a permanent public space for activism against violence against women. It is a site for events, including public gatherings of all kinds and memorials throughout the year. Each year, special events and individual acts of remembrance take place on December 6th, Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women; and
4. Thornton Park was free of wildfowl until 2013, when a flock of Canadian geese that used to live beside the train station were displaced by the construction taking place in the area. As Thornton Park has no natural water source, the geese gather around the memorial to drink rain water that collects in the "pools of tears" on each granite bench of the *Marker of Change*. The resulting mess from goose feces on the benches and surrounding site makes the monument inhospitable to anyone wanting to visit or sit on the benches;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to find an effective, permanent solution that is appropriate for the maintenance of *Marker of Change*, the Women's Monument in Thornton Park, as well as for the welfare of the geese who gather in the park; and
- B. FURTHER THAT staff report back before December 6, 2015, with a long-term plan that incorporates the current best research and available resources to effectively and permanently address this problem.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY