



MOTION ON NOTICE

Serving our Seniors

MOVER: Commissioner Kirby-Yung

WHEREAS:

1. The Vancouver Park Board has a mandate to provide recreational services that are inclusive and welcoming to all;
2. Seniors are a growing demographic in the city of Vancouver;
3. By 2041, Vancouver's population aged 65-74 is expected to increase by 79% and the population age 75 plus by 105%;
4. The Park Board has been taking steps towards expanding services to seniors including the build of a new Killarney Seniors Centre; however, of the 23 community centres in the city only two have a seniors centre;
5. The Park Board hosted a Community Dialogue engagement session in October 2015, on how best to support seniors with recreation facilities, programs, and services;
6. There is an upswing in seniors using pool and fitness facilities; demand is evident for specialized classes such as range of motion, adapted, or gentle exercise;
7. The Vancouver Park Board previously adopted a Youth Strategy which has resulted in several positive outcomes including: community-based youth workers who provide additional support and resources to youth aged 8 to 18 years while dealing with the broad range of developmental issues facing today's young people; inclusion of local youth input in program activities development in consultation with staff and youth volunteers in order to develop the capacity of youth by engaging them in active community participation; initiation of a City Wide Youth Council (CWYC); and a Vancouver Youth Week that is intended to build a stronger connection between young people and their communities;
8. There is a need for the Vancouver Park Board to adapt facility design, services and programs in concert with the changing demography of Vancouver.



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to develop a comprehensive strategy that addresses how seniors can be best served and supported by Park Board facilities, services, and programs across the city;
- B. THAT the strategy give broad consideration to different cultural groups;
- C. THAT the Park Board engage broad-based community stakeholders in the development of the strategy, such as seniors' associations, community centres, and the Seniors' Advisory Group;
- D. THAT the Park Board explore partnership opportunities that may be beneficial (such as with Translink given that access and mobility can be key challenges); and
- E. THAT staff present a recommended strategy to the Board by the end September 2016.