



MOTION ON NOTICE

A Vancouver Park Board Youth Ranger Program

MOVER: Commissioner Crawford

WHEREAS:

1. Engaging Vancouver youth and encouraging their civic involvement is an objective supported by and valued by the citizens of Vancouver and by the Vancouver Board of Parks Recreation;
2. The City of Vancouver's youth strategy seeks to ensure that youth have a place in our city, that they have a voice in decision-making, and that they and their contributions are seen as a resource to the city;
3. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation supports the establishment of initiatives, structures, and strategies within the city of Vancouver to promote youth outreach and civic engagement;
4. Vancouver youth are looking for opportunities to learn more about potential careers and to explore opportunities to volunteer and participate in their community;
5. Within the facilities and responsibilities of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, there is a unique range of experiences that could provide our youth civic engagement opportunities - recreation and sport, horticulture, park rangers, park maintenance, planning & development, community centres;
6. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation existing Community Youth Worker program, in partnership with our community centres, plans, organizes and operates many programs for youth across the city that could benefit from additional opportunities to enhance and build upon the programs;
7. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation engages with a variety of community partners who deliver youth programs. These community partners may be interested in assisting with the development and delivery of a Youth Ranger Program;
8. There is an opportunity to build community connections - particularly connections to youth - by creating Park Board programs that are engaging and educational for youth while also allowing them to develop lifelong interpersonal and career skills.



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to investigate the creation of a Park Board Youth Ranger Program with the aim of allowing youth to participate in a variety of Park Board learning modules to encourage environmental responsibility, sustainability, civic leadership, and community engagement; and
- B. THAT staff be directed to report back to the Board by December 12, 2016, with recommendations on how to proceed with Implementation of a Youth Ranger Program; and
- C. FURTHER THAT the Park Board Youth Ranger Program be implemented as a pilot for the summer season, 2017.