



**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MEETING MINUTES**

**JANUARY 23, 2017**

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Monday, January 23, 2017, at 8:02 pm, at the Park Board Office.

**PRESENT:** Commissioner John Coupar  
Commissioner Casey Crawford  
Commissioner Catherine Evans  
Commissioner Sarah Kirby-Yung  
Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon  
Commissioner Erin Shum, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Michael Wiebe, Chair

**GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE:** Malcolm Bromley, General Manager  
Shauna Wilton, Deputy General Manager  
Cheryl Chan, Executive Office and Board Relations  
Jessica Kulchyski, Recorder  
Carol Lee, Meeting Clerk

**IN CAMERA**

**1. February 6, 2017 Meeting**

MOVED by Commissioner Evans  
SECONDED by Commissioner Shum

THAT the Board will go into a meeting on February 6, 2017, which is closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*, to discuss matters related to paragraph(s):

- (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the City or Park Board;
- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of an activity, work or facility that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Board, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the City and Park Board if they were held in public.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **1. December 6, 2016 Special Budget Meeting, December 12, 2016 Regular Board Meeting and January 12, 2017 Special Board Meeting**

The Board deferred consideration of the minutes of the January 12, 2017 Special Board meeting to the February 6, 2017 meeting.

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar  
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

THAT the Park Board minutes of the December 6, 2016 Special Budget meeting and December 12, 2016 Regular meeting be adopted, with the correction of a typographical error in the December 6, 2016 Special Budget meeting minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board was advised of the correspondence received as of 3:00 pm, January 23, 2017, that was in relation to Commissioner Kirby-Yung's notice of motion titled "Cetaceans at Vancouver Aquarium":

- 3 emails opposed to the motion;
- 117 emails in support of the motion;
- 4,521 signatures on an online petition titled "No New Dolphins - No New Whales at the Vancouver Aquarium";
- 447 emails urging the Park Board to end all dolphin and whale captivity at the Vancouver Aquarium;
- A DVD and package of reference materials on the topic of cetaceans in captivity.

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **1. Report of the Park Board Committee - January 23, 2017**

The Board considered the report containing recommendations and actions taken by the Park Board Committee. Its items of business included:

1. UPDATE: Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action - Strategy Update
2. REPORT BACK: 2016 Special Event Report Back.

MOVED by Commissioner Kirby-Yung  
SECONDED by Commissioner Crawford

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Park Board Committee at its meeting of January 23, 2017, as contained in items 1 and 2.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, Park Board, reported that an administrative report would be provided at the January 24, 2017 Council meeting regarding the Vancouver Community Sport Hosting Grants 2016/2017 Winter Intake.

Mr. Bromley advised that on a monthly basis the General Manager's Report will include a more fulsome report to provide an update on key activities, projects and initiatives.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **1. CCA Joint Operating Agreement Amendments**

Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, Park Board, reviewed the purpose of the report.

Shauna Wilton, Deputy General Manager, Park Board, led the review of the proposed amendments to the draft Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) submitted to the Board on December 12, 2016. The amendments have been made in response to feedback received from Community Centre Associations (CCAs).

Ms. Wilton, along with Mr. Bromley, responded to questions from the Board. Mr. Bromley advised that the February 8, 2017 Special Board Meeting will be held at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue to accommodate the anticipated attendance.

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon  
SECONDED by Commissioner Kirby-Yung

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board receive the proposed amendments, as outlined in this report, for the final draft Joint Operating Agreement between Park Board and Community Centre Associations that was received by the Board on December 12, 2016; and
- B. FURTHER THAT the Special Board Meeting for Commissioners to hear feedback from the public and Community Centre Associations be rescheduled to February 8, 2017 and then reconvened on February 16, 2017 for Commissioners to discuss and vote on staff recommendations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

### **1. Cetaceans at the Vancouver Aquarium**

The Chair acknowledged the many speaking requests received on the topic and reminded those present that Regular Board meeting items are not available for speaker registration, however the Board has the option to refer the motion to a future Committee meeting in order to allow speakers to address Commissioners on this issue.

Commissioner Kirby-Yung introduced the motion and commented that the spirit of the motion is to allow all Vancouver residents to express their opinion on the issue of the captivity of cetaceans at the Vancouver Aquarium. Commissioner Kirby-Yung responded to questions from the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Kirby-Yung  
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

WHEREAS:

1. The Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre has operated in Stanley Park since 1956 through a lease agreement with the Vancouver Park Board;
2. The Vancouver Aquarium is a popular visitor facility in Stanley Park for residents and visitors alike, receiving more than 1.1 million visitors annually;
3. The Vancouver Aquarium has played a significant role in fostering understanding and appreciation for marine life and our oceans, as well as in research and conservation initiatives such as the OceanWise Sustainable Seafood Program, marine mammal rehabilitation, BC Cetaceans Sighting Network, Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup, stellar sea lion research, and more;
4. The Vancouver Aquarium was the first in the world to capture and display an orca. Other whales and dolphins on display have included belugas, narwhals and dolphins;
5. In 1996, the Vancouver Park Board instituted a municipal bylaw that prevents the Vancouver Aquarium from capturing cetaceans from the wild for display purposes, and only allows it to obtain cetaceans from other facilities if they were born in captivity, captured before 1996, or were rescued and deemed un-releasable after this date;
6. In 2001, the Aquarium ceased having orca or killer whales after the death of Finna, and a subsequent inability to find companionship for the remaining orca Bjossa;
7. In August 2014, the Vancouver Park Board announced that it intended to enact a by-law to ban breeding of cetaceans at the Vancouver Aquarium, and tasked staff with drafting an amendment to the existing by-law regulating cetaceans at the Aquarium. However in late 2014, a majority of Park Board commissioners voted against enacting an amendment to the by-law; and
8. A bill to end the captivity of cetaceans such as whales and dolphins in Canada was tabled in July 2015 in the Senate. Bill S-203 just passed its second reading in November; and
9. In November 2016, the remaining two belugas at Vancouver Aquarium passed away: Aurora died November 25, nine days after her calf Qila.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board:

- A. Support inclusion of an assent question on the 2018 Municipal Election ballot to determine if Vancouver residents support keeping cetaceans at the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre;
- B. Request the City of Vancouver to add such an assent (plebiscite) question to the 2018 Municipal Election ballot per section 130 of the Vancouver Charter; and
- C. Write to the Vancouver Aquarium asking it consider not bringing cetaceans into the facility until after the results of the 2018 plebiscite are received.

Commissioner Evans commented on a proposal to refer the motion to staff for a report on the feasibility of conducting a plebiscite, a review of options to including a plebiscite question on the 2018 Municipal Election ballot, and to allow the Park Board to hear from speakers on the issue. Commissioner Evans responded to questions from the Board.

In response to a question, Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, Park Board, advised that a staff report could be provided to the Board in about a month.

Motion to Refer

MOVED by Commissioner Evans  
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

THAT the motion be referred to staff.

CARRIED  
(Commissioners Coupar, Crawford and Kirby-Yung opposed)

### Recess

The meeting recessed at 9:01 pm and reconvened at 9:08 pm.

## 2. Permits and Special Events

Commissioner Evans introduced the motion and commented on the opportunity to improve the process for community event organizers when trying to use local parks for their events. Commissioner Evans responded to questions from the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Evans  
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

WHEREAS:

1. Vancouver parks host many hundreds of outdoor events on an annual basis, most of which are small and community-driven;

2. Park Board Commissioners have heard from individuals and groups that the process of obtaining a permit to hold an event in a park can be confusing and even frustrating, particularly for those seeking a permit for the first time;
3. City Council is undertaking a review of its Special Events Policy for the purpose of “reforming the permit process to make it easier for local groups to put on events in public places”; and
4. City Council’s review will include consultation with the Park Board and as such provides an opportunity for the Park Board to examine its own permitting processes to see what measures it can take to change the way permits are administered and to develop an approach and a policy that supports and facilitates the efforts of community members seeking to host community events.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to review its permitting process in consultation with the public, community groups, stakeholders, and partners and report back to Commissioners by July 2017 on actions to address community concerns and facilitate low-barrier processes for community-driven special events organizers.

Amendment to the Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon  
SECONDED by Commissioner Wiebe

THAT the Motion be amended to:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to review its permitting process in consultation with the public, community groups, stakeholders, and partners and report back to Commissioners on actions to address community concerns and facilitate low-barrier processes for community-driven special events organizers.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to review its permitting process in consultation with the public, community groups, stakeholders, and partners and report back to Commissioners on actions to address community concerns and facilitate low-barrier processes for community-driven special events organizers.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## NOTICE OF MOTIONS

### 1. Safety Resources at Community Centres

Commissioner Kirby-Yung gave notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation install safe sharps disposal containers effective immediately at all community centres under its jurisdiction.

### 2. Implementation of a Community Centre Association for Creekside Community Recreation Centre to Serve the Residents

Commissioner Shum gave notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Park Board Commissioners direct staff to put in place a process within six months, to promote, advertise and encourage members of the community to be involved in forming a Community Centre Association for Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation Community Centre, Creekside Community Centre.

### 3. Warming Centres at Park Board Facilities

Commissioner Evans gave notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation affirm that the General Manager or designate has the discretion to direct that one or more facilities under the jurisdiction of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation be made available for use as overnight emergency warming centres should the need arise; and
- B. THAT a policy and protocol related to the use of Park Board facilities as emergency overnight warming centres, be prepared by staff and made available to Community Centre Associations in advance of the 2017/18 winter season.

## ENQUIRIES

1. A Board member enquired regarding the status of the flag installation at Queen Elizabeth Park, noting that National Flag of Canada Day is February 15, 2017. Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, Park Board, advised that the installation was on schedule and he would consult with staff and report back on plans for the event.
2. A Board member requested that a status report be provided at a future meeting on the delay to the rebuild of the Burrard Civic Marina. Mr. Bromley undertook to investigate and report back.
3. A Board member enquired regarding the status of access to the Stanley Park seawall at Siwash Rock. Howard Normann, Director of Park Operations, Park Board, advised that the area was closed for safety reasons and was reopened at 2:00 pm on

January 23, 2017. Margo Harper, Communications Manager advised that the reopening of the seawall has been posted on social media.

4. A Board Member enquired regarding the anticipated timing of a report back on recommendations for warming centres. Donnie Rosa, Director of Recreation, Park Board, advised that a debriefing with staff is in progress and that a report will follow.
5. A Board Member expressed concern regarding the unfortunate tone being set by references to BC Hydro's requirement for a decision on the possibility of locating substations under downtown parks by March 31, 2017 in order to secure the capital funding. Mr. Bromley advised that the accelerated time frame is related to BC Hydro's fiscal year-end requirements. BC Hydro has indicated that they will need to expedite the development of alternatives if the proposal made to the Park Board is not viable. Mr. Bromley undertook to obtain the specifics of the fiscal requirements from BC Hydro and to provide the information to Commissioners.
6. A Board Member sought an update on the development of the Arbutus Greenway and the opportunity for input from community groups. Mr. Bromley advised that the Arbutus Greenway project is being led by the City and will request that Dave Hutch, Manager of Research and Planning, Park Board, provide an update.
7. A Board Member requested that the patch of grass to which the crosswalk leading to the seawall, near the Stanley Park information booth, be replaced with material that is more suitable to pedestrian traffic in the winter months. Mr. Bromley undertook to request that Mr. Normann assess the situation.
8. A Board Member enquired regarding whether the increased rail traffic in the vicinity of the Prior Street Diversion impacts the Park Board and the status of the Prior Street Diversion project. Mr. Bromley will investigate and provide a status report to the Board.
9. A Board Member enquired regarding the status of the consultation on the Dog Strategy. Ms. Harper reported that the consultation is progress and that a briefing would be provided to the Board upon the completion of the consultation.
10. A Board Member enquired about an article in the Courier newspaper regarding the development of a 15,000 square foot community centre and private recreation facility within the Arbutus Centre retail space. Mr. Bromley advised that he does not have any information on the proposal and undertook to follow up.
11. A Board Member enquired regarding the protocol for flying flags at half-mast at Park Board facilities. Mr. Bromley reported that Park Board practices are consistent with City protocol.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



The Board adjourned at 9:45 pm.

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Malcolm Bromley  
General Manager

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Commissioner Michael Wiebe  
Chair