



Recognition of Grace McCarthy
Excerpted from Minutes 2017-06-19

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MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Shum

WHEREAS:

1. Grace McCarthy was a former Park Board Commissioner, a BC cabinet minister, a trail-blazer for women and children and an extraordinary champion of her beloved home province;
2. Grace McCarthy was elected to the Vancouver Park Board in 1960 after building a successful business as a florist. Among her notable achievements was the beginning of the Stanley Park Christmas train tradition. In 1964, she arranged the lighting of the train area with BC Hydro for 16 days during the holiday season;
3. Grace McCarthy served on Park Board for six years, and became the first female Vice Chair in 1966, serving with the first female Park Board Chair, Margaret Jack. That same year she ran was elected as a Provincial MLA and named to the cabinet where she served the people of BC for decades, both in and out of government. During that time, she successfully persuaded the federal government to introduce a law that allowed unmarried women to apply for mortgages without a male guarantor;
4. Grace McCarthy as a Park Commissioner was also at the forefront of the campaign to build the Bloedel Conservatory. As a former florist she had a great appreciation for horticulture and worked tirelessly to ensure the Conservatory was built as a project of the Canadian Centennial. Later as an MLA McCarthy worked to ensure the provincial government delivered on a \$1M dollar pledge to VanDusen Gardens;
5. From the Stanley Park Christmas train, Bloedel Conservatory, VanDusen Botanical Garden to Expo '86, Skytrain and the lights on the Lion's Gate Bridge, the legacies of Grace McCarthy are everywhere; and
6. In retirement, Grace McCarthy started the [CH.I.L.D Foundation](#), which has raised millions in research funds for children suffering from Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and liver disorders.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Park Board direct staff to work with Grace McCarthy's family to develop an outdoor space that recognizes and tells the story of Grace's tremendous contribution to the Park Board, our City and Province of British Columbia.

CARRIED
(Commissioner Mackinnon absent for the vote)