



## Park Board General Manager's Report February 19, 2018

### PARK OPERATIONS

#### **Tree Cutting - 2099 Beach Avenue**

Due to safety concerns, Operations staff have reduced the height of the large sequoia tree located in front of the Park Board Administration building. Arborists have determined that the top of the tree has split apart and, given its location, is dangerous and must be reduced in height. Work commenced on February 15, 2018, with approximately two-thirds of the tree being removed. Given the timing of the anticipated return of the heron colony and sensitivity to that population, the least disruptive process possible was used. Staff also communicated the information with the Ministry of Environment and the Stanley Park Ecological Society. Staff also received positive feedback from neighbours on the great work of our arborist crew.

#### **Bloedel Conservatory Contingency Plan**

Since a power outage in January 2018, staff have been working with Real Estate and Facilities Management (REFM) to ensure a backup power plan is in place in the event of any future prolonged power outage. A backup generator is now in place at Bloedel Conservatory and has been painted to blend into the tropical surroundings.

#### **Vancouver Beach Maintenance**

Park Operations had reduced beach maintenance from November through March unless issues arose due to severe weather conditions. Operations staff have been closely monitoring the impact this reduction was having on the beaches. Ongoing monitoring found sand was filling up behind some logs causing them to become "hidden" just below the surface of the sand. Concerns were raised about the impact to the equipment and the operator in the event the screener hit a buried log. After careful review and in consideration of the health and safety of our staff and the public, the Operations team decided to restore the beach maintenance program starting Tuesday February 13.

### RECREATION

#### **Artists in Communities (AIC)**

The Arts, Culture and Engagement (ACE) Team launched 4 new Artist in Residence - Super Bloomers, Beat a Path, wayfinding/wandering, and Birds in Residence - projects at Renfrew, West Point Grey, Sunset, and West End/Coal Harbour community centres through the AIC Program. This program, Founded in 2004, sees artists collaborate with the community as creators, performers, and active audiences. This year's creative work will range from joining a choir of birds and art-making with natural materials to exploring local geography in unexpected ways as well as jumping into '60 second' art projects. These art projects leave lasting physical or social legacies in the community, as participants learn new skills and develop collaborative creative processes while making art together. More info on artists and projects can be found on the [project page](#).

#### **Vancouver Bird Strategy - Local Birds Through an Indigenous Lens**

Arts, Culture and Engagement (ACE), the Reconciliation Team and Environmental Planning are working together to host an artist-in-residence project at the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre that brings a local Indigenous cultural lens to exploring birds of the Northwest Coast. The call for three artists, one each from Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh



Nations, will proceed in February with the guidance and support of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Cultural Sub-committee. This project coincides with the 27<sup>th</sup> International Ornithological Congress (August 19-26, 2018) and the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual International Bird Festival which will bring bird scholars and enthusiasts from around the world to Vancouver, for bird-focused events, discussions and activities. The project seeks to enlarge this event with essential local cultural and creative context while sharing knowledge and fostering new understandings, connecting Indigenous knowledge and creative practice to ecological, social and other cultural explorations of birds.

### **Positive Ticket Initiative**

Park Board Community Youth Workers, VPD School Liaison Officers and Youth Services Officers will be handing out Positive Tickets to young people at community centres and schools as a reward for affirmative behaviours. Each ticket is redeemable for four free drop-in visits to Park Board pools, rinks, and participating fitness centres. The goal is to empower young people, build positive relationships, create positive change in behavior, recognize their contributions to the community, and welcome youth at Park Board facilities as valued participants.

### **RISE (Responsible Indigenous Strategy for Empowerment)**

RISE is a partnership between ALIVE (Aboriginal Life In Vancouver Enhancement Society), Community Centre Associations and the Park Board. Staff are currently in the process of hiring five Indigenous Youth as Park Board Program Assistant II RISE Leaders. They will be working out of Strathcona, Ray-Cam, Britannia, Hastings and Mount Pleasant Community Centres. RISE Leaders will be working closely with the Park Board Community Youth Workers to implement 360 degree programming and to support Indigenous community members and excluded groups to become connected to their neighbourhoods.

### **Olympic Spirit Event - February 21, 4 - 7 p.m., Hillcrest Curling Club**

With the Olympic Games as a backdrop, this social and networking event for our sport and recreation leaders is in recognition of all they do to contribute to Vancouver's and Canada's sporting success.

### **VanPlay Deep Dive Sessions for Sport, Health and Education Organizations and Partners**

The Sport and Wellness team in City-Wide Services is hosting two Deep Dive sessions, encouraging leaders from the sport, recreation, health and education sectors to provide meaningful input to the VanPlay process.

February 26: 12:00 - 3:00 pm at the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre

February 27: 6:00 - 9:00 pm at the Town Hall Room, City Hall

### **Leisure Access Services**

The Leisure Access Program provides low income residents of Vancouver with subsidized access to basic recreation programs and services including free public swim and skate sessions. Increased community outreach has resulted in Leisure Access Program growth. Staff seek to further increase Leisure Access Program subscribers as only 13% of low income residents who qualify have applied.

Total passes issued in 2017: 17,034

Total subsidies granted in 2017: \$ 2,230,928.00

**COUNCIL BUSINESS**

**2018 Q1 Capital Budget Adjustments and 2017 Q4 Closeouts**

On February 20, 2018, Council will be receiving a report on the 2018 Q1 Capital Budget Adjustments and 2017 Q4 Closeouts. It requests Council approval of an increase of \$3.9 million to the 2015-2018 Capital Plan and \$8.1 million to Multi-Year Capital Project Budgets, and a net increase of \$9.5 million to the 2018 Annual Capital Expenditure Budget for a revised capital expenditure budget of \$435.9 million. It also requests Council approval for the closeout of a project with a completion variance exceeding 15% and \$50,000 of the approved budget. A total of 31 projects/programs were completed in Q4 2017, with an overall net surplus of \$1.2 million.

**False Creek Water Quality Improvement Initiative: Update and Recommended Next Steps**

On February 21, 2018, the Standing Committee on City Finance & Services will receive a report that responds to Council resolutions pertaining to marine water quality improvements and provide Council with an update on the suite of key initiatives underway to improve water quality in False Creek. One key area is improving sewage management by boaters. The report recommends that the City extend its mobile pump-out service for the 2018 boating season and make regulatory amendments to require all marinas to have pump-out facilities, and to introduce ticketing provisions to provide additional bylaw enforcement options.

**Board Briefing Memos - January 30 to February 19, 2018**

Date:	Issued By:	Topic
Jan 25	Donnie Rosa - Director, Recreation	<a href="#">Ice Rinks - WorkSafe BC Orders Update</a>
Jan 31	Shauna Wilton - Deputy General Manager	<a href="#">Review of REFM Services to Park Board - Project Update</a>
Feb 5	Tiina Mack - Manager, Park Development	<a href="#">Progress Update - New Park at Smithe and Richards Street</a>
Feb 9	Malcolm Bromley - General Manager	<a href="#">Harbour Green Dock - Update</a>
Feb 14	Tiina Mack - Manager, Park Development	<a href="#">Downtown Skateboard Park - Interim Relocation Engagement Process</a>
Feb 16	Dave Hutch - Manager of Research and Planning	<a href="#">On Water: Non-Motorized Watercraft Strategy Update</a>
Feb 19	Shauna Wilton - Deputy General Manager	<a href="#">Spanish Banks Peak Season Pay Parking - Implementation Plan</a>