



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 3, 2018

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Monday, December 3, 2018, at 6:40 pm, at the Park Board Office.

PRESENT: Commissioner Tricia Barker
Commissioner John Coupar
Commissioner Dave Demers, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Camil Dumont
Commissioner Gwen Giesbrecht
Commissioner John Irwin
Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon, Chair

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. The meeting is being held on the land respectfully and with honour to each other, the land and the communities that the Commissioners serve. The Chair invited Commissioners to join him in committing to actions of reconciliation in their deliberations and decisions.

IN CAMERA

1. In Camera Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT the Board will go into meetings prior to the next Regular Board Meeting, which are closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*, to discuss matters related to paragraphs:

- (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the city or another position appointed by the city;
- (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. Regular Board Meeting – November 19, 2018

MOVED by Commissioner Barker
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the Park Board minutes of the November 19, 2018 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Mackinnon highlighted the participation of Park Board Commissioners at events in the community that occurred in November 2018:

- Nov 28: Launch of Bright Nights Christmas Train in Stanley Park
- Nov 30: Media launch of VanDusen Festival of Lights at VanDusen Botanical Garden.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board was advised that five emails in support of the Motion on Notice titled "Horticulture Standards in Vancouver Parks" were received by the General Manager's Office. The emails have been forwarded to Commissioners and copies have been included in the meeting materials.

COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Park Board Committee – December 3, 2018

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

1. REPORT: Vancouver Mural Festival Celebration Concert – Special Event.

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Park Board Committee at its meeting of December 3, 2018, as contained in item 1.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, Park Board, reported on:

- Council business:
 - On December 5, 2018, Council will receive a report on the 2018 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Update, which includes the Core Action Area “Healthy and vigorous natural assets”
 - The City’s Draft 2019 Budget and Five-Year Financial Plan has been made public and will be considered at a special Council meeting on December 11, 2018 with the vote on the final budget scheduled for December 18, 2018 Council meeting
- Briefing notes and emails issued from November 19 to December 3, 2018.

REPORT REFERENCES

1. Community Centre Association (CCA) Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) Update

Donnie Rosa, Director of Recreation Services, Park Board, introduced Kate Perkins, Chair, Association Presidents Group (APG).

Mses. Rosa and Perkins jointly led the review of a presentation providing an update on the implementation of the JOA and highlighted:

- Roles and responsibilities of the Park Board and individual CCAs
- Principles of the new JOA
- Seventeen CCAs have signed the new JOA
- Mandate of the APG
- Joint APG and Park Board system-wide planning meetings held on June 29, 2018 and October 25, 2018
- Engagement with CCAs as key community partners
- Implementation items completed and underway
- Next steps.

Mses. Rosa and Perkins responded to questions from the Board.

2. Leisure Program Access Update

Donnie Rosa, Director of Recreation Services, Park Board, introduced Jessica Land, Recreation Manager, Community Engagement, Park Board.

Ms. Land led the review of a presentation providing an overview of the Leisure Access Program (LAP) and highlighted:

- Objective of the program to reduce financial barriers to basic Park Board programs and services
- Evolution of the LAP
- Number of LAP participants from 2014 to 2018 and 2018 participant numbers distribution by neighbourhood
- Next steps:
 - Increase term of LAP from one to two years
 - Explore an increase in the subsidy for fitness centre drop-in admission to 100% with CCA partners
- Future initiatives:
 - Explore free universal swimming lessons for a single grade city-wide
 - Free access to ice rinks, skates, helmets and possibly instruction during non-prime time hours.

Ms. Land, along with Ms. Rosa and Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, Park Board, responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on: need for free or subsidized transportation to ensure children are able to access the universal swimming lessons; importance of teaching children to swim in a city that is located adjacent to the ocean; and need to seek funding from the City for the universal swimming lessons.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 7:42 pm and reconvened at 7:47 pm.

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

1. Horticulture Standards in Vancouver Parks

Commissioner Coupar introduced the motion, commenting on the need to request additional funding from the City to increase the care and maintenance of parks and gardens and to maintain the cleanliness and safety of parks. Commissioner Coupar responded to questions from the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

WHEREAS:

1. The mission of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is to provide, preserve, and advocate for parks and recreation services to benefit all people, communities, and the environment;

2. The Park Board is established under the Vancouver Charter and has possession, jurisdiction and control of all areas designated as permanent public parks of the City;
3. In recent years, the Park Board and its budget have experienced significant challenges related to declining operational maintenance standards of our major horticultural assets including VanDusen Botanical Gardens, Bloedel Conservatory, Queen Elizabeth Park, Stanley Park, Sunset Nursery, and Tree Farm, additionally it is clear that parks and gardens city wide do not have the level of care necessary to provide excellent park experiences for residents and visitors;
4. This decline in standards has been noted and communicated by the public, and Park Board Commissioners and staff have received numerous expressions of concern from residents and visitors who frequent Vancouver parks;
5. The existing Park Board budget for journeyman gardeners and park maintenance is inadequate to address the significant challenges related to care and maintenance and is a result of the continuing operational budget shortfall;
6. It is public knowledge that the Park Board has only 30 journeyman gardeners for 230 parks city wide;
7. Further when you remove the number that are involved with VanDusen, Bloedel Conservatory and Stanley Park, the number of gardeners across the city is clearly inadequate and additional resources need to be found;
8. It is widely recognized that parks and gardens are a significant economic generator to Vancouver's tourism industry; and
9. Vancouver has a long history of horticultural excellence and our staff team does amazing work with often limited resources; it is time to address and begin to rebuild our capacity to deliver excellent experiences for all in our Vancouver Parks.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation formally requests Vancouver City Council to authorize additional funding for the Park Board – on a priority basis for the 2019 Operating Budget – to enable increased care and maintenance in our cherished parks and gardens at all Vancouver parks impacted by the significant challenges of 10 years of declining standards, as well as additional funding to maintain the cleanliness and safety of impacted Vancouver parks on an ongoing basis;
- B. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation directs Park Board staff to expeditiously draft a revised budget, for submission to Vancouver City Council and the City of Vancouver, outlining the Operating Budget funding necessary to enable increased care and maintenance in our cherished parks and gardens at all Vancouver parks, as well as the funding necessary to maintain the cleanliness and safety in time for the 2019 season; and

- C. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation directs staff to report back with a review of horticultural staff levels with comparable parks systems, botanical gardens, and horticultural attractions, with metrics to compare and allow staff to provide recommendations to the Board and to create a needs analysis so the Board can be aware of the actual needed funds to maintain our parks and gardens to verifiable acceptable standards, further that this report be received prior to consideration of the 2020 Operating Budget.

Primary Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

That Item C be amended to:

- C. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation directs staff to report back on the scope, suggested timeline, and estimated cost of a potential comparative study of staffing requirements for Vancouver's park system and its horticultural assets with a selection of model cities; assets considered should include all grades of horticultural displays, from rewilded areas, meadows, and marshes to seasonal bedding, botanical and show gardens.

Secondary Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

That Item C be amended and Item D be added:

- C. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation directs staff to report back by June 1, 2019 on the scope, suggested timeline, and estimated cost of a potential comparative study of staffing requirements for Vancouver's park system and its horticultural assets with a selection of model cities; assets considered should include all grades of horticultural displays, from rewilded areas, meadows, and marshes to seasonal bedding, botanical and show gardens; and
- D. THAT once the report comes back to the Board, the Board is able to consider this report so that the required funds would be in place for the 2020 budget.

The amendment was separated into distinct propositions.

Question on Item C of the Secondary Amendment

That Item C be amended to:

- C. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation directs staff to report back by June 1, 2019 on the scope, suggested timeline, and estimated cost of a potential comparative study of staffing requirements for Vancouver's park system and its horticultural assets with a selection of model cities; assets considered should include all grades of horticultural displays, from rewilded areas, meadows, and marshes to seasonal bedding, botanical and show gardens.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on Item D of the Secondary Amendment

That Item D be added:

- D. THAT once the report comes back to the Board, the Board is able to consider this report so that the required funds would be in place for the 2020 budget.

DEFEATED

(Commissioners Barker, Coupar and Irwin in favour; Commissioners Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht and Mackinnon opposed)

Question on the Primary Amendment, as Amended

- C. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation directs staff to report back by June 1, 2019 on the scope, suggested timeline, and estimated cost of a potential comparative study of staffing requirements for Vancouver's park system and its horticultural assets with a selection of model cities; assets considered should include all grades of horticultural displays, from rewilded areas, meadows, and marshes to seasonal bedding, botanical and show gardens.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

The motion was separated into distinct propositions.

Question on Item A of the Main Motion, as Amended

THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation formally requests Vancouver City Council to authorize additional funding for the Park Board – on a priority basis for the 2019 Operating Budget – to enable increased care and maintenance in our cherished parks and gardens at all Vancouver parks impacted by the significant challenges of 10 years of declining standards, as well as additional funding to maintain the cleanliness and safety of impacted Vancouver parks on an ongoing basis.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on Item B of the Main Motion, as Amended

THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation directs Park Board staff to expeditiously draft a revised budget, for submission to Vancouver City Council and the City of Vancouver, outlining the Operating Budget funding necessary to enable increased care and maintenance in our cherished parks and gardens at all Vancouver parks, as well as the funding necessary to maintain the cleanliness and safety in time for the 2019 season.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on item C of the Main Motion, as Amended

THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation directs staff to report back by June 1, 2019 on the scope, suggested timeline, and estimated cost of a potential comparative study of staffing requirements for Vancouver's park system and its horticultural assets with a selection of model cities; assets considered should include all grades of horticultural displays, from rewilded areas, meadows, and marshes to seasonal bedding, botanical and show gardens.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

1. Alcohol Consumption at Vancouver Parks and Beaches

Commissioner Demers gave notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation directs staff to conduct a feasibility study for a pilot project that would allow the public to consume their own alcoholic beverages on select parks and beaches;
- B. FURTHER THAT a preliminary long list of potential sites for the pilot be included in the consultation with current park and beach users; and
- C. THAT staff report back to the Board by the end of 2019 with the study findings, including consultation results and any potential legal, logistical, societal, and financial considerations.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 8:31 pm.

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