



Renewal Strategy for Landscape Equipment - Towards an Emission-Free Reality

Excerpted from Minutes 2019-01-28

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MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

Amendment (revising C) MOVED by Commissioner Demers
Amendment (revising A) MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht
Amendment (revising A) MOVED by Commissioner Dumont
Amendment (revising C) MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
Amendment (adding D) MOVED by Commissioner Demers

Final motion as amended:

WHEREAS:

1. The excessive use of fossil fuel threatens our planet and puts the City of Vancouver and its shoreline at great risk;
2. The maintenance of our green spaces relies heavily on the use of gas-powered equipment;
3. Gas-powered equipment, and in particular two-stroke engines*, produce carcinogenic exhaust and greenhouse gases, exposure to which is a health concern for Park Board workers and the population in general;
4. Two-stroke engines* account for the vast majority of fine particulate pollution** in landscape maintenance activities;
5. Gas-powered engines cause noise levels that often surpass the maximum allowed in certain residential areas;
6. The handling and transportation of gas and oil required by conventional equipment is hazardous to Park Board workers and the environment;
7. The greater purchasing price for battery-powered equipment can be recouped with savings in the gas, oil, and general maintenance required by conventional gas-powered equipment;
8. Battery-powered equipment is easier to use, creates less vibration, less noise, no emission of any kind, and is often lighter than its conventional counterpart;
9. Technology for battery-powered equipment is continuing to improve rapidly and is expected to soon match the output of conventional equipment.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff, working with unions and WorkSafe BC, to develop a transition plan to replace and retrofit gas-powered landscape



maintenance equipment with emission-free equivalents or quasi-equivalents where possible;

- B. THAT the transition plan include financial considerations, including purchase, usage, maintenance and end-of-life replacement costs, as well as ways to quantify/qualify non-financial benefits such as: carbon emission reduction; disposal of refuse oil and other parts; satisfaction/productivity of staff; and satisfaction of citizens; and
- C. THAT staff build upon the August 2018 Greenest City Scholars study on reducing the Park Board's emissions and report back to the Board with their findings and recommendations with a timeline outlining when the transition could occur; and
- D. THAT staff postpone non-essential purchases of significant landscape equipment until the report is presented to the Board.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY