



Oppenheimer Park Warming Shelter & Support Services

Excerpted from Minutes 2019-03-11

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MOVER: Commissioner Irwin
SECONDER: Commissioner Giesbrecht

*Revisions to A-D for clarification introduced by Commissioner Irwin (accepted by Board)
Amendment to A MOVED by Commissioner Dumont*

Final motion as amended:

WHEREAS:

1. There are currently 80-100 people camping in Oppenheimer Park in below freezing temperatures;
2. Most are living with makeshift shelters, with insufficient bedding, lack of proper nutrition and no formal source of heat;
3. The elderly and vulnerable are more susceptible to illnesses exacerbated by cold and may be already living with chronic illnesses;
4. There are reports of pneumonia in the park already;
5. Campers cannot safely leave their belongs to go to shelters, emergency response shelters, warming centres, or to the hospital for fear of having their belongings thrown away;
6. Shelters are too often full or not able to meet the needs of campers with partners, pets, or belongings;
7. Campers have had belongings destroyed or taken by City staff;
8. Park washrooms are only open until 5pm;
9. It is costly to pay City Engineering staff and Park Rangers to take down tents and clean-up garbage; and
10. While most people agree that tent cities are not a good way to live, when there is no housing or shelter available people can be safer in a tent city than being alone on the street.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT Park Board staff work with City staff to temporarily implement a warming station in Oppenheimer Park, or other city-owned land within close proximity, with large heated tents;
- B. THAT Park Board staff work with city staff to provide washroom facilities for park patrons including 24 hour access when the temporary warming station is activated;



- C. THAT Park Board staff explore options so that campers may securely keep their possessions onsite; and
- D. THAT Park Board staff continue to communicate with City staff about other possible solutions to help solve and humanize homelessness.

CARRIED

(Commissioners Coupar & Barker opposed to A)