



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 11, 2019

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Monday, March 11, 2019, at 7:21 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chair acknowledged the passing of May Brown, who served in many roles in the community, including Park Board Chair and two terms as Commissioner. The Chair offered condolences to Ms. Brown's family on behalf of the Park Board.

IN CAMERA

1. In Camera Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the Board will go into meetings next month/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:

- (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; and

- (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 – February 25, 2019

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT the Park Board minutes of the February 25, 2019 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board was advised of a memorandum from the General Manager providing background information for the Motion on Notice titled "Oppenheimer Park Support". A letter of support has also been received for the Motion on Notice titled "Oppenheimer Park Support". Both items have been forwarded to Commissioners and copies are included in the Commissioners' meeting materials.

COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Park Board Committee – March 11, 2019

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

- 1. REPORT: Women Deliver 2019 Conference

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Park Board Committee at its meeting of March 11, 2019, as contained in item 1.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS

1. PRESENTATION: Environmental Stewardship Update – Flourishing Parks and Communities

Doug Shearer, Acting Manager, Planning, Policy and Environment, Park Board, introduced Krista Voth, Environmental Stewardship Coordinator, Park Board.

Ms. Voth led the review of a presentation providing an overview of environmental stewardship in parks and highlighted:

- Policy background:
 - Rewilding Action Plan
 - Biodiversity Strategy
 - Urban Forestry Strategy
- Park stewardship projects
- Stewardship partnerships
- Park stewardship roles
- Supports provided for stewardship
- 2018 stewardship project highlights
- 2019 priorities
- Upcoming events.

Ms. Voth, along with Dave Hutch, Acting Director of Planning and Park Development, Park Board, responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on: the scope of work of stewardship groups with respect to the management of invasive plants; importance of the education provided on interacting with coyotes; possibility of assembling the data gathered by citizen scientists; use of certification to evaluate Park Board projects against other program standards; and development of resources to assist teachers to teach about nature.

2. REPORT REFERENCE: BC Hydro Rights-of-Way Request for Nelson Park

Tiina Mack, Manager, Park Development, Park Board, introduced Alex Man-Bourdon, Landscape Architect and Arborist, Park Board.

Ms. Mack led the review of a presentation on the BC Hydro request for rights-of-way in Nelson Park and highlighted:

- BC Hydro's current operation of three substations in downtown Vancouver
- BC Hydro's SEED proposal, including the current proposal for Nelson Park and the construction of a Yaletown substation beneath Emery Barnes Park, was withdrawn in 2017
- Expected population growth in the West End neighbourhood
- West End park service levels
- Overview of Nelson Park
- On June 25, 2018, Vancouver School Board (VSB) approved moving forward with a deal to sell a sub-surface parcel beneath the Lord Roberts Annex site in the West End for development of an underground substation
- Timeline and details of the BC Hydro and VSB plan

- BC Hydro request for rights-of-way for distribution and transmission cables through Nelson Park and construction of a driveway entrance into the shared underground space off Bute Street:
 - Potential above and below ground impacts of the request
- Park Board timeline and scope of work to develop a recommended response to BC Hydro's request:
 - Two phase Impact and Mitigation Study will include public engagement.

Ms. Mack, along with Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, Park Board, responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on: the need to ensure there is no net loss of green space; engagement of consultants to build on the Stantec report and provide independent advice; the Park Board's philosophical response to BC Hydro's request prior should have a higher priority than financial considerations; need to consider the impact of the sub-surface substation and proposed neighbouring residential towers on the park and trees; and suggestion to inform Commissioners and the public of examples of cables currently running beneath parks.

3. General Manager's Office Report

Shauna Wilton, Deputy General Manager, Park Board, reported on:

- Substantial completion of the Burrard Marina upgrades is expected by April 1, 2019
- Playground renewal, replacement of tennis courts and construction of pathways, more green space and new rain water feature in Cedar Cottage Park is expected to commence in Q3 2019
- Animation and improvement of the public courtyard adjacent to the Dr. Sun-Yat Sen Garden and park
- Return of the Pacific Great Blue Herons to their colony next to the Park Board office:
 - HeronCam will be launched in the coming week, in partnership with the Stanley Park Ecology Society
- Completion of construction and occupancy of the Stanley Park Brewery is expected in May 2019
- Council business:
 - On March 12, 2019, Council will be receiving a report recommending approval of eight new Community Sport Hosting Grants totalling \$29.033
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from February 25 to March 11, 2019.

In response to a question from the Board, Ms. Wilton undertook to obtain information regarding the timeline for conversion of the gas boilers at the Bloedel Conservatory to electric heat pumps.

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

1. Assessment of Pest Control Policies

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At this point in the proceedings, Commissioner Mackinnon stepped down as Chair in order to introduce a motion and to participate in the discussion. Commissioner Demers, as Vice-Chair, assumed the chair.

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Commissioner Mackinnon introduced the motion and noted the impact of inhumane pest control methods. Commissioner Mackinnon responded to questions from the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

WHEREAS:

1. Each year millions of animals suffer from inhumane pest control methods;
2. Rodenticides cause secondary poisoning of non-target animals that prey on rodents and travel up the food chain;
3. Alternative methods are available for humane control of wildlife; and
4. Wildlife and rodent management is a necessary role of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board request staff to review pest control management strategies for wildlife and rodents at Vancouver Parks and Recreation facilities, including how and where rodenticide/lethal control/relocation are used, and the cost of existing contracts; and
- B. FURTHER THAT staff assess the viability of including BC SPCA AnimalKind wildlife and rodent control standards into pest control contract language.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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At 9:02 pm Commissioner Mackinnon resumed the Chair.

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2. Oppenheimer Park Support (Assist the People Camping in Oppenheimer Park)

Commissioner Irwin advised that amendments have been made to clarify the wording of the Notice of Motion that was provided at the February 25, 2019 Board meeting. Commissioner Irwin introduced the motion and noted the need to provide support to the homeless during extremely cold weather. Commissioner Irwin responded to questions from the Board.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

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 or 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 5 pm;
9. It is costly to pay city engineering and 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 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 the campers may securely keep their possessions on site; and
- D. THAT Park Board staff continue to communicate with City staff about other possible solutions to help solve and humanize homelessness.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT Item A be amended to:

- 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.

Motion to Refer

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT the motion be referred to staff for a report back and clarification on the responsibilities of the City and Park Board.

DEFEATED

In favour: Barker and Coupar

Opposed: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin and Mackinnon

Question on the Amendment to the Main Motion

THAT Item A be amended to:

- 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.

CARRIED

In favour: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin and Mackinnon

Opposed: Barker and Coupar

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

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 the campers may securely keep their possessions on site; and
- D. THAT Park Board staff continue to communicate with City staff about other possible solutions to help solve and humanize homelessness.

Commissioner Coupar requested the motion be separated into distinct propositions.

Question on Item A

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED 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.

CARRIED

In favour: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin and Mackinnon

Opposed: Barker and Coupar

Question on Item B

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED 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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on Item C

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Park Board staff explore options so that the campers may securely keep their possessions on site.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on Item D

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Park Board staff continue to communicate with City staff about other possible solutions to help solve and humanize homelessness.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

1. Accessibility Improvements to the Memorial South Park Cenotaph

Commissioner Barker gave notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board directs staff to consult with members of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada to upgrade the Memorial South Park Cenotaph to be fully accessible for our aging and injured veterans before the Remembrance Day Ceremonies on November 11, 2020.

2. Request that the Port of Vancouver Extend the Area of the Crab Park Lease

Commissioner Irwin gave notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board immediately write a letter to the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority requesting that the current leased area for the park be extended by adding the four acre parking area directly to the west of the park to the leased area of Crab Park;
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board also request that the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority dedicate offsetting funds from the project to be directed to improving Crab Park, by funding greenspace enhancements and construction of an arts and cultural centre; and
- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board request offsetting funds for funding a new accessible pedestrian overpass from Columbia Street to Crab Park.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 9:44 pm.

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Malcolm Bromley
General Manager

Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon
Chair