



MOTION ON NOTICE

Submitted at the Regular Board meeting held on 2019-03-11

Accessibility Improvements to the Memorial South Park Cenotaph

MOVER: Commissioner Barker

WHEREAS:

1. Memorial South Park was designed by Municipal Engineer E. Dundas Todd as a memorial for soldiers who perished in World War I. Vancouver's first cenotaph was relocated in the park on November 11, 1939;
2. The park and cenotaph is the location of one of Vancouver's main Remembrance Day ceremonies;
3. Our aging and injured veterans are finding it very difficult to participate in this ceremony because the area leading up to and surrounding the cenotaph has not been upgraded to allow for wheelchair and walker accessibility. There is no curb cut and the paved area is so narrow that placing a wreath means having to step onto the often wet and uneven grass. This has become a tripping hazard for many. There is also a need to extend the pavement for ease of exiting the area which would benefit the length of the ceremony and how long our elderly veterans are left to stand outdoors; and
4. A Remembrance Day Ceremony should be about honouring our cherished and respected veterans. Some simple improvements to the area such as wheelchair accessible curbs and wider paved areas would greatly benefit the community that has sacrificed so much for our peace and freedom.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct 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.