



Expanding Downtown Eastside Greenspace and Waterfront Access

Excerpted from Minutes 2019-05-13

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

WHEREAS:

1. In 2015, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority announced the Centerm Expansion Project, which involves a series of improvements at the Centerm container terminal, including extending the terminal to the west;
2. On May 24, 2017, the Vancouver Park Board sent a letter to the Port Authority outlining four potential enhancements to improve CRAB Park to offset impacts from the Centerm Expansion Project, which included:
 - i) expanding CRAB Park onto Port Authority lands to the west of the existing park to mitigate lost North Shore views, support equitable access to greenspace, enhance shoreline habitat, & expand city-wide focus of increasing waterfront access;
 - ii) improving park facilities, such as paths, recreation features, seating areas, plantings, beach areas & shoreline facilities;
 - iii) improving access and transportation to better connect the park to the surrounding neighbourhood; and
 - iv) enhancing marine habitat areas;
3. On April 18, 2018, a project permit was approved for the Centerm Expansion Project;
4. On June 20, 2018, City Council approved recommendations for staff to continue to work with community, health sector, foundation and government partners to plan for the development and operation of an Indigenous Healing and Wellness Centre in the Downtown Eastside;
5. Waterfront spaces are critically important both culturally and ecologically to the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and every opportunity should be sought to partner with them on the potential of such spaces;
6. Based on the Park Board park provision targets, the Downtown Eastside is park deficient and would benefit from the addition of greenspace;
7. Community members have expressed an interest for an arts and cultural centre in CRAB Park;
8. The Park Board's Biodiversity Strategy identifies shoreline habitat as a key priority; and
9. The Port Authority has stated its commitment to being a good neighbour to local communities, municipalities and First Nations, and to demonstrating this commitment through its investments in those communities.



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board request the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority to identify further opportunities to make investments in the local community with a particular focus on parks, recreation, and Reconciliation, and to engage with the City, Park Board, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and Urban Indigenous communities on future planning processes and opportunities for the Central Waterfront area, including CRAB Park, that would support:
- i. vulnerable populations in the Downtown Eastside through equitable access to expanded, high quality greenspace;
 - ii. improving community access to existing parks and greenspace;
 - iii. exploring the feasibility of a new healing centre or cultural centre;
 - iv. creating and enhancing significant shoreline habitat; and
 - v. the city-wide focus of expanding waterfront park access;
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board copy Vancouver City Council, the federal Minister of Transportation, the local Member of Parliament, and the local Member of the Legislative Assembly on this request to the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority.

REFERRED

Note: This item was referred to the May 27, 2019 Committee Meeting to hear from speakers