



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

JULY 22, 2019

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Monday, July 22, 2019, at 8:33 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

ABSENT: Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon, Chair (Leave of Absence)

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 Vice-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 Vice-Chair invited Commissioners to join him in committing to actions of reconciliation in their deliberations and decisions.

IN CAMERA

1. In Camera Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Coupar

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:

- (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the city or another position appointed by the city;
- (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;

- (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 – July 8, 2019

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT the Park Board minutes of the July 8, 2019 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board was advised that from July 8, 2019 to 3:00 pm on July 22, 2019, the General Manager's office received seven emails in support of the Motion on Notice titled "Accelerating Sewer Separation and Overflow Mitigation to Improve Water Quality".

All the emails have been sent directly to Commissioners.

COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Park Board Committee – July 22, 2019

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

1. REPORT: Bloedel Conservatory 50th Anniversary Celebration – Program and Funding
2. REPORT: Westward Street Party – Special Event

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Park Board Committee at its meeting of July 22, 2019, as contained in items 1 and 2.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS

1. General Manager's Office Report

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

- Improvements to the building are near completion and the Stanley Park Brewing Restaurant will be opened to the public on July 29, 2019
- Park Board participation in the annual Pride Parade to be held on August 4, 2019
- On July 23, 2019, Council will be considering the following items of interest to the Park Board:
 - 2019 Greenest City Action Plan Implementation Update
 - Quarterly Capital Budget Adjustment and Closeouts
 - Outdoor Lighting Strategy
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from July 8 to 22, 2019.

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

1. Urban Forestry and Climate Emergency Action Plan

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

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Commissioner Demers introduced the motion and noted the need for the Park Board to move forward on the actions identified in the studies published by Metro Vancouver and the City. Commissioner Demers responded to questions from the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

WHEREAS:

1. The Park Board is responsible for all trees found on public land in Vancouver;
2. The vision of the Urban Forest Strategy, a priority under the Greenest City Action Plan, is to protect, plant, and manage trees to create a diverse, resilient, and beautiful urban forest, with a target to increase the urban forest canopy cover to 22% by 2050;
3. On February 23, 2016 (updated May 11, 2017), Metro Vancouver published a report titled: [Urban Forest Climate Adaptation Framework for Metro Vancouver – Tree Species Selection, Planting and Management](#) (the framework), in which the Park Board was involved;

4. The conclusion of the framework identified “multiple research questions (...) that would benefit urban forest planners in Metro Vancouver”;
5. On January 17, 2019, the City of Vancouver declares a climate emergency; and
6. In response to the climate emergency declaration, the City of Vancouver approved the [Climate Emergency Response report](#) in April 2019, which included [Six Big Moves](#); move #6 titled “Restored Forests and Coast” falls under Park Board jurisdiction.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to work in collaboration with Metro Vancouver and regional member on the findings of the May 2017 report titled [Urban Forest Climate Adaption Framework for Metro Vancouver](#) and develop a plan to further investigate the following areas:
 - i. climate change forecast/modelling and its expected impact on the urban forest*, with consideration given to work already underway, with Metro Vancouver reports specifically noting that increasing windstorms are one of the expected impacts and protective measures should be further investigated;
 - ii. evaluation of said expected impacts on current public urban forest and establishment of an optimal ‘mitigation toolkit’ with budget implications that should include, but not be limited to, active and passive irrigation measures and implementation of soil volume/quality measures at time of planting and during site preparation;
 - iii. academic exploration of the foreseeable removal and/or addition of tree taxa in our urban forestry strategy, with consideration detailed to the level of species and consideration given to, but not exclusively, geographic provenance and improved selections;
 - iv. feasibility of establishing an in situ and/or ex situ trial for taxa identified in exploration described above; and
 - v. potential introduction of genetic variability (‘assisted migration’) in our natural urban forests to help foster adaptability to changes to come by studying existing trees in growing conditions similar to expected conditions in Vancouver parks, and by collaborating with the Ministry of Forests and Rangelands who have extensive research to build upon; and
- B. FURTHER THAT the plan to further investigate include the participation of, but not exclusively, representatives of academia and botanical institutions, indigenous forestry researchers, arborists and climatologists.

** urban forest includes trees in wild and/or naturalized areas, as well as street and park trees, native or introduced.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Rare and Heritage Trees in Parks

Commissioner Demers introduced the motion and recommended that the Park Board collaborate with the UBC Botanical Garden to preserve rare and heritage trees. Commissioner Demers responded to questions from the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

WHEREAS:

1. The Vancouver Park Board has a long tradition of excellence in horticulture and has full jurisdiction over two botanical institutions: VanDusen Botanical Garden, Bloedel Conservatory in Queen Elizabeth Park and the arboretum in Queen Elizabeth Park;
2. The vision of the Park Board's Urban Forest Strategy is to protect, plant, and manage trees to create a diverse, resilient, and beautiful urban forest, with a target to increase the urban forest canopy cover to 22% by 2050;
3. The Botanical Garden of the University of British Columbia ('UBC-BG') curates a collection of around 30,000 plants, representing 8,000 taxa from temperate regions around the world;
4. UBC-BG is part of Botanic Gardens Conservation International and provides plants and plant material for academic studies and research around the world within the framework and intent of the Convention on Biological Diversity; and
5. UBC-BG is proposing to create a British Columbia Network for Plant Conservation to conserve plant taxa of special value within British Columbia, including provincially-listed native plant species, globally-endangered temperate species held within collections or public landscapes, and cultivated plant material of heritage value.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation initiate a conversation with senior representatives of the UBC Botanical Garden for consideration as a founding participant in a UBC-initiated program for the preservation of rare and heritage living plant collections.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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At 9:05 pm Commissioner Demers resumed the Chair.

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3. Artistic Enhancement to Dedicated Park Benches

Commissioner Barker introduced the motion and recapped the events that led to the need for the Park Board to reconsider what it will allow with respect to the artistic enhancement of dedicated park benches. Commissioner Barker responded to questions from the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Barker
SECONDED by Commissioner Coupar

WHEREAS:

1. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation has an Arts Policy that recognizes the arts as an essential element in a vital, creative, and balanced city – a policy that seeks to actively facilitate participation in and access to the arts for all;
2. The Park Board holds a vision of a city where the arts are an integral part of everyday life, where community cultural development processes strengthen civil society, where parks and community centres reflect the cultural vitality of the community, and where people are able to learn and express creativity in ways that build healthy communities;
3. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, through its Arts Policy, recognizes that the inherent human capacity for creativity not only promotes wellbeing, it also generates innovative thinking and action that contribute to a vibrant public realm and supports the experience of public art and cultural in the city's parks;
4. The Vancouver Park Board Artists in Communities program, as just one example, hosts artist residencies each year in participating community centres to support artists working in neighbourhoods with the goal to build community by making art consistent with the principles of community cultural development;
5. The City of Vancouver encourages people to “go out and explore arts and culture in Vancouver” and promotes the city as one that is alive with creativity and one that values the importance of arts and culture to a city's livability;
6. A diverse range of artistic endeavors and public art forms abound throughout the city, including artistic expressions on public utility boxes, sidewalks, and buses, as well as large large-scale public murals on buildings, such as those featured during the popular Vancouver Mural Festival that reflect the richness of the city's diverse art scene, community-inspired art initiatives such as the 1991 Michael Dennis “Dude Chilling” art piece inspired by the Dude Chilling Park sign, and the “Love in the Rain” love locks sculpture in Queen Elizabeth Park that allows members of the public to share their feelings at a location and in a manner that has become a popular and attractive scenic feature many enjoy;
7. The Park Board has a donation program whereby park benches can be dedicated with a plaque for a fee of \$5,500 to celebrate a special occasion or to honour someone's memory, with the dedication in effect for ten years from the date of installation, including a future opportunity to renew the dedication after ten years at the rate in place at the time of renewal;

8. The Vancouver Park Board currently has 1,173 dedicated memorial park benches, which, on average, are only cleaned once per year;
9. The family of Colin Mackay paid the Park Board \$5,500 to dedicate a bench at Kitsilano Beach Park to his memory following his accidental death in 2015;
10. To mark the 4th anniversary of his passing, his partner, Julia Goudkova, decided to paint the memorial bench to give the weathered wood some attention, spending four days sanding, priming, and painting, only to be told that the Park Board would remove it within days, prompting a plea from Goudkova and the Mackay family for the Park Board to consider changing its policy on artwork;
11. In response to pleas from Goudkova and the Mackay family, the Park Board allowed the painted memorial bench to stay in place until July 2nd so that the family could celebrate Colin Mackay's life at the bench; and
12. In a growing, vital city such as Vancouver, one that is experiencing increased densification, allowances need to be made to accommodate the many different ways in which people choose to express their grief and give life to memories that honour those no longer with us.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to investigate options to accommodate artistic enhancements to dedicated park benches under the Board's park bench dedication program, consistent with the Board's and the City's longstanding commitment to public art in its many, diverse forms, and for staff to report back to the Board by December 2019 with recommendations for expanding public art opportunities and artistic enhancement to Park Board benches; and
- B. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to leave the bench dedicated to Colin Mackay in place on an interim basis, and work with the family on potential solutions, until Park Board Commissioners have had an opportunity to receive and consider the staff report with recommendations referenced in "A".

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT Item A be amended to:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to investigate options to accommodate artistic enhancements that does not include paint or other coatings to be applied to the natural wood of dedicated park benches under the Board's park bench dedication program, consistent with the Board's and the City's longstanding commitment to public art in its many, diverse forms, and for staff to report back to the Board by December 2019 with recommendations for expanding public art opportunities and artistic enhancement to Park Board benches.

CARRIED

In favour: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to investigate options to accommodate artistic enhancements that does not include paint or other coatings to be applied to the natural wood of dedicated park benches under the Board's park bench dedication program, consistent with the Board's and the City's longstanding commitment to public art in its many, diverse forms, and for staff to report back to the Board by December 2019 with recommendations for expanding public art opportunities and artistic enhancement to Park Board benches; and
- B. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to leave the bench dedicated to Colin Mackay in place on an interim basis, and work with the family on potential solutions, until Park Board Commissioners have had an opportunity to receive and consider the staff report with recommendations referenced in "A".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Accelerating Sewer Separation and Overflow Mitigation to Improve Water Quality

Commissioner Coupar introduced the motion and commented on the need to accelerate sewer separation in order to reduce the amount of untreated sewage that is discharged into Vancouver's waterways. Commissioner Coupar responded to questions from the Board.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

WHEREAS:

1. The mission of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is to provide, preserve, and advocate for parks and recreation services to benefit all people, communities, and the environment;
2. As per the Vancouver Charter, the Park Board has exclusive jurisdiction and control over parkland in the City of Vancouver, including any structures, programs and activities, fees, and improvements that occur within parks, including jurisdiction over the city's public swimming beaches and responsibility for safe swimming;
3. Starting in the 1920s, Park Board Commissioners made it a priority to incrementally acquire beachfront property that was earlier snapped-up for hotel and private residential development, and by the mid-1980s the Board had acquired full waterfront access along English Bay from the Burrard Bridge to Stanley Park and all the waterfront from Spanish Banks to Jericho Beach;
4. On June 10, 2019, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation approved a Non-motorized Watercraft Recreation Strategy to encourage more people to explore non-motorized water sports, including canoeing, kite surfing, rowing, dragon boating, outriggering, windsurfing, kayaking, paddle boarding, and small craft sailing, as well as to increase access to the water from the shoreline;
5. On June 29, 2019, Sunset Beach was closed to swimming due to high E.coli levels on the recommendation of Vancouver Coastal Health;
6. The City of Vancouver frequently discharges untreated waste into the city's waterways through combined sewer overflow outlets, including into False Creek which has five overflow outlets, many of which are visible during low tides;
7. According to recent reports, almost 674,000 cubic metres of raw sewage and runoff drained into False Creek at just one of these combined sewer overflow points in 2017;
8. The timeline for completion of the City's combined sewer separation plan, to stop untreated sewage overflows entering the city's waterways, is currently based on the Provincial government's environmental goal to replace all combined sewer systems with separated sewer systems by 2050;
9. The City of Vancouver's Greenest City Action Plan embodies the City's aspirations to be on the leading edge of urban sustainability through a set of measurable and attainable targets that place Vancouver on a path to becoming the greenest city in the world;
10. Metro Vancouver's regional population growth estimates to the year 2050, based on a base population of 2,570,000 in 2016, is anticipated to increase by about 1 million to 3,600,000 by the year 2050, with a corresponding increase in the

population of the City of Vancouver and similarly increased discharges of raw sewage into the city's waterways; and

11. Vancouver's waterfront is a treasured asset and a key part of our city's identity locally and internationally – from the seawall to the city's beautiful beaches.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation call on the City of Vancouver to accelerate its timeline for combined sewer separation and set a goal to substantially improve water quality outcomes related to combined sewer overflows within 10 years – by the year 2029 – in order to address the impacts of untreated sewage overflows entering the city's waterways;
- B. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation encourage the City of Vancouver to write to all relevant levels of government, including municipal, regional, provincial, and federal, urging these government bodies to support an accelerated plan for combined sewer separation, overflow mitigation, and substantially improved water quality outcomes related to combined sewer overflows in the City of Vancouver by 2029 and to seek funding opportunities and partnerships to achieve this objective; and
- C. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation formally request that the City of Vancouver – in the interest of public safety and awareness – publicly identify the locations of all sewer outflows into False Creek and other Vancouver waterways that impact Vancouver parks and beaches, and that the City be requested to post public signage to indicate these outflow locations.

Extension of Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the Park Board extends the meeting beyond 10:00 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Substitution Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation call on the City of Vancouver to prioritize infrastructure improvements including but not limited to combined sewer overflows within the context of the "holistic, coordinated approach to designing and delivering water and sewer infrastructure and services as outlined in the City of Vancouver's "One Water" strategy" in order to make improvements to water quality in Burrard Inlet and False Creek;

- B. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation encourage the City of Vancouver to liaise with all relevant levels of government, including Municipal, Regional, Provincial, and Federal, urging these bodies to support a prioritized plan that will substantially improve water quality in Burrard inlet and False Creek;
- C. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation consider immediately expanding the “Pump Don’t Dump” service to boats in and around Heritage Harbor and other relevant locations;
- D. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation collaborate with the City of Vancouver Engineering Department to accelerate prioritization of the measures outlined in the City of Vancouver’s “One Water” and “Citywide Integrated Rainwater Management Plan’ (IRMP)” with an emphasis on a transition from the traditional “gray infrastructure” to a more sustainable “green infrastructure” model; and
- E. THAT staff report back to the Board of Parks and Recreation regarding any “quick-start” interventions that could help support the current policy of “no beach closures due to contamination” and keep the Board informed of the progress regarding water quality improvements as they proceed.

Amendment to the Substitution Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Barker
SECONDED by Commissioner Coupar

THAT Item A be amended to:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation call on the City of Vancouver to prioritize infrastructure improvements including but not limited to combined sewer overflows within the context of the “holistic, coordinated approach to designing and delivering water and sewer infrastructure and services as outlined in the City of Vancouver’s “One Water” strategy”, within 10 years – by the year 2029 – in order to make improvements to water quality in Burrard Inlet and False Creek.

CARRIED
In favour: Barker, Coupar, Irwin, Giesbrecht
Opposed: Demers, Dumont

Amendment to the Substitution Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

THAT Items A and B be amended to:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation call on the City of Vancouver to prioritize infrastructure improvements including but not limited to combined sewer overflows within the context of the “holistic, coordinated approach to designing and delivering water and sewer infrastructure and services as outlined in the City of Vancouver’s “One Water” strategy”, within 10 years – by

the year 2029 – in order to make improvements to water quality in Burrard Inlet, False Creek, the Fraser River and other waterways; and

- B. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation encourage the City of Vancouver to liaise with all relevant levels of government, including Municipal, Regional, Provincial, and Federal, urging these bodies to support a prioritized plan that will substantially improve water quality in Burrard inlet, False Creek, the Fraser River and other waterways.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment to the Substitution Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT Item F be added:

- F. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation formally request that the City of Vancouver – in the interest of public safety and awareness – publicly identify the locations of all sewer outflows into False Creek and other Vancouver waterways that impact Vancouver parks and beaches, and that the City be requested to post public signage to indicate these outflow locations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on the Substitution Motion, as Amended

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation call on the City of Vancouver to prioritize infrastructure improvements including but not limited to combined sewer overflows within the context of the “holistic, coordinated approach to designing and delivering water and sewer infrastructure and services as outlined in the City of Vancouver’s “One Water” strategy”, within 10 years – by the year 2029 – in order to make improvements to water quality in Burrard Inlet, False Creek, the Fraser River and other waterways; and
- B. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation encourage the City of Vancouver to liaise with all relevant levels of government, including Municipal, Regional, Provincial, and Federal, urging these bodies to support a prioritized plan that will substantially improve water quality in Burrard inlet, False Creek, the Fraser River and other waterways;
- C. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation consider immediately expanding the “Pump Don’t Dump” service to boats in and around Heritage Harbor and other relevant locations;
- D. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation collaborate with the City of Vancouver Engineering Department to accelerate prioritization of the measures outlined in the City of Vancouver’s “One Water” and “Citywide Integrated Rainwater Management Plan’ (IRMP)” with an emphasis on a transition from the

traditional “gray infrastructure” to a more sustainable “green infrastructure” model;

- E. THAT staff report back to the Board of Parks and Recreation regarding any “quick-start” interventions that could help support the current policy of “no beach closures due to contamination” and keep the Board informed of the progress regarding water quality improvements as they proceed; and
- F. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation formally request that the City of Vancouver – in the interest of public safety and awareness – publicly identify the locations of all sewer outflows into False Creek and other Vancouver waterways that impact Vancouver parks and beaches, and that the City be requested to post public signage to indicate these outflow locations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

1. Artificial Turf Assessment and Remediation

Commissioner Irwin provided notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board directs staff to work with a consultant to review the results of the California Environmental Protection Agency study once released, and to measure levels of lead in all of the artificial turf fields that are under the Park Board’s jurisdiction, or maintained by the Park Board, to inform the synthetic playing field advisory group and public process around artificial playing fields, and to mitigate possible public health effects;
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board directs staff to clean and remediate any artificial turf areas where crumb rubber is dispersing into either soils or stormwater systems; and
- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board explores stormwater catchment systems that will prevent existing crumb rubber and microplastics from entering aquatic ecosystems and applies any possible learnings to current artificial turf areas and future installations of artificial turf.

ENQUIRIES

- 1. A Commissioner requested the following information about the benches in the Park Board system:
 - The total number of divided benches (have arm rests between seats);
 - The total number of undivided/long benches; and
 - The replacement protocol i.e. whether there is a standard design used when replacing old benches.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 10:25 pm.

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Malcolm Bromley
General Manager

Commissioner Dave Demers
Vice-Chair