



## SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

JULY 30, 2019

A Special Park Board meeting was held on Tuesday, July 30, at 6:10 pm, at the Park Board Office.

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Tricia Barker  
Commissioner Dave Demers, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Camil Dumont  
Commissioner Gwen Giesbrecht  
Commissioner John Irwin  
Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon, Chair

**ABSENT:** Commissioner John Coupar

**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.

### CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee was advised that from July 8, 2019 to 3:00 pm on July 30, 2019, the General Manager's office received the following correspondence:

- One email in opposition to the retrofit of the Hillcrest wading pool
- Fifteen emails in support of Lord Byng pool
- Four emails in support of a pool in Mount Pleasant
- Seven emails in support of neighbourhood pools, in general
- Two emails in support of a pool at Kitsilano Community Centre.

All the emails have been sent directly to Commissioners.

## REPORTS

### 1. **VanSplash Advisory Group – Process and Report**

Dave Hutch, Acting Director of Planning and Park Development, Park Board, acknowledged the work and commitment of the VanSplash Advisory Group (Advisory Group) and introduced the Park Board staff team that worked with the Advisory Group:

- Peter Fox, Supervisor, Aquatic Services
- Erica MacDonald, Recreation Manager, City-wide Services
- Doug Shearer, Acting Manager of Policy, Planning and Environment
- Leila Todd, Planner II, Park Board.

Ms. Todd provided an overview of:

- Advisory Group process and Board updates provided since its launch
- Communication with the public
- Mandate of the Advisory Group
- Advisory Group composition.

Ms. Todd introduced Jennifer Miller, Engagement and Communications Director, Delaney + Associates, Ms. Miller introduced the Advisory Group members:

- Anthony Abrahams
- Jean Campbell
- Dale Edwards
- Abby Ferris
- Igor Kopecky (arrived later)
- Carol Martin
- Bronwen Mears
- Anthony Mehnert
- Barry Morris
- Jarrett Vaughan
- Marrienne Wieland De Alvarez
- Peter Wong,

Ms. Miller presented the Advisory Group's input on the draft VanSplash Aquatic Strategy (VanSplash) and highlighted:

- Consensus-based input
- Input on vision, principles and goals
- Indoor pools:
  - Draft recommendation 3 supported as-is
  - Proposed amendments to recommendations 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11
  - Consensus was not reached on recommendations 5 and 7 with respect to engaging Templeton and Lord Byng stakeholders after Britannia and Connaught pools are built

- Outdoors pools:
  - Draft recommendations 1, 2, 5 and 6 supported as-is
  - Proposed amendments to recommendations 3, 4 and 7
- Beaches:
  - Draft recommendations 1, 2, 4 and 5 supported as-is
  - Proposed amendment to recommendation 3
- Wading pools and spray parks recommendations:
  - Proposal to add “accessible” to all six of the draft recommendations
- Innovation:
  - Draft recommendations 1, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 supported as-is
  - Proposed amendments to recommendations 2, 6 and 7
- Additional input.

Mr. Abrahams and Vaughan and Ms. Mears shared comments on their experiences and thoughts on the process:

- The Advisory Group members took a community perspective above their personal wishes
- The process was inspiring and interesting
- Inclusion of people from diverse backgrounds
- People talked and people listened
- The Advisory Group dealt with a number of challenging issues, including distrust of the Park Board’s engagement process
- The commitment to serve on the Advisory Group was rooted in the belief that swimming is an important activity
- Focus of finding practical ways to move forward on both neighbourhood and destination pools
- Consensus was reached despite individual wishes for local aquatic facilities.

Ms. Todd concluded the presentation by providing of the summary of the next steps leading to the Board approval of VanSplash.

Messrs. Abrahams and Vaughan and Ms. Mears, along with Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, Park Board, responded to questions from Board. There was discussion on:

- The Advisory Group’s concerned regarding the potential closure of Templeton and Lord Byng pools following the construction of Britannia and Connaught pools, respectively
- The accessibility to another pool was seen as a way to address the lack of a pool in Mount Pleasant
- Suggestion to use temporary pop-up pools as competition facilities
- The need to include a glossary in VanSplash to ensure there is a common understanding of the terminology used
- The co-location of accessible spray parks with indoor or outdoor pools would not elevate them to a destination pool
- Requirement for athletes to have access to competition facilities for training purposes
- The potential for the City to generate revenue through hosting swim meets
- The distrust of the Park Board is borne of fear of losing neighbourhood pools

- There is a requirement to renovate or replace Kerrisdale Pool sooner than planned
- The Advisory Group was cognizant of the economic and environmental impact of adding pools, but did not have specific information with which to consider on these issues
- The need to consider the impact of VanSplash on Indigenous peoples in Vancouver and to include them in the consultation
- Opportunities to expand the use of beaches
- The suggestion to consider utilizing innovative architectural design to give large facilities a smaller, neighbourhood feel
- The attractiveness of being able to walk to a community pool
- The challenge of the shortage of spaces for swimming lessons
- Park Board staff is exploring collaboration with the Vancouver School Board to provide free swimming lessons for school-aged children, as previously directed by the Board
- The suggestion that the Park Board seek out the voice of the larger community, in addition to vocal opposition
- The suggestion that the Park Board make greater use of user groups and their contacts.

On behalf of the Park Board, the Chair thanked the Advisory Group members for their commitment to the process and the time they dedicated to it. The Chair noted that VanSplash will be considered by the Board in the fall 2019. The Chair advised to be notified of the VanSplash meeting date in the fall please request to be added to the VanSplash mailing list by emailing [vansplash@vancouver.ca](mailto:vansplash@vancouver.ca) and the public will be advised of the date when the meeting is scheduled.

The Board adjourned at 7:41 pm.

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Malcolm Bromley  
General Manager

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Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon  
Chair