



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Monday, September 16, 2019, at 6:47 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
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.

IN CAMERA

1. In Camera Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

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;
- (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 22, 2019

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT the Park Board minutes of the July 22, 2019 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Special Board Meeting – July 30, 2019

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT the Park Board minutes of the July 30, 2019 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

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

Abstained: Coupar

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Mackinnon highlighted the participation of Park Board Commissioners at the following events since the July 22, 2019 Board meeting:

- Jul 22-24: Greater & Greener Conference, Denver Colorado – Chair gave a keynote address on the Park Board's Biodiversity Strategy and related initiatives
- Jul 27, 31 & Aug 3: Honda Celebration of Light, English Bay – Chair sat on judges panel; Team Canada announced as winner, competing against teams from India and Croatia.
- Aug 4: Pride Parade & Festival, West End/Sunset Beach – Commissioners, staff & CCA members marched in the parade & the Chair spoke at the festival.
- Aug 9-11: KitsFest, Kitsilano Beach – annual sports and healthy living beach festival that includes a bathtub race; Chair spoke at media launch;
- Aug 17: Dude Chilling Sculpture Celebration, Guelph Park – Commissioners Demers and Barker joined artist Michael Dennis in unveiling of the bronze replica of "The Dude";
- Aug 31: Lovin' the Earth Climate Action Fair, Riley Park – Commissioner Demers and the Chair spoke about Park Board efforts in fight against climate change;
- Sep 6: Media Event on Oppenheimer Park – Chair requested the formation of a multi-jurisdictional task force on homelessness and announced that the Board was not seeking an injunction to evict people from Oppenheimer Park
- Sep 8: Battle of Britain Memorial, Air Force Garden of Remembrance in Stanley Park – Chair spoke at a ceremony commemorating pilots who fought in this WWII battle.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board was advised that there was one letter was received regarding the Motion on Notice titled "Artificial Turf Assessment", which had been distributed to Commissioners.

COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Park Board Committee – September 16, 2019

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

1. REPORT: Metro Vancouver Backup Power Facility – Sunset Beach Park

MOVED by Commissioner Barker
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Park Board Committee at its meeting of September 16, 2019, as contained in item 1.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS

1. General Manager's Office Report

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

- Playground Upgrades – as part of the ongoing playground renewal project, upgrades are complete at Humm Park, and underway at Templeton & Ray Cam;
- Portable Bleachers – Two new 180 person mobile bleachers, funded through the City's Sport Hosting Program, will be available to rent for park events;
- Gerry Massing Commemorative Room Naming – Dunbar CCA paying tribute to long-serving member and former President, Gerry Massing (passed in Sep 2018), by renaming the community youth room to the "Gerry Massing Room" on Oct 4;
- Creekside Community Recreation Advisory Committee – As the first step in implementing a new CCA, an advisory committee has been formed; introductory meeting scheduled for September 16, 2019;
- Council Business – Council approved the following items that involve the Park Board:
 - Review of Remuneration of Members of Council and Park Board
 - Culture Shift: Blanketing the City in Arts and Culture
 - Support for the Vancouver Rowing Club and Coal Harbour as a Multi-use Waterway
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from July 23 to September 16, 2019.

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

1. Artificial Turf Assessment

Commissioner Irwin introduced the motion and noted the concerns expressed by the public regarding the health hazards of artificial turf. Commissioner Irwin responded to questions from the Board.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin

SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

WHEREAS:

1. The Chief Medical Health Officer for Vancouver has provided a letter outlining the most up-to-date public health recommendations regarding synthetic turf fields (included as Appendix A in the [October 2017 Synthetic Turf Playing Fields report](#));
2. A group of concerned citizens has found that crumb rubber pellets, at both Trillium Park and Van Tech artificial turf playing fields tested positive for lead (15.9 micrograms per gram at Trillium);
3. The crumb rubber infill from VanTech, the oldest public synthetic turf playing field in Vancouver, was analyzed at Element Lab in Surrey, and reportedly measured 12 micrograms of lead, and the plastic turf blades measured even higher for lead at 24.3 micrograms per gram;
4. The lab report they provided states that “[w]hen lead-containing coatings are disturbed... or otherwise abraded, lead dust, mist or fumes can be released into the... environment and be inhaled or ingested...”;
5. Dr. Bruce Lanphear, a professor at SFU Health Sciences and clinician scientist at BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute, notes that “children are exposed to lead and other toxic chemicals in the rubber and plastic materials in artificial turf”;
6. Dr. Lanphear’s research on the impacts of lead on children’s health led the World Health Organization and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to declare “There is no safe level of lead in children’s blood”;
7. Dr. Lanphear states that despite 17% of the chemicals in crumb rubber being classified as carcinogens by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), “there are no long-term studies to quantify the extent of children’s exposure to lead and other toxic chemicals found in synthetic turf playing fields”;
8. This summer, the California EPA is due to release results from a study of the chemicals in crumb rubber infill and the plastic turf and backing that will provide exposure information and a health impacts assessment;
9. During field visits to Trillium Park in April, crumb rubber material was observed spreading out onto nearby soils and down storm drains;
10. Park Board staff are setting-up a synthetic playing field advisory group to consider service levels, sustainability goals, and technical analysis, which will support the broader public engagement process for siting new synthetic turf facilities in Vancouver parks; and
11. Park Board staff will work with the synthetic playing field advisory group, residents, and the Vancouver Field Sport Federation to develop concepts and recommendations for new synthetic turf playing field sites.

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;
- 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.

Motion to Refer to the Park Board Committee

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

That the motion be referred to the Park Board Committee to receive input from the public and local sports federations.

DEFEATED

In favour: Barker, Coupar

Opposed: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin, Mackinnon

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT Item A be amended as follows, and the subsequent items be renumbered accordingly:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to provide the most recent scientific findings, which would include the result of Part 1 of the California Environmental Protection Agency study, when responding to the Board Enquiry entitled “Synthetic Turf on Sports Fields” that was submitted on May 27, 2019; and
- B. FURTHER THAT staff work with environmental and health consultants to review the implications of said scientific findings.

Amendment to the Amendment

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

THAT Item B be amended to:

- B. FURTHER THAT staff work with environmental and health consultants to review the implications of said scientific findings and to measure levels of lead in all of the artificial turf fields that are under the Park Board's jurisdiction.

DEFEATED

In favour: Irwin, Giesbrecht

Opposed: Barker, Coupar, Demers, Dumont, Mackinnon

Question on the Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT Item A be amended as follows, and the subsequent items be renumbered accordingly:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to provide the most recent scientific findings, which would include the result of Part 1 of the California Environmental Protection Agency study, when responding to the Board Enquiry entitled "Synthetic Turf on Sports Fields" that was submitted on May 27, 2019; and
- B. FURTHER THAT staff work with environmental and health consultants to review the implications of said scientific findings.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to provide the most recent scientific findings, which would include the result of Part 1 of the California Environmental Protection Agency study, when responding to the Board Enquiry entitled "Synthetic Turf on Sports Fields" that was submitted on May 27, 2019;
- B. FURTHER THAT staff work with environmental and health consultants to review the implications of said scientific findings;
- C. 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
- D. 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.

Motion to Refer to Staff

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

That the Main Motion, as Amended, be referred to staff to be incorporated in the report on artificial turf to be submitted to the Park Board Committee for consideration in 2020.

CARRIED

In favour: Barker, Coupar, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Mackinnon

Opposed: Irwin, Demers

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

1. Park Board Support for the September 27, 2019 Global Climate Strike

Commissioner Dumont requested that the required notice be waived due to the time sensitive nature of the motion.

Waiver of Notice

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

That the Park Board waives the requirement for notice of the motion.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Coupar

Commissioner Dumont introduced the motion and requested that the Park Board consider ways to support the youth-led response to the global climate emergency. Commissioner Dumont responded to questions from the Board.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

WHEREAS:

1. Young people in Vancouver and around the world have been leading Youth Climate Strike and Fridays for Future rallies to focus attention on the urgent need for action on the global climate emergency, especially by elected officials;
2. Youth are now calling on adults, workers and people everywhere to join them in the week of September 20–27, 2019, when the Fridays for Future and the Youth Climate Strike movements are calling for a global general strike for climate, stating:

“We don’t feel like we have a choice: it’s been years of talking, countless negotiations, empty deals on climate change...”

We have learned that if we don’t start acting for our future, nobody else will make the first move...

We’re asking adults to step up alongside us...step up and out of your comfort zone for our climate. Let’s all join together, with your neighbours, co-workers, friends, family and go out on to the streets to make your voices heard and make this a turning point in our history...

We’re counting on you;”

3. In January 2019, Vancouver City Council unanimously passed the motion: “Ramping Up Vancouver’s Climate Action in Response to the Climate Emergency”, committing the city to the bold action needed to avert a climate catastrophe; and
4. Vancouver youth, led by Sustainabiliteens Vancouver, are organizing a major “Global Climate Strike” event at Vancouver City Hall, scheduled for 1 pm on Friday, September 27, 2019; as of August 28, 8,149 people have accepted their social media invitation to attend.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to contact Sustainabiliteens Vancouver to discuss ways in which the Park Board can support the youth-initiated, non-violent Global Climate Strike event at Vancouver City Hall scheduled for 1:00 pm on Friday, September 27, 2019; and
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to consider potential ways for staff to voluntarily support or participate in the September 2019 Global Climate Strike in Vancouver, consulting with representatives of the union locals that represent Park Board staff as necessary.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Coupar

OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair announced that a Special Park Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 to discuss VanPlay - Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan: “Strategic Bold Moves” and “Playbook – Implementation Plan”.

Commissioner Giesbrecht requested leave from the September 30, 2019 Board meetings.

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin

SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT the Board grants a leave of absence to Commissioner Giesbrecht for the September 30, 2019 Board meetings.

CARRIED

In favour: Barker, Coupar, Demers, Dumont, Irwin, Mackinnon

Abstained: Giesbrecht

Commissioner Coupar reported that the Rock Garden in Stanley Park has been added to Canada's list of historic places.

ENQUIRIES

1. A Board member enquired about when the remaining side boards will be replaced at the Dunbar Lawn Bowling facility and if there are any facility upgrades planned to resolve health and safety issues.
2. A Board member enquired if there has been any progress made on the proposed temporary education centre at Bloedel Conservatory.
3. A Board member asked if a date has been set for the commemorative naming of Grace McCarthy Plaza in Queen Elizabeth Park.
4. A Board member requested information on the supplier/nursery selection process for the Park Board's tree sales, as well as a cost benefit and impact analysis.
5. A Board member noted that the Stanley Park Rock Garden was added to Canada's Historic Places registry and asked if staff were planning to celebrate this recognition.
6. A Board member noted that foul balls from the NW baseball diamond at Hillcrest Park are landing in the new turf field and asked if any steps are being taken to mitigate the hazard.
7. A Board member requested an updated timeline and logistical details for the creek daylighting project at Tatlow Park that had been previously approved by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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Malcolm Bromley
General Manager

Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon
Chair