



Oppenheimer Park - A Collaborative Approach to Decampment

Excerpted from Special Meeting Minutes 2019-09-26

MOVED By: Commissioner Dumont

SECONDED By: Commissioner Irwin

Amendment (adding "voluntary" to E) MOVED by Commissioner Irwin

Final Motion as amended:

WHEREAS:

1. Tent encampments in parks and elsewhere are appearing in greater numbers and with greater frequency in the City of Vancouver and in its parks, including Oppenheimer Park;
2. There is a significant number of people in our city experiencing homelessness, due to a lack of appropriately affordable housing, who require access to washroom and shower facilities;
3. All levels of government need to work together to address systemic factors that prevent people from accessing safe, secure housing and basic health care;
4. Oppenheimer Park plays a vital role to the community and services a diverse population that has limited access to other green spaces.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Board of Parks and Recreation acknowledge its strong support and gratitude for the Mayor and City Council's efforts to find housing for the people camping in Oppenheimer Park and other public spaces;
- B. THAT the Board of Parks and Recreation express interest in collaborating with and sharing responsibility with the City of Vancouver and Union partners in further development and implementation of programs such as, but not limited to, peer-driven Park Stewardships and employment opportunities;
- C. THAT the Board of Parks and Recreation requests of the City of Vancouver and its partners to continue to seek housing for the people in our community who are experiencing homelessness, including the community currently camping in Oppenheimer Park;
- D. FURTHER THAT temporary housing/shelter options that are accessible, safe and dignified be activated in order to help bridge the gap from the current housing baseline in anticipation of one where more longer-term housing is made available;
- E. FURTHER THAT the Board of Parks and Recreation commits to the goal of voluntary decampment at Oppenheimer Park to be managed in conjunction with the



implementation of the aforementioned temporary and more permanent strategies noted above; and

- F. THAT, where appropriate, the Board of Parks and Recreation encourages the General Manager and/or staff to attend and participate in meetings with members of the community currently camping in Oppenheimer Park and their supporters.

CARRIED

(Commissioners Barker & Coupar opposed, Commissioner Giesbrecht absent)