



Golf in our Parks - A Deep Dive Analysis

Excerpted from Minutes 2019-11-04

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MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

Amendments (replacing D) MOVED by Commissioner Dumont

Final motion as amended:

WHEREAS:

1. The Board of Parks and Recreation has complete jurisdiction over three 18-hole golf courses (Langara, Fraserview and McCleery) and three Pitch & Putt courses (Stanley Park, Queen Elizabeth and Rupert Park);
2. Langara, Fraserview, and McCleery golf courses total 464 acres, or approximately 15% of all park land under Park Board jurisdiction;
3. The number of golfers using the 3 golf courses owned by the Park Board decreased by 6% between 2013 and 2018; since the late 1990s, it has decreased by over 31% while the population of Vancouver has increased by 20%;
4. Golf admission fees for adults during the peak summer season range from \$59-\$67 for 18-holes, which takes an average of 4-5 hours to complete; low season rates for 18-holes range from \$28.25-\$36.50;
5. Golf currently generates over \$9M in revenue annually, of which \$300K goes to the Golf Reserve Fund with the remainder going toward funding the rest of the parks and recreation system; as per March 2019, the Golf Reserve Fund contained \$516K of unallocated funding; and
6. Golf courses require regular grooming (currently by gas-powered machinery), irrigation, and maintenance to provide healthy & resilient playing surfaces (as with all sport playing fields) and best practices are employed: irrigation water is provided primarily via aquifer or storm water; and fungicides are only applied to golf greens (about 1.5% of total course area).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to build on the findings and recommendations of `VanPlay, Greenest City 2020 Action Plan, Biodiversity Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy, and:

- A. Evaluate the full spectrum of realized and unrealized benefits of Park Board land currently used for golf;
- B. Compare the past, current and expected demands for, and requirements by golf with those of the rest of our recreational system;
- C. Identify ways to align the managerial, financial and planning of golf with that of the rest of our park and recreational system; and



- D. Use the findings above to inform all relevant aspects of the Golf Strategy, scheduled to start in 2020, with public consultation to include at least one option that presents alternative park and recreational uses for the Langara Golf Course

CARRIED

(Commissioners Barker and Coupar opposed)