



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 4, 2019

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Monday, November 4, 2019, at 8:09 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  
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.

### IN CAMERA

#### 1. In Camera Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Demers  
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

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:

- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- (j) information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 [disclosure harmful to business interest of a third party] or the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;

- (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 – October 22, 2019**

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar  
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board was advised that there are no communications of note related to the Board agenda items

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **1. Report of the Park Board Committee – November 4, 2019**

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

- 1. REPORT: Marpole Community Centre Renewal – Outdoor Pool and Oak Park Schematic Master Plan

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin  
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Park Board Committee at its meeting of November 4, 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:

- Construction work for the cenotaph access project at Memorial South Park has been completed. After consulting with Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans, the cenotaph was upgraded to include a wider walkway surrounding the monument and ramped access from the north and south of the monument. All park cenotaphs have been pressure washed in preparation for Remembrance Day ceremonies and graffiti removal from the sites is a priority throughout the year
- From October 11 to 31, 2019, the Stanley Park Railway and Plaza was transformed into Alice in Nightmareland. This year, the Ghost Train took over 40,000 riders on a gothic journey
- The Glow in the Garden event at VanDusen Botanical Garden ran between October 17 and October 27, 2019 and welcomed over 17,000 visitors
- On November 5, 2019, at the North American Garden Tourism Conference, VanDusen Botanical Garden will be announced as the recipient of the "Botanical Garden of the Year" award
- Items of interest to the Park Board to be considered at the November 5, 2019 Regular Council Meeting:
  - Rain City Strategy
  - Integrated Blue-Green Systems Planning
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from October 25 to November 1, 2019.

Ms. Wilton responded questions from the Board. There was a request to ensure the linkage between VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory is recognized in the announcement of the Botanical Garden of the Year award.

## **MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

### **1. Golf in our Parks – A Deep Dive Analysis**

Commissioner Demers introduced the motion and commented on the suggestion to consider the unrealized benefits of golf course land through a broad lens. Commissioner Demers responded to questions from the Board.

#### **Main Motion**

MOVED by Commissioner Demers  
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

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 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. Report back to the Board with findings and recommendations prior to starting master planning work for our golf courses.

### **Amendment to the Main Motion**

MOVED by Commissioner Demers  
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT Item D be replaced with:

- 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 recreation uses for the Langara Golf Course.

CARRIED

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

*Opposed: Barker, Coupar*

### **Question on the Main Motion, as Amended**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED 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 recreation uses for the Langara Golf Course.

### **Motion to Refer**

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar  
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT the motion be referred to Committee.

DEFEATED

*In favour: Barker, Coupar*

*Opposed: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin, Mackinnon*

### **Question on the Main Motion, as Amended**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED 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 recreation uses for the Langara Golf Course.

CARRIED

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

*Opposed: Barker, Coupar*

## **2. Collaborating with BC Housing on Homelessness in Parks**

Commissioner Dumont introduced the motion and commented on the benefit of the Park Board establishing a direct relationship with BC Housing. Commissioner Dumont responded to questions from the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont  
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

### WHEREAS:

1. Many people who are experiencing homelessness in Vancouver take refuge in and around parks and Park Board facilities;
2. At this time there is no official interinstitutional relationship between BC Housing and the Vancouver Park Board;
3. BC Housing helps manage emergency shelter programs, drop-in centres, homeless outreach teams and more. Many members of the community who require and benefit from these services are also interacting with the parks system in Vancouver; and
4. If BC Housing and the Vancouver Park Board form an open, communicative, interinstitutional relationship of knowledge-sharing and collaboration, either or both may be able to provide services more efficiently, more economically, and more effectively for those experiencing homelessness in our city.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct the General Manager to reach out to BC Housing with the goal of establishing inter-institutional knowledge-sharing and a relationship of direct, open communication regarding avenues of potential collaboration to address the impacts of homelessness in Vancouver parks.

### CARRIED

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

*Opposed: Barker, Coupar*

## **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

### **1. Outdoor Pool Extended Season Pilot**

Commissioner Irwin gave notice of motion on the following:

### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve a pilot to extend the regular 2020 swimming season at Kitsilano and New Brighton Outdoor Pools by opening 2-3 weeks earlier in the spring and closing 3-4 weeks later in the fall; and
- B. FURTHER THAT Park Board staff analyze the costs, benefits and impacts of this extended outdoor pool season pilot and report back to the Board with recommendations for the 2021 season.

## **ENQUIRIES**

1. A Board member requested the latest findings on the seismic condition of the gym at the Kerrisdale Community Centre.
2. A Board member asked if an official park sign could be installed at Wendy Pool Park (similar to the one at Lilian To Park).
3. A Board member enquired if the washrooms in Crab Park can be made operational.
4. A Board member requested an update on the motion approved on May 27, 2019 directing staff to explore the initiation of a working group for the "indigenous-focussed healing, wellness, and/or cultural centre".
5. In preparation for the annual Montreal Massacre Memorial event held in December, a Board member requested that the "Marker of Change" memorial and surrounding area in Thornton Park be cleaned in advance.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 8:59 pm.

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Malcolm Bromley  
General Manager

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Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon  
Chair