



MOTION ON NOTICE

Submitted at the Regular Board meeting held on 2019-04-01

Golf in our Parks - A Deep Dive Analysis

MOVER: Commissioner Demers

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