



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

**MAY 25, 2020**

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Monday, May 25, 2020, at 7:03 pm, at the Park Board Office.

**PRESENT:**

- Commissioner Tricia Barker
- Commissioner John Coupar
- Commissioner Dave Demers, Vice-Chair
- Commissioner Camil Dumont, Chair
- Commissioner Gwen Giesbrecht
- Commissioner John Irwin
- Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon

**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 Barker

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:

- (c) labour relations or other employee relations;
- (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 – May 11, 2020**

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon

SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the Park Board minutes of the May 11, 2020 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 – May 25, 2020**

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

1. REPORT: Reconciliation Update.

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar

SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Park Board Committee at its meeting of May 25, 2020, as contained in item 1.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **1. BC Hydro Request for Rights of Way in Nelson Park Impacts and Engagement Results**

Dave Hutch, Director of Planning and Park Development, Park Board, introduced:

- Alex Man-Bourdon, Landscape Architect II, Park Board
- Ian Stewart, Manager of Park Development, Park Board.

Mr. Man-Bourdon led the review of a presentation on the impact of and engagement results on BC Hydro's request for rights-of-way in Nelson Park and highlighted:

- The Vancouver School Board (VSB) approved the BC Hydro request to construct a substation beneath the new Lord Roberts School Annex on June 25, 2018
- BC Hydro request for rights-of-way through Nelson Park

- In March 2019, Park Board Commissioners issued a number of requests to inform their decision on the BC Hydro request
- Nelson Park public engagement and outreach process
- Project background:
  - Projected population growth in the West End and in the downtown core
  - Anticipated significant increase in park space demand for residents
  - Current configuration of Nelson Park
- BC Hydro proposal:
  - Future layout of the Nelson Park site including the new Lord Roberts School Annex and BC Hydro West End Substation
  - The timeframe to demolish the existing school and construct the new Lord Roberts School Annex and underground BC Hydro West End Substation is approximately eight years
  - The transmission cables would be installed during the winter of the West End Substation construction period to minimize impacts to park users
- Nelson Park engagement process:
  - Participation in public and stakeholder consultation events
  - Key themes of the responses received during the engagement
- Impact study:
  - Goals and objectives of the independent study of the direct and indirect impacts to Nelson Park undertaken by the Park Board
  - Eight themes were developed to assess the impact in the short (3–6 months), mid (1–8 years) and long-term (8 years–indefinite)
  - Potential impacts to:
    - Dog off-leash area
    - Access to the Nelson Park and Lord Roberts School Annex playgrounds during the school and substation construction
    - Community gardens
    - Park access
    - Trees
- Next steps:
  - Continue work with BC Hydro to agree upon an alternate right-of-way alignment to minimize the impacts to Nelson Park
  - Jurisdiction considerations.

Mr. Man-Bourdon, along with Mr. Hutch, responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on:

- Confirmation that there are numerous third-party utilities through parks, but the scale of the current BC Hydro proposal makes it unique
- An investigation will be undertaken to better understand the impact of the substation on hydrology and tree health
- Requests for information on the decibel levels and heat that would be emitted by the venting structure
- Options to mitigate the impact of the loss of the Nelson Park playground

- Concern regarding the impact of the movement of a significant number of dump trucks on the streets and the surrounding neighbourhood for the duration of the excavation
- Whether BC Hydro has developed contingency plans in the event that the Park Board does not approve the request for the rights-of-way through Nelson Park.

## **2. COVID-19 Pandemic Parks and Recreation Reopening and Recovery Update**

Shauna Wilton, Deputy General Manager, Park Board, Dave Hutch, Director of Planning and Park Development, Park Board, and Steve Jackson, Director of Financial Planning and Analysis, Park Board, jointly provided an update on the reopening and recovery strategy and highlighted:

- Open and reopened services
- Reopening approach:
  - Guiding principles
  - Reopening process
  - Risk-based decision-making framework
- Coordination, guidelines and insights involved in reopening decisions
- WorkSafeBC best practice guidelines issued on May 19, 2020
- Considerations in the development of departmental restart plans
- Alignment of proposed phasing for reopening and recovery roadmap with the BC Restart Plan
- Phase 2 reopening will focus on outdoor recreation facilities
- Short and long-term planning for Stanley Park Road reallocation:
  - Cycling data continues to show popularity of Stanley Park during closures
- Financial status:
  - Updated estimate of a \$38 million revenue loss
  - Community centres and outdoor pools, which are jointly funded through user fees and property taxes, remain closed
- Next steps.

Ms. Wilton and Mr. Hutch, along with Daisy Chin, Director of Recreation, Park Board, responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on:

- Whether consideration has been given to advancing the reopening of the Bloedel Conservatory to an earlier phase, given the air flow at the facility
- The availability of information regarding park users who are unable to access Stanley Park due to the road closure:
  - Plan to collect data in the next several months
  - Request for parking and tour bus data collected prior to the COVID-19 restrictions
  - Whether there is comparative data on pedestrians using the Stanley Park seawall in 2019 and 2020
- The reopening of skateboard parks is a priority

- An operating plan for lifeguarding at beaches is being developed
- Community gardens were deemed an essential service in light of food security and were not closed
- Concern regarding the quality and level of services that can be offered at community centres and outdoor pools given the Park Board's estimated revenue loss and the City's financial situation
- Discussions with senior government regarding the provision of funding to assist the Park Board in providing a core level of services to residents.

### **3. General Manager's Report**

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

- Retirement of Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, on May 29, 2020, after 40+ years of service in parks & recreation; led the organization through many significant and ground breaking initiatives during his 10 year tenure at the Park Board, including the development of several progressive Board approved strategies;
  - Key accomplishments during his 10-year tenure at the Park Board
- Upcoming Council Business (related to or impacting parks & recreation):
  - Presentation on COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts: Financial Mitigation and Restoration of City Service Plan
  - Report on Sewage and Rainwater Management Plan for Vancouver
  - Member motions on:
    - Allowing Responsible Alcohol Consumption in Vancouver Parks and Beaches
    - Designating Public Spaces for Responsible Consumption of Alcohol
  - Presentation on City's COVID-19 Recovery Program Overview & Core Guiding Questions
  - Report on Quarterly Capital Budget Adjustments and Closeouts
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from May 12 to 25, 2020.

Mr. Bromley expressed gratitude to the Park Board Commissioners and staff, City Council and staff colleagues and all Park Board partners.

Sadhu Johnston, City Manager, City of Vancouver, joined the meeting and expressed appreciation for Mr. Bromley's reminders of the importance of the City's work and the need to include lightness and humour in its serious work.

The Park Board Commissioners reflected on Mr. Bromley's legacy and his contribution to the Park Board.

## **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

### **1. Responsible Consumption of Alcohol at Select Parks and Beaches – A Temporary Measure to Help During a COVID-19 Pandemic Summer**

Commissioner Demers gave notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Board direct staff to prepare a bylaw pursuant to Section 73 of the Liquor Control and Licensing Act to allow for alcohol consumption at select parks and beaches; and
- B. FURTHER THAT the Board direct staff to work with the relevant partners and government agencies to prepare a plan to allow for a temporary enactment of said bylaw in time for Summer 2020.

### **2. Exploring Options to Reduce Motor Vehicle Traffic in Stanley Park**

Commissioners Irwin & Mackinnon gave notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT Vancouver Park Board staff explore the long term feasibility of reducing motor vehicle traffic in Stanley Park, including but not restricted to, reducing roadways to single lanes while maintaining access to the park;
- B. FURTHER THAT consultation include the Stanley Park Intergovernmental Working Group, as well as park partners, stakeholders, and the community at large; and
- C. THAT Park Board staff explore green transportation options, to and throughout the park, to support equitable access for all park users, including those with mobility challenges.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Commission Coupar reported that Chris Hay, descendent of the creator of the Stanley Park Rock Garden, received a letter of congratulations from the BC Lieutenant Governor for his efforts in having the Stanley Park Rock Garden recognized as a historic site in Vancouver and nationally.

Commissioner Irwin condemned xenophobic and racist attacks against Chinese citizens in the City and its parks.

## **ENQUIRIES**

1. A Board member shared concerns about the state of Andy Livingstone Park and the increased amount of illicit activity that has been taking place during the COVID-19 pandemic, and enquired about actions being taken to address these concerns considering the reopening of Crosstown Elementary School on June 1.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 8:57 pm.

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Malcolm Bromley  
General Manager

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Commissioner Camil Dumont  
Chair