



MOTION

Submitted at the Regular Board meeting held on 2020-05-25

Responsible Consumption of Alcohol at Select Parks and Beaches - a Temporary Measure to Help during a COVID-19 Pandemic Summer

MOVER: Commissioner Demers

WHEREAS:

1. On December 3, 2018, the Vancouver Park Board voted unanimously to approve a motion titled "Alcohol Consumption at Vancouver Parks & Beaches"; work on this motion is ongoing;
2. Consumption of alcoholic beverages at parks and beaches within the Park Board's jurisdiction is currently prohibited;
3. Section 73 of the Liquor Control and Licensing Act gives the authority to local governments to, via bylaw, designate a place that is within their jurisdiction as a place where liquor may be consumed;
4. The public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its mandated physical distancing limit the ability of Vancouverites to socialize with friends in their homes or licensed public establishments;
5. On March 21, 2020, the Attorney General of British Columbia announced new regulation to temporarily permit the sale and delivery of packaged liquor for off-site consumption with the purchase of a meal;
6. Due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions, the summer of 2020 will see fewer visitors, events, and festivals in Vancouver;
7. Existing provincial and federal laws prohibiting public intoxication, causing a public disturbance, and consuming alcohol underage, apply across Vancouver; Vancouver also has local noise by-laws to limit public disturbance, and Vancouver parks and beaches close to the public at 10pm unless otherwise posted onsite; and
8. A growing segment of the population of Vancouver, particularly renters and low or middle income residents, has no access to private yards and thus relies on parks and beaches for gatherings of friends and family.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park 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.
- 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.