



PARK BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

JULY 6, 2020

A Regular Park Board Committee meeting was held on Monday, July 6, 2020, at 6:31 pm, via videoconference and at the Park Board Office.

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

GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE: Shauna Wilton, Acting 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.

Motion to Suspend the Rules

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT the Vancouver Park Board suspend the rules to hear from a speaker who had not register by the published deadline.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Park Board Committee Meeting – June 8, 2020

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the Park Board Committee minutes of the June 8, 2020 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee was advised that, from June 29, 2020 to 3:00 p.m. on July 6, 2020, the General Manager's Office received four pieces of correspondence opposed, three in support and one neutral regarding the staff recommendation contained in the Liquor Consumption in Parks by-law and Pilot Program report.

All correspondence has been sent directly to Commissioners.

STAFF REPORTS

1. REPORT: Liquor Consumption in Parks by-law and Pilot Program

Doug Shearer, Manager of Planning, Policy and Environment, Park Board, and Leila Todd, Planner II, Park Board, jointly led the review of a presentation on the proposed pilot project that would allow the public to consume their own alcoholic beverages in selected park and beach sites and highlighted:

- A request has been submitted to have the Park Board recognized as a governing body with the authority to pass a by-law related to the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*
- Proposed approach to undertake the pilot project
- Pilot site selection criteria
- Proposed pilot site areas within:
 - Fraser River Park
 - John Hendry Park
 - Harbour Green Park
 - Locarno Beach Park
 - Memorial South Park
 - New Brighton Park
 - Queen Elizabeth Park
 - Quilchena Park
 - Stanley Park
 - Vanier Park
- Pilot duration, hours and communication tools
- Monitoring and data gathering activities during the pilot project
- Vancouver Police Department (VPD) would be responsible for enforcement, if required
- External consultation
- Next steps.

Mr. Shearer and Ms. Todd, along with Shauna Wilton, Acting General Manager, Park Board, responded to questions from the Committee. There was discussion on:

- Clarification that pilot sites were not identified in Mount Pleasant and the southeast quadrant of the City due to the lack of availability of washroom access, space limitations within parks and proximity to other pilot sites
- Concern with access to New Brighton Park and proximity of the pilot site area to the playground

- Concern that permission to consume alcohol is not contingent upon the consumption of food
- Concern that the selection of 10 pilot sites would create destinations and result in the inability to observe mandated COVID-19 physical distancing
- Whether the pilot site area in Queen Elizabeth Park could be moved to the northeast side of the park to avoid potential noise impacts to adjacent residences
- The number and cost of Park Rangers required to manage the additional activity will be determined as the pilot project proceeds
- Request for information regarding the liability risk to the Park Board if an individual were to overconsume alcohol in one of its locations
- Concern that the pilot site areas selected in the Quilchena and Fraser River Parks are located in the proximity of dog areas
- Concern that the pilot site areas selected in New Brighton and John Hendry Park are located in the proximity of swimming features
- The installation of portable washrooms in a more centrally located park in east Vancouver was not considered for the pilot project due to COVID-19 and cost considerations
- VPD concerns raised during the consultation process
- The objectives of a permission-based pilot program for the consumption of alcohol in parks, which is acknowledged as commonplace unsanctioned behaviour
- Request that consideration be given to allowing concessions to offer the sale of alcohol for consumption in the pilot site areas.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 7:32 pm and reconvened at 7:45 pm.

The Committee heard from three speakers, of which one spoke in support and two spoke in opposition to the staff recommendation.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Demers

SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the proposed amendments to the Parks Control By-Law Regarding Liquor Consumption in Parks, as set out in Appendix A of this report, to temporarily designate the park sites listed in the by-law as places where liquor may be consumed;
- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to immediately bring forward a by-law for enactment by the Park Board generally in accordance with Appendix A; and
- C. THAT, subject to Board adoption of Recommendations A and B above, along with the enactment of the By-law referenced within those Recommendations, the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to implement the Liquor Consumption in Parks Pilot Program as outlined in this report.

Motion to Refer

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board refer the report recommendations back to staff for changes that aim to expand and improve this pilot program, with specific consideration given to:
 - i. Including at least one park in each of the 23 distinct neighborhoods of the City;
 - ii. Limiting the by-law amendment to require that liquor may only be consumed with a meal;
 - iii. Reviewing pilot sites to ensure there is sufficient space for users to observe mandated physical distancing; and
 - iv. Identifying a larger, more suitable location to replace the currently proposed location in Vanier Park; and

- B. FURTHER THAT staff report back to the Board no later than the Committee meeting scheduled for July 20, 2020 for consideration of any revised recommendations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 8:33 pm.

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Shauna Wilton
Acting General Manager

Chair