



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at 6:33 pm, via videoconference and 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:**

Steve Jackson, Acting 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 Giesbrecht

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 paragraph:

- (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 – July 27, 2020

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin

SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

THAT the Park Board minutes of the July 27, 2020 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board was advised that from September 8, 2020 to 3:00 pm on September 14, 2020, the General Manager's Office received the following correspondence related to items on the agenda:

Topic	Oppose	Neutral	Support
Enactment of Parks Control By-law – Temporary Shelter in Parks – Email Campaign opposed to daily displacement of temporary shelters	138		
Motion: Request for Non-Park Site for the Strathcona Park Encampment	1		

A petition was received regarding the Stanley Park Traffic Management Plan titled "Keep Stanley Park Open for all" containing 28,415 signatures.

A piece of correspondence was received opposing the "Keep Stanley Park Open for all" petition.

A petition opposing the continued use of horse drawn carriages in Stanley Park was received containing 6,436 signatures.

All correspondence has been sent directly to Commissioners.

COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Park Board Committee – September 14, 2020

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

1. REPORT: Montgomery Park Grass Field Renewal – Construction Contract
2. REPORT: West End Waterfront and Beach Avenue Master Plan – Consultation Contract
3. REPORT: 2019–2022 Capital Plan (Parks and Recreation) – Midterm Update.

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Park Board Committee at its meeting of September 14, 2020, as contained in items 1 through 3.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS

1. COVID-19 Pandemic – Parks and Recreation Reopening and Recovery Update

Sarah Iacoe, Manager of Special Projects, Park Board, and Dave Hutch, Director, Park Planning and Development, Park Board, provided an update on the COVID-19 reopening and recovery strategy and highlighted:

- Park Board approach to reopening and recovery
- Updated reopening and recovery roadmap that aligns with the BC Restart Plan
- Services in the process of being reopened:
 - Indoor pools
 - Fitness centres
 - Arenas
- Implementation of general safety protocols in Park Board facilities
- Reopening of services under review:
 - Park Board events with priority given to the review of Festival of Lights at VanDusen Gardens and Stanley Park Bright Nights and Christmas Train
- Next steps in the reopening and recovery
- Stanley Park:
 - Staff are working on a plan to remove the temporary traffic management plan, with timing to be confirmed
 - Staff will be reporting back and publishing the results of the public survey on the temporary changes to Park Drive and the Seawall in the coming months.

Ms. Iacoe and Mr. Hutch, along with Darren Peterson, Manager of Recreation Services, Park Board, and Steve Jackson, Acting Deputy General Manager, Park Board, responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on:

- Stanley Park temporary traffic management plan:
 - Forty existing and 10 temporary accessible parking stalls were available while the Stanley Park temporary traffic management plan was in place
 - The number of COVID-19 cases will be monitored to determine if the Stanley Park temporary traffic management plan should be reinstated, irrespective of the weather during the fall and winter months
 - The conditions under which the Stanley Park temporary management plan would be re-established

- Request that the cost of implementing the Staley Park temporary traffic management plan be provided when the results of the public survey are reported to the Board
- Concern regarding the ability for individuals to submit multiple responses to the survey on the temporary changes to Park Drive and the Seawall
- Request for information on the timing of the reopening of the small parking lots on Beach Avenue
- Reopening of Park Board facilities and services:
 - Confirmation that the Leisure Access Pass (LAP) is being accepted for admission to facilities and programming that have reopened
 - Request that staff assess the cost impact to users of the temporary discontinuation of the acceptance of the Flexipass and the information be communicated to the public
 - Request to reintroduce aquafit and seniors programming as soon as possible
- COVID-19 safety measures:
 - The requirement for masks in common areas where the public gathers in Park Board facilities will continue to be monitored
 - Whether masks can be made available for purchase or free of charge when they are required to be worn in Park Board facilities due to crowding
 - Plexiglass barriers have been, or are being installed, in areas where there is customer interaction to protect staff.

2. General Manager's Report

Steve Jackson, Acting Deputy General Manager, Park Board, reported on:

- Departure of Shauna Wilton, Acting General Manager, effective September 4, 2020
- Appointment of Donnie Rosa as Park Board General Manager, effective September 28, 2020
- Items of interest to the Park Board to be considered at the September 16, 2020 Regular Council meeting:
 - Report on Funding Applications for Green Rainwater Infrastructure Asset Management and Rain City Strategy Nomination for UBCM's Community Excellence
 - Motion on Temporary Disaster Relief Shelter(s) for People who are Experiencing Homelessness in Vancouver
 - Report on 2019-2022 Capital Plan Recalibration
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from July 28 to September 14, 2020.

BY-LAWS

1. Parks Control By-laws – Temporary Shelter in Parks

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the By-law to Amend the Parks Control By-law Regarding Temporary Shelters in Parks be enacted.

CARRIED

In favour: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Mackinnon

Opposed: Barker, Coupar, Irwin

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

1. Request for Non-Park Site for the Strathcona Park Encampment

Commissioner Demers withdrew the motion on notice as the motion passed by Council on September 14, 2020 addresses the issue.

2. Suspending Daily Removal of Temporary Shelters During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Commissioner Irwin introduced the motion and expressed concern about the daily displacement of vulnerable people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioner Irwin responded to questions from the Board.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

WHEREAS:

1. Health officials recommend that people be able to go outside and physically distance during all phases of the COVID-19 pandemic;
2. BC Centre for Disease Control guidance states that “clearing or moving encampments without providing shelter or housing immediately can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers. This increases the potential for infectious disease spread and may lead to isolation, which also poses health and safety risks to vulnerable people”¹;
3. Housing or other shelter is not immediately available to unhoused people currently sheltering in Vancouver parks;
4. Dispersing people experiencing homelessness would lead to an inability to contract trace; and

¹ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/pho_homeless_encampment_responses_resource.pdf

5. The City of Victoria deferred the tent removal section of its amended Parks Regulation Bylaw governing sheltering in City Parks during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vancouver Park Board defer enforcement of any by-law that requires unhoused people sheltering in parks to remove their temporary shelters on a daily basis, unless alternate housing is made immediately available to them; and
- B. THAT Park Board staff continue to work with the City of Vancouver and Province of BC to explore mitigation strategies for key issues related to homeless encampments, which align with BC Centre for Disease Control guidance that clearing or moving encampments without immediately providing shelter or housing increases health and safety risks.

Motion to Defer

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT the motion be deferred.

CARRIED

In favour: Barker, Coupar, Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Mackinnon
Opposed: Irwin

OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair reported that Sadhu Johnston has announced that he will be leaving his role as City Manager in January 2021 and thanked him for his leadership and work with the Park Board.

Commissioner Irwin wished the Jewish community a happy Rosh Hashanah.

ENQUIRIES

1. Regarding the Shape Your City survey seeking feedback on Stanley Park's temporary traffic changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a Board member requested information on the questions used, the related costs, and the verification, analysis, and intended use of the data collected.
2. A Board member requested information on the condition of and plans for the animals in the care of the Vancouver Aquarium now that they have temporarily closed the facility due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. A Board member requested information on any violent incident reports submitted by Park Board staff in 2019 and 2020.

4. A Board member requested an update on plans to relocate the Air Force Garden of Remembrance from Stanley Park to Queen Elizabeth Park, as per the Board decision made January 2019.
5. A Board member asked for an update on the status of the Parks and Recreation Foundation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 8:04 pm.

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Steve Jackson
Acting Deputy General Manager

Commissioner Camil Dumont
Chair