



PARK BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 7, 2020

A Regular Park Board Committee meeting was held on Monday, December 7, 2020, at 6:44 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: Donnie Rosa, General Manager
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.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Park Board Committee Meeting – November 23, 2020

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT the Park Board Committee minutes of the November 23, 2020 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee was advised that from November 30, 2020 to 3:00 pm on December 7, 2020, the General Manager's office received the following correspondence with respect to the Committee agenda items:

- Urban Forest Strategy Update: A registered speaker sent in supporting slides to their speaking notes for this evening
- Vancouver Bird Strategy Update and Implementation: One email was received noting concerns over the decrease in bird populations in the City

- Park Board Procedure By-law Updates: 24 emails were received that noted concerns around changing the requirements for calling a Special Board meeting and of those, 13 also expressed concerns around electronic meetings limiting public participation.

All correspondence has been sent directly to Commissioners.

Agenda Varied

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT the agenda be varied to consider Item 3 prior to Item 1.

DEFEATED

In favour: Barker, Coupar, Irwin

Opposed: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Mackinnon

STAFF REPORTS

1. REPORT: Urban Forest Strategy Update

Amit Gandha, Director of Parks, Park Board, introduced Park Board staff:

- Chad Townsend, Senior Environment and Sustainability Planner
- Joe McLeod, City Arborist, Supervisor of Urban Forestry.

Messrs. McLeod and Townsend jointly led the review of a presentation on proposed updates to the Urban Forest Strategy and highlighted:

- Achievement of Greenest City 2020 goals for urban forest
- Targets identified in the 2018 Urban Forest Strategy
- Synergies with affiliated plans and strategies
- Urban forest equity and canopy deficient neighbourhoods identified in VanPlay
- The difference in the canopy cover measurements undertaken by LiDAR in 2013 and 2018
- Canopy cover by land type
- Canopy cover targets in Vancouver compared with selected other jurisdictions
- Proposal to establish a new urban forest canopy cover target of 30% by 2050
- Importance of urban forest for climate action
- Next steps
- Social and physical benefits of the urban forest habitat.

Messrs. McLeod and Townsend responded to questions from the Committee. There was discussion on:

- The amount of tree cover that would be required on private land in order to achieve the 30% target:
 - Initiatives that would be required to encourage private property owners to increase the number of trees
- Whether there is an opportunity to work with the Engineering Department to create areas to plant street trees in canopy deficient neighbourhoods
- Concern regarding the recent increase in tree mortality
- Suggestion that citizens be engaged to care for boulevard trees
- Concern regarding the capacity of the Langley tree farm to produce the variety of species of trees that will adapt to the changing climate:
 - Request that staff consider alternate sources of supply
- The rationale for selecting a canopy cover target of 30%, compared to the targets established by Portland and Toronto.

Recess

The meeting was recessed at 7:34 pm and reconvened at 7:40 pm.

The Committee heard from two speakers who provided the following comments and responded to questions from the Committee:

- Encouragement to increase the tree canopy in east Vancouver and in industrial areas
- Suggestion that the tree sales include trees with a larger canopy in order to increase the canopy
- The importance of continuous LiDAR surveys to measure the tree canopy
- Request for information on the cause of the recent increase in tree mortality

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

THAT, in recognition of improvements to previously reported canopy coverage metrics resulting from changes in technology and measurement timing, the Vancouver Park Board approve the updated Urban Forest Strategy, with a new city-wide target of 30% tree canopy cover by 2050, and

- A. THAT the VanPlay Masterplan be amended to reflect this new target;
- B. THAT Park Board staff work with City of Vancouver staff to incorporate this new target into the Climate Change Emergency Response planning and land use policy work, and the pending Vancouver Plan; and

- C. THAT staff report back on the implementation of the new canopy cover target on an annual basis.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT the Item D be added to the Main Motion:

- D. THAT staff report back on the effect on the tree supply with the recent loss of the Park Board tree farm and explore what steps would be required to replace this lost capacity.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

THAT, in recognition of improvements to previously reported canopy coverage metrics resulting from changes in technology and measurement timing, the Vancouver Park Board approve the updated Urban Forest Strategy, with a new city-wide target of 30% tree canopy cover by 2050, and

- A. THAT the VanPlay Masterplan be amended to reflect this new target;
- B. THAT Park Board staff work with City of Vancouver staff to incorporate this new target into the Climate Change Emergency Response planning and land use policy work, and the pending Vancouver Plan;
- C. THAT staff report back on the implementation of the new canopy cover target on an annual basis; and
- D. THAT staff report back on the effect on the tree supply with the recent loss of the Park Board tree farm and explore what steps would be required to replace this lost capacity.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. REPORT: Vancouver Bird Strategy Update and Implementation

The Committee unanimously agreed to adopt the recommendation in the staff report on consent:

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board endorse the updated Vancouver Bird Strategy, as outlined in this report and attached as Appendix A; and

- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to report back with revised Bird Friendly Landscape Operational Guidelines once they have been updated, in consultation with Park Operations staff and the Vancouver Bird Advisory Committee, to ensure they reflect the most effective bird friendly management practices in parks and other public open spaces.

3. REPORT: Park Board Procedure By-law Updates

Donnie Rosa, General Manger, Park Board, introduced Cheryl Chan, Manager, Executive Office and Board Relations, Park Board and Carol Lee, Meeting Clerk.

Ms. Chan led the review of a presentation on proposed updates to the Park Board Procedure By-law and highlighted:

- Background of the current Park Board Procedure By-law and the new City Procedure by-law
- Proposed amendments
- Additional considerations that would require a change to the *Vancouver Charter* and future Procedure By-law amendment:
 - Options to hold electronic meetings
 - Criteria for calling Special Meetings.

Ms. Chan responded to questions from the Committee. There was discussion on:

- Confirmation that the public currently is not permitted to speak on issues that are raised by Commissioners for inclusion on a Regular Meeting agenda
- Clarification on the process to seek changes to the *Vancouver Charter* and that criteria for Commissioners to attend meetings electronically would be brought back to the Board for approval first
- The Park Board Procedure By-law does not limit the frequency that two Commissioners or the Chair may call Special Meetings
- The provision allowing two Commissioner to call a Special Meeting has not been used extensively in the past.

Recess

The meeting was recessed at 8:33 pm and reconvened at 8:55 pm.

The Committee heard from 11 speakers, of which 10 spoke in opposition and one spoke in support of Items C and/or D of the staff recommendation. The speakers provided the following comments and responded to questions from the Committee:

- The need to accommodate the public who wish to address the Park Board
- The need for the Park Board Commissioners to face the electorate at in-person meetings
- The opinion that Items C and D of the staff recommendation are contrary to the democratic process and reduces public participation in Park Board meetings
- Suggestion that the majority of Commissioners be required to allow a Commissioner to attend a meeting electronically
- Request that digital recordings of meetings be preserved after they are deleted from the Park Board's website

Extension of Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the Park Board extends the meeting to 11:00 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee heard from three speakers who spoke in opposition to Items C and/or D of the staff recommendation. The speakers provided the following comments and responded to questions from the Committee:

- Suggestion that Commissioners be permitted to attend a meeting electronically if they are unable to attend in person and members of the public be permitted to attend a meeting electronically to provide comments
- Concern that the public is not permitted to speak to items that are raised by a Commissioner at a Regular Meeting
- Concern that requesting an amendment to the Vancouver Charter will provide the Province with an opportunity to abolish the Park Board.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve, in principle, the repeal and replacement of the Park Board Procedure By-law, as set out in Appendix A of this report;
- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward a by-law for enactment by the Board, generally in accordance with Appendix A;
- C. THAT staff be directed to seek a regulation, pursuant to the *Vancouver Charter*, to permit the Park Board to hold electronic meetings; and
- D. THAT staff be directed to seek an amendment to the *Vancouver Charter* to require Special meetings be called by the Chair, or upon request by a majority of Commissioners.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT Item D of the Main Motion be replaced with:

- D. THAT staff be directed to report back with further information and recommendations on procedural option(s), in addition to or as an alternative to

calling Special Meetings, to ensure that a minority of Commissioners have their motions considered and addressed by the public.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve, in principle, the repeal and replacement of the Park Board Procedure By-law, as set out in Appendix A of this report;
- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward a by-law for enactment by the Board, generally in accordance with Appendix A;
- C. THAT staff be directed to seek a regulation, pursuant to the *Vancouver Charter*, to permit the Park Board to hold electronic meetings; and
- D. THAT staff be directed to report back with further information and recommendations on procedural option(s), in addition to or as an alternative to calling Special Meetings, to ensure that a minority of Commissioners have their motions considered and addressed by the public.

Motion to Refer

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT all four report recommendations be referred back to staff to ensure that the proposed Procedure By-law and any recommendations included in the report back requested for Item D support each other before the Board considers any changes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rescheduling Board Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont
SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

THAT the Regular Board meeting scheduled for Monday, December 7, 2020 be convened at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 8, 2020.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 10:35 pm.

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Donnie Rosa
General Manager

Commissioner Gwen Giesbrecht
Chair