



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.

* * * * *

Donnie Rosa
General Manager

Commissioner Gwen Giesbrecht
Chair



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 8, 2020

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 7:08 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: 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. 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 Irwin
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 paragraphs:

- (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Council [Board] considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city;
- (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the City or Park Board;
- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

- (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 – November 23, 2020**
- 2. Special Board Meeting – November 30, 2020**

MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

THAT the Park Board minutes of the November 23, 2020 Regular Board and November 30, 2020 Special Board meetings be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHAIR'S REPORT

- 1. Chair's Annual Report – "2020 Year in Review"**

The Chair highlighted the 2020 Year in Review:

- COVID-19 pandemic response, reopening and recovery:
 - Closure of facilities on March 16, 2020
 - Creation of role of Park Board champions to provide education on safety measures in Park Board spaces
 - Reopening facilities
- Approval of the Washroom Strategy
- Approval of the VanPlay framework
- Enactment of Parks Control By-law regarding temporary shelter in parks
- Provision of support to the Strathcona Park encampment
- Beaver Lake enhancement
- 150,000th tree planting
- Support for Indigenous culture
- Capital projects:
 - Smithe and Richards Park groundbreaking
 - Park renewals
 - Playground renewals
 - Dedicated pickleball courts in Queen Elizabeth Park

- Highlights and special events:
 - 100th annual Polar Bear Swim on January 1, 2020
 - Stanley Park Rose Garden 100th anniversary
 - New home at Bloedel Conservatory for the koi that survived the otter attack at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden
 - Arts and culture events presented with COVID-19 safety measures
- Park Board leadership changes.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board was advised that from November 30, 2020 to 3:00 pm on December 7, 2020, the General Manager’s office received 17 letters in support of the Motion on Notice titled “Vancouver Aquatics Strategy and Blue Flag”.

All correspondence has been sent directly to Commissioners.

COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Park Board Committee – December 7, 2020

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

1. REPORT: Urban Forest Strategy Update
2. REPORT: Vancouver Bird Strategy Update and Implementation
3. REPORT: Park Board Procedure By-law Updates

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Park Board Committee at its meeting of December 7, 2020, as contained in items 1 through 3.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY/CARRIED/DEFEATED

STAFF REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS

1. Climate Emergency Response, Green Operations, and Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

The Chair advised that this item is deferred to a future meeting as City staff who were originally scheduled to provide the presentation on December 7, 2020 are unavailable.

2. General Manager's Report

Donnie Rosa, General Manager, Park Board, reported on:

- Work on the RayCam Community Centre playground renewal is underway and is expected to be completed in Q4 2020
- The Charleson Park playground renewal has been completed
- Release of the first Vancouver Park Board Youth Stuff newsletter in November 2020 to over 200 subscribers
- Retirement of Alan Duncan, Environmental Planner, Park Board, in January 2021
- Items of interest to the Park Board to be considered at the December 8, 2020 Council meeting:
 - Report on 2021 Capital and Operating Budget, including a memorandum from the General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, dated December 1, 2020
 - Report on Vancouver Bird Strategy Update and Implementation
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from November 30 to December 7, 2020.

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

1. Vancouver Aquatics Strategy and Blue Flag

Commissioner Demers introduced the motion and responded to questions from the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

WHEREAS:

1. In May 2014, the Board approved a motion requesting staff to investigate the benefits of Blue Flag awards for Vancouver beaches and marinas; the subsequent report back from staff recommended Blue Flag to be “monitored for future consideration”;
2. Blue Flag is the world's most-recognized award for clean, accessible, safe and enjoyable beaches. It is used in 46 countries. Blue Flags are awarded to beaches and marinas that meet high environmental, safety and cleanliness standards;
3. This Blue Flag initiative is an opportunity for Park Board to build on its current success, connect more people to water, and create lasting benefits for Vancouver's waterfront, tourism and small businesses;
4. With the support of a private funder, whereby all costs incurred in the process of applying for a Blue Flag award are covered, the Park Board can be the first to bring this prestigious award to British Columbia;
5. Swim Drink Fish is a registered Canadian charity established in 2001 that uses citizen science and communications technology to inspire people to know and safeguard local waters. In early 2020, Swim Drink Fish took over the National

Operator role and works with Blue Flag International to connect Canadian beach managers with other waterfront leaders from around the world;

6. A Blue Flag award would help the Park Board achieve its VanPlay Strategic Bold Moves, specifically to “protect and enhance the environment”;
7. As noted in [VanPlay's](#) direction to Weave the City Together, the Approaches to Action contain a recommendation to “cultivate connection to nature through education, programming and stewardship” (N.4 Connection to Nature), with initiatives including:
 - N.4.1 Engage residents in fun and easy environmental monitoring, citizen science and environmental education programs to demonstrate the benefits of an ecological approach to horticulture and naturally managed spaces in parks;
 - N.4.2 Incorporate environmental education and interpretive signage into the park system in collaboration with Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations; and
 - N.4.3 Support environmental stewardship by providing expertise and resources, giving appreciation and recognition, and supplying training capacity building opportunities to community stewardship groups and environmental art projects;
8. As outlined in VanSplash, the 25-year strategy for aquatics in Vancouver, “recommendations for beaches place a particular emphasis on building on the current success of our beaches”, including:

Recommendation 1: Consider activating or enhancing the range of aquatic experiences;

Recommendation 3: Invest in maintaining and enhancing existing beaches; and

Recommendation 4: Consider enhancing the diversity of experiences offered at/from the beach;
9. Blue Flag awards can provide an opportunity for the Park Board and Swim Drink Fish to collaborate on environmental monitoring, citizen science and environmental education programming:
 - a. Monitoring the water at Blue Flag beaches is a part of Blue Flag requirement. Swim Drink Fish’s Vancouver Water Monitoring Program has already trained hundreds of citizen scientists;
 - b. Swim Drink Fish commits to lend its expertise in providing public water literacy workshops and education; and
 - c. Blue Flag information boards provide a tangible opportunity to appreciate and recognize participating community stewardship groups in collaboration with First Nations; and

10. Collection of required water quality data for five potential Blue Flag beaches (English Bay, Kitsilano Beach, Jericho Beach, Locarno Beach, and Spanish Banks) was completed in 2020. This data satisfies an important Blue Flag application requirement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to complete one Blue Flag beach application by January 13, 2021; and
- B. FURTHER THAT a beach management committee is established and meet twice yearly.

Motion to Refer

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

THAT the motion be referred to staff to provide more information regarding the financial implications and the work required, including consultation with the First Nations.

CARRIED

In favour: Barker, Coupar, Giesbrecht, Irwin, Mackinnon

Opposed: Demers, Dumont

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Irwin wished all a happy holiday season, Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year.

ENQUIRIES

1. A Board member requested a report from Easy Park on parking revenue and lot utilization by parking lots, as well as paid street parking in Stanley Park, further broken down to include total overall numbers for Stanley Park. The information should include data on cars and buses, and at least two years of pre pandemic data, 2018 and 2019, to establish baseline data.
2. A Board member requested a report from Easy Park on parking revenue and lot utilization, by parking lot as well as paid street parking, for all Park Board lots on Beach Avenue from the Vancouver Aquatic Centre to English Bay, including any data from recently installed electric vehicle charging stations in those lots. The information should include data on cars and buses, and at least two years of pre pandemic data, 2018 and 2019, to establish baseline data.
3. A Board member followed up on an enquiry from September 15, 2020 titled "Violent Incidents in Parks".

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR – 2021 TERM

* * * * *

At this point in the proceedings, the General Manager assumed the chair.

* * * * *

1. Election of Board Chair

As set forth in the Park Board's Procedure By-law, the General Manager, acting as Chair pro tem, called for nominations for Chair of the Board for the 2021 term.

Commissioner Giesbrecht moved, and Commissioner Mackinnon seconded, the nomination of Commissioner Dumont as Chair of the Board for 2021.

Commissioner Dumont accepted the nomination.

The General Manager called for additional nominations. There being no further nominations, the General Manager declared nominations for the Chair of the Board closed.

The General Manager announced Commissioner Dumont elected as Chair of the Board by acclamation.

2. Election of Board Vice-Chair

The General Manager called for nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Board for 2021.

Commissioner Dumont moved, and Commissioner Irwin seconded, the nomination of Commissioner Demers as Vice-Chair of the Board for 2021.

Commissioner Demers accepted the nomination.

The General Manager called for additional nominations. There being no further nominations, the General Manager declared nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Board closed.

The General Manager announced Commissioner Demers elected as Vice-Chair of the Board by acclamation.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR – 2021 Term

1. Election of Committee Chair

The General Manager called for nominations for the Chair of the Committee for 2021.

Commissioner Irwin moved, and Commissioner Demers seconded, the nomination of Commissioner Giesbrecht as Chair of the Committee for 2021.

Commissioner Giesbrecht accepted the nomination.

The General Manager called for additional nominations. There being no further nominations, the General Manager declared nominations for the Chair of the Committee closed.

The General Manager announced Commissioner Giesbrecht elected as Chair of the Committee by acclamation.

2. Election of Committee Vice-Chair

The General Manager called for nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Committee for 2021.

Commissioner Mackinnon moved, and Commissioner Giesbrecht seconded, the nomination of Commissioner Barker as Vice-Chair of the Committee for 2021.

Commissioner Barker accepted the nomination.

The General Manager called for additional nominations. There being no further nominations, the General Manager declared nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Committee closed.

The General Manager announced Commissioner Barker elected as Vice-Chair of the Committee by acclamation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 8:33 pm.

* * * * *

Donnie Rosa
General Manager

Commissioner Camil Dumont
Chair