



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

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

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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.

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Donnie Rosa
General Manager

Commissioner Camil Dumont
Chair