



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 18, 2021

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Monday, January 18, 2021, 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:** 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 Demers  
SECONDED by Commissioner Coupar

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(s):

- (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 – December 8, 2020**

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin

SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board was advised that there are no communications of note related to the Board agenda items.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Coupar advised that Clive Lionel Justice passed away on December 21, 2020 and recognized his contribution to horticulture and landscape architecture in British Columbia.

## **DEFERRED ITEMS**

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

The following members from the City of Vancouver's Sustainability Department joined the meeting:

- Brad Bedalt, Assistant Director of Sustainability
- Evan Dacey, Acting Branch Manager, Fleet Services and Asset Management
- Matt Horne, Climate Policy Manager
- Tamsin Mills, Senior Sustainability Specialist
- Doug Smith, Director of Sustainability
- Rachel Telling, Sustainability Specialist.

M. Horne and B. Bedalt led the review of a presentation on the City's Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) and highlighted:

- Carbon pollution in the City
- Actions within the six big moves in the CEAP:
  - Walkable complete neighbourhoods (incorporated into the Vancouver Plan)
  - Active transportation and transit
  - Zero emission vehicles

- Zero emissions space and water heating
- Low carbon materials and construction practices
- Restored coasts and forests (reporting in 2021)
- Integration of equity into the CEAP:
  - Establishment of a Climate and Equity Working Group
  - Equity reviews undertaken
- Equity approach:
  - Minimize burdens for those already struggling
  - Higher expectations for those who can afford it
  - Identity and resourcing work need to go deeper
  - Accountability via equity milestones
- Four tools that will be used to close the \$230 million funding gap
- Next steps.

R. Telling led the review of a presentation on the City's corporate green operations plan and highlighted:

- Highlights of the initial plan developed in 2013 to demonstrate leadership in corporate sustainability
- Cost savings resulting from the initial plan
- The new plan provides an opportunity to respond to emerging priorities
- Targets and actions under four goal areas in the new plan:
  - Zero carbon
  - Zero waste
  - Healthy ecosystems
  - Staff leadership
- Reporting on green operations targets.

T. Mills led the review of a presentation on the City's updated climate change adaptation strategy and highlighted:

- The need to integrate climate change adaptation with mitigation
- Increase in intensity and frequency of air quality advisories
- Cost/benefit of adaptation
- Climate change disproportionately impacts individuals, groups and neighbourhoods
- History of climate adaptation in Vancouver
- Climate-related hazards of greatest concern in Vancouver
- Results of the Province's 2019 climate risk assessment

- Targets and actions under six goal areas:
  - Climate robust infrastructure
  - Climate resilient buildings
  - Healthy, vigorous natural areas and green space
  - Prepared, connected communities
  - Coastal preparedness
  - Opportunities for improvement
- Next steps.

The presenters, along with D. Smith and Dave Hutch, Director of Planning and Park Development, Park Board, responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on:

- Whether there is information available regarding the breakdown of the funding allocated to pedestrian and cycling improvements and mitigating problems for individuals with mobility challenges
- Options to lower carbon emissions from buildings
- The intent of the Sea2City Design Challenge to innovate approaches to protect the shoreline
- Opportunities to consider conversion of paved surfaces to natural systems
- Suggestion to fund incentives to redirect or reuse water from building roofs
- Use of parks to management rainwater
- Work with Metro Vancouver, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority and Fraser Basin Council to plan for the risk of flooding in the new parks being constructed along the Fraser River
- The need for the Park Board and City to coordinate on operational activities to control invasive blackberries.

## **STAFF REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. Vancouver Aquatics Strategy and Blue Flag – Report Back**

Doug Shearer, Manager, Planning, Policy and Environment, Park Board, and Chad Townsend, Senior Environment and Sustainability Planner, Park Board, jointly led the review of a presentation on the findings of staff investigations in response to the Board's December 7, 2020 motion:

- Background of Blue Flag certification
- Previous Park Board consideration of Blue Flag certification
- Application criteria to achieve Blue Flag certification
- Potential beaches for Blue Flag certification
- Cost estimates to implement and maintain certification
- Alignment with policy and priorities, reconciliation with local First Nations and other considerations
- Vancouver beaches already enjoy an exceptional reputation.

MOVED by Commissioner Demers  
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to write to Swim Drink Fish to express our appreciation for their offer to assist with the Blue Flag award application process for the 2021 season, which included potential donor funding to cover some of the costs, and to advise that while pursuing this initiative is not aligned with our current service plan priorities and commitments to ongoing reconciliation work, the Park Board looks forward to other collaborative opportunities to promote environmental stewardship and support our water quality goals.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **2. General Manager's Report**

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

- Due to a Public Health Order (PHO), Bright Nights 2020 was cancelled:
  - Two videos of the train ride were produced, which raised \$525,000 for the Burn Fund through donations and the 50/50 draw
  - An additional \$75,000 was raised through regular donation channels
- The Vancouver Festival of Lights was cancelled in December 2020 due to a PHO:
  - A video of the light display was shared on social channels on Christmas Eve
- A “Reimagined Polar Bear Swim” was created to replace the 101<sup>st</sup> Polar Bear Swim:
  - There were over 1,400 participants who chose to take the Polar Bear Dip at home
- Development of the VanDusen and Bloedel Strategic Plan in 2021:
  - The development of a Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) between the Park Board and its operating partner, the Vancouver Botanical Garden Association, has been prioritized as part of the VanDusen and Bloedel Strategic Plan
- The draft John Hendry Park Master Plan will be brought to the public for a final round of public engagement by mid-2021:
  - Anticipation that the final Master Plan will be presented to the Board for decision by late 2021
- Update on the dog waste pilot program to divert dog waste from landfills
- A call for volunteers to participate in an East Park Advisory Group to support the community engagement and design process for East Park
- Staff highlights of the Street Horticulture Team
- Upcoming Council business of interest to the Park Board:
  - Motion on Vancouver’s First Public Safety Strategy
  - Report on the Contract Award for PS20200434 – Provision of a Sewage and Rainwater Management Plan (SRMP) for Vancouver
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from December 8, 2020 to January 18, 2021.

D. Rosa, along with Dave Hutch, Director of Planning and Park Development, Park Board, responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on:

- Dog waste pilot program:
  - Whether there is a potential for the number of red bins in parks to be increased by summer 2021
  - The need for consistency in the placement of red bins along the Fraser River walkway in Burnaby and Vancouver
  - Request for information on options to divert dog waste from landfills
- Request for an update to the Board on the development of the VanDusen and Bloedel Strategic Plan
- Outreach for volunteer participants in the East Park Advisory Group:
  - The need to ensure the East Park Advisory Group participants are aware of the principles that have already been established by the Park Board for East Park
- Opportunities to create more dog off-leash areas.

## **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

### **1. Park Board Staff to Maintain All Types of Parks**

Commissioner Irwin gave notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board have fully qualified Park Board staff maintain and carry-out all work for any future, under-construction, or proposed 'airspace' parks, similar to and including the new 'airspace' park at Oakridge Centre Mall with the Westbank development, and in all parks that are in any way different from traditional, surface parks;
- B. THAT, in order to carry out A, the Vancouver Park Board requests Vancouver City Council to work collaboratively to negotiate a contract with Oakridge that specifies that work is to be done by Park Board staff in the new park at Oakridge Centre; and
- C. THAT only Park Board staff maintain and tend Vancouver Park Board public parks, and any other parks that are public, but have a private interest involved.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Irwin wished the community a good Martin Luther King Day and noted that the City of Ottawa has been observing Martin Luther King Day since 2005.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 8:35 pm.

\* \* \* \* \*

---

Donnie Rosa  
General Manager

---

Commissioner Camil Dumont  
Chair