



Park Board General Manager's Office Report January 18, 2020

The following report is intended to provide an overview and update on recent and upcoming activities within the Board of Parks & Recreation.

Bright Nights 2020

Firefighters and Park Board staff worked tirelessly again this year to set up the Bright Nights event – with pandemic precautions top of mind. Due to a Public Health Order (PHO) however, the event was cancelled. In an effort to not let all the hard work of the setup go to waste, two [videos of the train ride](#) were produced – a regular format version and a 3D format. Videos were shared on the Park Board website, the Burn Fund website and through our combined social media channels. The video was a great success, encouraging viewers to consider supporting the Burn Fund through donations or buying tickets in their 50/50 draw. The Burn Fund raised \$525,000 for their 50/50 draw and additional \$75,000 was raised through regular donation channels. Guests who had purchased tickets in advance were given the option to donate all or a portion of their ticket refund to the Burn Fund, of which many took advantage. We are thrilled by the generosity of our community and extend our sincerest gratitude for their efforts to support our partners at the BC Professional Fire Fighters Burn Fund! We made the best out of the situation and plan to be back next year to provide our community with an even better Bright Nights in 2021!

Festival of Lights (FOL) 2020

VanDusen Festival of Lights was reimagined in 2020 with a one-way route illuminating 10 acres of the garden with custom soundscape and artistic elements throughout. Many new safety protocols were introduced in line with provincial health guidelines; from limited capacity time slots to online ticket sales, with a goal of providing a safe and contactless experience. Park Board staff at VanDusen worked together to create an innovative and safe outdoor holiday event. With more than half of the event nights selling out before opening, it almost broke our spirit when it had to be cancelled in early December due to the PHO. [A short video](#) was shared on our social channels on Christmas Eve giving the community a sneak peak of their beloved holiday event that they could experience from the safety of their own homes. We have received an overwhelming response from the community who are disappointed but understanding that the event could not take place in 2020 and look forward to attending in 2021.

101st Polar Bear Swim - 2021

To keep the spirit and momentum for this great annual event, staff created the “reimagined Polar Bear Swim”, a virtual [Polar Bear Dip](#), where participants chose to take the Polar Bear Dip at home. Through the Park Board registration process, we received over 1,400 participants, of which some 800 submitted images or videos in return for the collectors 2021 Badge and a commemorative certificate.

VanDusen & Bloedel Strategic Plan

Staff are focussed on our very important relationship with the Vancouver Botanical Garden Association (VBGA) and have prioritized the development of the Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) between the Park Board (PB) and its operating partner, the Vancouver Botanical Garden Association (VBGA) as part of the VanDusen and Bloedel Strategic Plan.

The Board received a memo in October 2019 regarding the launch of the Strategic Plan project. The project team has completed an analysis of current operations, a review of comparable precedents, and engagement in early 2020.

Between October 2019 and February 2020, more than 6,000 people were engaged in the process of developing this strategic plan. There was a pause in the work from March 2020 to the end of the year as the COVID-19 pandemic impacted in-person meetings and other recovery priorities, and reopening took over. I am pleased to report that this work is restarting with the intention to finish the Strategic Plan



in 2021. The work will further develop into a business and implementation plan and governance model. Staff will provide Board updates at various milestones.

John Hendry/Trout Lake Park

The [John Hendry Park Master Plan](#) first began in 2013, however was paused in 2015 to incorporate City-wide service planning in the People, Parks and Dogs Strategy. In the fall of 2019 the plan was restarted. This Master Plan will provide a guide for changes and upgrades in this much loved park to serve the area's growing population in both the near term and longer term. Staff will bring an updated draft of the John Hendry Park Master Plan to the public for a final round of public engagement by mid 2021 and anticipate presenting the final draft Master Plan to the Board for decision by late 2021.

Dog Waste Pilot Program

City of Vancouver's Solid Waste team initiated the dog waste pilot program in 2016 to help divert dog waste away from landfills. Bright red waste bins were chosen to provide dog owners with a highly visible disposal option, limited to dog waste only. The pilot program was initiated at Charleson, John Hendry and Grimmatt Parks, then expanded to include Hinge and Emery Barnes in 2017, Coopers in 2018, and Sunset Beach and Nelson Parks in 2019. Although, the bins have been temporarily removed in Emery Barnes and at Sunset Beach due to access and other debris disposal issues; staff are evaluating with the intention of returning the bins when possible. This program successfully diverted 31 tons of dog waste in 2020 away from landfills to the sanitary sewer system.

This pilot project aligns with Park Board and City policies, including the People, Parks and Dog Strategy that recommends, 'Expand the separated dog waste program and promote initiatives to effectively manage dog waste.', VanPlay's Direction to "Welcome Everyone" by providing safe, clean and welcoming parks and recreation spaces, as this pilot improves both communication and customer service, as well as the City's goal for Vancouver to be a zero waste community by 2040.

Board of Parks and Recreation staff will continue to support this project, and potential program expansion in high dog activity areas. Staff will also continue to collaborate with the City in their efforts to consider other options for disposal. An RFI for alternative processing methods was issued in late 2019, but was paused due to COVID-19. A program review is anticipated in 2021.

East Park Advisory Group

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is currently seeking participants for an advisory group to support the community engagement and design process for the new waterfront park in False Creek. The [East Park](#) project includes a new park at the east end of Olympic Village and a portion of the False Creek shoreline between the Creekside Community Centre and Science World. The advisory group will help with the process of generating a concept plan that can be supported by Indigenous Rights-holders, stakeholders, and residents.

Staff Highlights

The Board of Parks and Recreation team is hard at work for the community. Next time you notice how great a median or circle looks, thank our Street Horticulture Team who maintain hundreds of locations across the city, with pride, enthusiasm and a rigorous strategy putting safety first. Highlighted here are Supervisor Dane Lulic and Director Amit Gandha as the team demonstrates their expertise to GM Rosa.

Upcoming Council Business (related to or impacting parks & recreation):

- 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 – recommending approval which is a necessary step



towards developing the SRMP to address recent Council and Park Board directions, including accelerated action on combined sewer overflows mitigation, implementation of the Rain City Strategy and other directions that fundamentally shift the way that water is valued and managed within the city.

Board Briefing Memos and Emails: December 8, 2020 to January 18, 2021

Date	Topic
Dec 18	Stanley Park Heronry Remediation Work
Jan 7	Strathcona Residents Association Meeting
Jan 11	Strathcona Park Encampment Community Communications Plan