



## Park Board General Manager's Office Report February 8, 2021

*The following report is intended to provide an overview and update on recent and upcoming activities within the Park Board.*

### **Our Park Project**

The Community Action Initiative has profiled the Park Board led project "Our Park" in their December 2020 newsletter. ["Our Park" project](#) is funded through a community wellness and harm reduction grant. The project is intended to bring together community around Andy Livingstone Park to create an art project while focusing on anti-stigma, harm reduction and safe park spaces. The "Our Park" working group and steering committees have begun meeting and planning for park activation in spring 2021. Partner organizations include the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Coastal Health and Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society. This project is an excellent example of inter-agency collaboration, community development and park activation around challenging issues.

### **Stanley Park – Outdoor Checkerboards**

The game of giant outdoor chess is returning to Stanley Park. Park Board is reanimating three giant outdoor checkerboards, which originally opened in the 1920s, with the help of young chess enthusiast, Keygan Power. The reanimating of the checkerboards will be used as a pilot to jumpstart the revitalization of outdoor game spaces this spring and summer.

### **Recognition of Park Board "Partners"**

Muncie Booth, Head Professional at McCleery Golf Course, was recently awarded the inaugural PGA of Canada's Warren Crosbie Community Leader of the Year Award. For the past 21 years, Muncie Booth has run golf camps for inner-city children at McCleery Golf Course in Vancouver. The kids are given some golf instruction, run through a series of fun drills and offered a scrumptious brunch inside McCleery's clubhouse. Through his 40 years as a member of the PGA of Canada, Muncie developed numerous alliances both inside and outside the golf industry that helped provide sponsorship for the program for the last 21 years. This program provided inner city kids access and opportunity to the game of golf and more importantly, a safe and fun environment to learn and develop.

We are very proud of Muncie's accomplishments and feel honoured to have Muncie as the inaugural award winner for his decades of commitment to this program and the Vancouver Parks Board.

David Cooper, a Vancouver photographer who has spent his career documenting live performance in Vancouver was appointed to the [Order of Canada](#) for innovation in performance photography. He has a long history of working with our community-engaged dance projects especially the West Point Grey Collaborative Creative Dance group with Desiree Dunbar.

Mark Haney, who was one of the first Fieldhouse Artists, was named an [Artist Hero of 2020](#) by the Globe and Mail for his Isolation Commissions project, compositions, and performances in Mountain View Cemetery. This work connecting people to music in as many different ways as possible began with his work in the fieldhouse, which changed his understanding of how music could interface with everyday life.

### **2021 Operating and Capital Budget Update**

City Council approved the Park Board's 2021 Operating and Capital Budget on December 8, 2020. Council approved an amendment to the Park Board Operating Budget, which included an additional investment for Park Cleanliness and Safety in the amount of \$300,000. Park Operations staff will be developing a plan to maximize the service benefits by deploying these funds in areas with the highest need.

### **Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Courtyard Gates**

The Vancouver Park Board completed the design and installation of four new gates in the Sun Yat-Sen courtyard and garden in late 2020. The Sun Yat-Sen courtyard is a key public space in Vancouver's historic Chinatown and has faced on-going challenges including vandalism and crime in the last several years.



Recognizing the value of this unique cultural space, staff worked collaboratively with stakeholders and community members to address these safety concerns. JYW Architects, the original architects of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen garden, were retained to create an aesthetically and culturally appropriate design for the neighborhood. Two new gates were installed at the Carrall and Pender Street entrances into the courtyard, and two new otter-proof gates replaced existing gates of the public garden. The new gates will improve safety and support future activation and events in the courtyard.

### **CRAB Park Improvements Project**

Two projects are currently taking place at CRAB Park at Portside: park improvements and washroom replacements. In July 2019, the VFPA announced a conditional donation of \$1 million toward improvements to CRAB Park at Portside to offset the impacts of the Centerm Expansion Project. The Park Board will be responsible for identifying priorities, design, public engagement and delivery of the improvements. Staff are currently developing a public engagement strategy that will launch in early 2021. Design of the improvements is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2021 with implementation of the improvements planned for 2022. The recently approved Washroom Strategy identified CRAB Park as a highest priority for new washrooms, and a pilot installation of two Portland Loos at CRAB will be delivered this summer through the current Capital Plan.

### **Staff Highlights**

The Board of Parks and Recreation team is hard at work for the community. Park Board's Major Maintenance and Construction team can be seen across the city while conducting annual inspection of the seawall structure, asphalt surface, drainage, gates/fencing, benches, stencils and signage. When we have natural events like sea storms, king tides or landslides, it is this team who performs the required maintenance work. On top of this, they also do larger repair works, collaborate with Park Development on capital projects, and consult on project specifications resulting in quicker turnaround time.

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

- [Referral Report](#) on East Fraser Lands Official Development Plan and Public Amenity Financial Plan and Strategy: 10-Year Review and Update, recommending among others to increase the required public amenities by adding 20 childcare spaces, two acres of park, a park fieldhouse, transportation improvements, and 20% of the additional residential units to be for affordable housing.

### **Board Briefing Memos and Emails: January 18 to February 8, 2021**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Jan 18	<a href="#">VanDusen and Bloedel Capacity Enquiry</a>
Jan 19	<a href="#">VanDusen Garden Talk on the Early Edition</a>
Jan 20	<a href="#">Warming Centre Activations</a>
Jan 22	<a href="#">Code of Conduct for Council Members</a>
Feb 2	<a href="#">EFL Development and Community Centre Update</a>
Feb 8	<a href="#">Seaside Greenway Improvement Kits Beach Park</a>