



PARK BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

**MARCH 8, 2021
MARCH 9, 2021 (Reconvened)**

A Park Board Committee meeting was held on Monday, March 8, 2021, at 6:37 pm, via videoconference and at the Park Board Office. The Committee meeting reconvened at 6:14 pm on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

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
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 – February 22, 2021

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin

SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

THAT the Park Board Committee minutes of the February 22, 2021 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Giesbrecht acknowledged International Women's Day and the contribution of all women to a successful society. Commissioner Irwin urged all to ensure that women recover from the "she-cession" created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chair Giesbrecht offered condolences to the friends and family of Marcelina Perdido Agulay, an advocate for migrants, who tragically lost her life in early March 2021.

Commissioner Coupar thanked Park Board staff for lighting the Bloedel Conservatory to mark International Women's Day.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee was advised that from February 23, 2021 to 3:00 pm on March 8, 2021, the General Manager's office received the following correspondence with respect to the Committee agenda items:

- Burrard View Park Proposed Vancouver Urban Food Forest (VUFF): 7 noted concerns around the lack of consultation with community members; 3 opposed the report recommendation; 8 supported the report recommendation; 15 supported the VUFF but feel the north side of the park is a more suitable location
- Park Board Procedure By-law Updates: 6 opposed changes that would limit hearing from the public and restrict Commissioners calling a Special Meeting.

All correspondence has been sent directly to Commissioners.

STAFF REPORTS

1. REPORT: Stanley Park Bright Nights – Firefighters Burn Fund

Chair Giesbrecht introduced:

- Joan Probert, Supervisor of Park Experiences, Park Board
- Rosemary Yip, Operations Team Lead, Stanley Park Train.

R. Yip led the review of a presentation on the 2020 Stanley Park Bright Nights event:

- 2020 would have marked 23 years of the annual fundraising event at the Stanley Park Train
- Requirement to pivot to a virtual experience to comply with the Provincial Health Officer's announcement of the suspension of special events and gatherings on November 19, 2020
- Planning for the 2020 Bright Nights pandemic compliant event which was ultimately cancelled
- Ticket holders were encouraged to donate ticket refunds to the Burn Fund via social media channels and ticketing platform
- Park Board created a virtual experience to engage the community and drive donations.

Ray Boucher, Vice President, BC Professional Fire Fighters Burn Fund and Co-Director of Bright Nights in Stanley Park, expressed thanks to the Park Board Commissioners and staff for their commitment to Stanley Park Bright Nights during a challenging year.

2. REPORT: Burrard View Park – Proposed Vancouver Urban Food Forest

Chad Townsend, Senior Environment and Sustainability Planner, Park Board, and Dana McDonald, Environmental Stewardship Coordinator, Park Board, led the review of a presentation on the proposed new Vancouver Urban Food Forest (VUFF) in Burrard View Park, and highlighted:

- Location and demographics of the neighbourhood of Burrard View Park, in which the proposed VUFF would be located
- Project proponents

- Siting
- Project overview
- Public engagement
- Considerations:
 - Alignment with Park Board priorities
 - Location choice
 - Land use
 - Adjacencies
 - Cost.

D. McDonald, along with C. Townsend, and Dave Hutch, Director of Planning and Park Development, Park Board, and Doug Shearer, Manager, Planning, Policy and Environment, Park Board, responded to questions from the Committee. There was discussion on:

- Other locations in Burrard View Park where a water source is available and the associated cost
- Alternative locations considered for the VUFF
- Public engagement and notification requirements
- Whether there have been discussions regarding partnering with the Hastings Community Association on the VUFF.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 7:33 pm and reconvened at 8:12 pm.

The Committee heard from 20 speakers, of which 10 spoke in support and 10 in opposition to the staff recommendation. The speakers responded to questions from the Committee.

Extension of Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the meeting be extended until the Committee hears from all speakers in Group A.

Commissioner Coupar challenged the Chair's ruling that the motion is in order on the basis that the motion to extend must specify a time to which the meeting is to be extended.

Challenge of the Chair

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

That the ruling of the Chair be sustained.

CARRIED

In favour: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin, Mackinnon
Opposed: Barker, Coupar

Question on the Motion to Extend the Meeting

THAT the meeting be extended until the Committee hears from all speakers in Group A.

CARRIED

In favour: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin, Mackinnon

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

Recess

The meeting was recessed at 10:50 p.m.

Meeting Reconvened

The Chair reconvened the Committee meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:14 pm.

The Committee heard from 14 speakers, of which 8 spoke in support and 6 in opposition to the staff recommendation. The speakers responded to questions from the Committee. The speakers from both groups provided the following comments and sentiments:

- The benefits of project in the proposed location, including:
 - Addressing food security for low income residents
 - Addressing social isolation through community connections
 - Teaching children about growing food
 - Developing connection with the land and the food system
- The need for the involvement of the local First Nations
- Support for the proposal in a different location
- Concern regarding the lack of public consultation
- The need to develop a master plan for Burrard View Park
- Concern regarding the long-term viability of the VUFF
- Suggestion that the project be implemented in a phase approach
- The opportunity for the success of the VUFF to be a catalyst for more food forests
- The aspirational nature of moving from community gardens to food forests.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 8:24 pm and reconvened at 8:38 pm.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the Vancouver Urban Food Forest Collective Garden at Burrard View Park, as applied for in their Expression of Interest (EOI) and as outlined in this report; and
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve a 5-year licence agreement with Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation to operate the community garden, with terms consistent with those in the Urban Agriculture Policy.

Motion to Refer

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Coupar

THAT the Park Board refer the report recommendations back to staff for further consultation and engagement with the proponents, community, and other key stakeholders in order to identify a suitable location for the Vancouver Urban Food Forest in Burrard View Park.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. REPORT BACK: Park Board Procedure By-law Update

Cheryl Chan, Manager, Executive Office and Board Relations, led the review of a presentation on options for handling Member's Motions and proposed criteria for regulations to hold electronic meetings and highlighted:

- Current procedures to receive public feedback on Member's Motions
- Advantages and disadvantages of alternative procedural options to allowing two Commissioners to request the Chair call a Special Board meeting:
 - Defer to the Member's Motion to a Committee meeting if speaker requests are received
 - Consider Member's Motions at Committee meetings
 - Suspend rules to hear from speakers at a Regular Board meeting
 - Dissolve the Committee and allow speakers at a Regular Board meeting
- Proposed criteria for holding and attending electronic meeting regulations:
 - In person attendance expected for regularly schedule meetings, except under extenuating circumstances
 - Requests to attend meetings electronically to be submitted in advance at a Regular Board meeting
 - Unforeseen / urgent requests to be submitted through the Chair for Board consideration at the beginning of the meeting

- Greater flexibility for In Camera and Special Board meetings, with notice provided to the General Manager.

C. Chan responded to questions from the Committee. There was discussion on:

- The requirement for a By-law amendment if the requested amendments to the *Vancouver Charter* are granted
- The timing for the Province to make an amendment to the *Vancouver Charter* is solely within the control of the Province
- A change to the *Vancouver Charter* would provide the Park Board with additional options to receive public feedback on Member's Motions, should the Board decide to implement an option
- Request for a legal opinion on the ability of the Park Board to implement less restrictive requirements for calling Special Board meetings than those specified in the *Vancouver Charter*.

Extension of Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin

SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

THAT the meeting be extended to 11:00 pm.

CARRIED

In favour: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin, Mackinnon

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

Recess

The meeting recessed at 9:25 pm and reconvened at 9:40 pm.

The Committee heard from eight speakers, all of whom spoke in opposition to Item C of the staff recommendation. The speakers provided the following comments and sentiments and responded to questions from the Committee:

- All options to allowing the two Commissioners to request the Chair to call a Special Board meeting are worse than the current situation
- The importance of protecting minority rights and providing the public with an opportunity to speak on issues of interest
- Suggestion that the public be permitted to speak on all items on the agenda of Committee and Regular and Special Board meetings
- Agreement with Recommendation D to provide greater access to the public to participate in Park Board meetings.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

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 an amendment to the Vancouver Charter to require Special meetings be called by the Chair, or upon the request of a majority of Commissioners; and
- D. THAT staff be directed to seek a regulation, pursuant to the Vancouver Charter, to permit the Park Board to hold electronic meetings, as per the criteria outlined in this report.

Motion to Refer

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT the Park Board refer the report recommendations back to staff to obtain a legal opinion on the ability of the Park Board to override the provisions in the *Vancouver Charter*.

DEFEATED

In favour: Barker, Coupar

Opposed: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin, Mackinnon

Extension of Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the meeting be extended to 11:30 pm.

CARRIED

In favour: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin, Mackinnon

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin

SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

THAT Item C be amended to read:

- C. THAT staff be directed to seek an amendment to the Vancouver Charter to require Special meetings be called by the Chair, or upon the request of three Commissioners.

DEFEATED

In favour: Giesbrecht, Irwin

Opposed: Barker, Coupar, Demers, Dumont, Mackinnon

Question on the Main Motion

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 an amendment to the Vancouver Charter to require Special meetings be called by the Chair, or upon the request of a majority of Commissioners; and
- D. THAT staff be directed to seek a regulation, pursuant to the Vancouver Charter, to permit the Park Board to hold electronic meetings, as per the criteria outlined in this report.

CARRIED

In favour: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin, Mackinnon

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

The Committee adjourned at 11:15 pm.

* * * * *