



PARK BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

— April 26, 2021 —

The following information is intended to provide a brief overview of the Board's governance work at the Committee and Board meetings. The full agenda, meeting materials, video clips and official minutes can be found on the [Park Board website](#).

STAFF REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS

Cathedral Square Park Mural Installation: Blanketing the City

The Board received a presentation on a [new temporary public art mural, titled Blanketing the City, in Cathedral Square](#). The project will be the first collaborative public art installation by artists from the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations in a Vancouver park. It will be organized by the Vancouver Mural Festival and has received support from BC Hydro, Downtown BIA, the City of Vancouver and Hives for Humanity who are all Cathedral Square site partners. The Blanketing the City project was started in 2018 by Musqueam artist Debra Sparrow, and is part of a series that seeks to reclaim the urban landscape of Vancouver and asserts the visibility and culture of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh people on their unceded lands. Debra Sparrow has invited acclaimed weavers Chief Janice George of the Squamish Nation and Angela George of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation to create a weaving design to blanket Cathedral Square. The installation will take place between May 15 and 28, 2021.

Low Intensity Turf Maintenance - Interim Update

The Board received a presentation outlining the [2021 pollinator meadow pilot implementation plan](#), which expands on the 2020 pilot and supports the [Low-intensity Turf Maintenance for Increased Financial and Ecological Resilience](#) motion approved by the Board on March 10, 2021. Staff also shared some of the strategies developed to track and document the impacts of these operational changes. Converting turf to pollinator meadows increases access to naturally managed areas throughout the park system. The meadows also support pollinator and bird habitat public education initiatives. Eight sites were selected for the 2020 pilot with an additional twelve selected for 2021, totalling 37.3 hectares. In spring, staff will begin implementing the pilot meadows and track data to be used to report back to the Board later this year.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The General Manager presented an overview of the updates included in the [GM Report](#):

- **Homeless Encampments in Parks** – the Province of BC, City of Vancouver, and Board of Parks and Recreation signed a [Memorandum of Understanding on Support for Unsheltered Vancouver Residents](#) (MOU) that formalizes the commitment to work together to end the Strathcona Park encampment and help prevent future encampments in Vancouver. GM orders were issued on February 10, March 30, and April 9 to aid in the decampment process.
- **Outdoor Pools and Beaches – Summer 2021** – staff are planning for the resumption of a full operational season for outdoor pools and beaches; last year's COVID-19 protocols will be followed until restrictions are loosened by the Province.
- **Parks & Recreation Professional Development Conferences - 2021** – Darren Peterson, Recreation Manager, will be presenting on a BCRPA symposium panel on the topic "COVID Opportunity: Activating Outdoor Spaces".
- **Skateboard Amenities Strategy - Engagement Phase 1** – Engagement, starting May 7 and running approximately one month, will seek input on our existing skateboard parks and amenities, and how we can improve on what we currently have.



- **COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics** – Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) requested space for two new COVID-19 “pop-up” community vaccination clinics – one to be located at the Killarney Community Centre from May 10 to 31 and the other at Strathcona Community Centre from May 11 to 26 (dates subject to change).
- **Council Agenda Items** of interest to the Park board include:
 - A report on [One Year In: City of Vancouver Contributions to COVID-19 Recovery and Report Back](#) that summarizes the City’s contributions to economic and community recovery through the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic and work going forward, as well as providing a staff report back on the Council COVID-19 Recovery Committee speakers’ recommendations, per Council direction.
 - A member’s motion [Affirming Support for a Formula E World Championship Event](#) seeking Council approval to direct staff to work with One Stop Strategy (OSS) to enable the Canadian Round Formula E event that is anticipated to include a two-day conference, music and cultural events and one day electric vehicle race in July 2022. Recommendations include considerations for a three-year term, with all costs to be borne by or recoverable from the organizer.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next Committee and Board meetings are scheduled for May 17, 2021.

