



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 26, 2021

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Monday, April 26, 2021, at 6:39 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
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 Irwin

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):

- (c) labour relations or other employee relations;
- (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the City or Park Board;
- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

- (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 – April 12, 2021

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

THAT the Park Board minutes of the April 12, 2021 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.

STAFF REPORTS

1. PRESENTATION: Cathedral Square Park Mural Installation: Blanketing the City

Doug Shearer, Manager, Planning, Policy and Environment, Park Board, introduced Julia Hulbert, Arts and Cultural Planner II, Park Board.

J. Hulbert led the review of a presentation on the proposed temporary mural installation at Cathedral Square Park and highlighted:

- Policy framework
- The proposed mural will celebrate Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh cultures with the objective of building a deeper understanding of living Coast Salish culture
- Project organizer and partners
- Overview of the Blanketing the City project
- Contributing artists to the Cathedral Square Park mural installation
- Next steps.

J. Hulbert responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on:

- The temporary mural at Cathedral Square Park is currently expected to remain in place for five years
- Whether there are opportunities to extend the life of the temporary installation for longer than five to 10 years.

2. REPORT REFERENCE: Low Intensity Turf Maintenance – Interim Update

Dave Hutch, Director of Planning and Park Development, Park Board, introduced:

- Jack Tupper, Landscape Architect I
- Krista Voth, Environmental Stewardship Coordinator.

K. Voth and J. Tupper led the review of a presentation providing an interim update on low intensity turf maintenance and highlighted:

- Alignment with policies and VanPlay
- Implementation plan and staff roles
- Pilot sites selected
- Mowing regimes
- Examples of information sheets developed for internal resources and the public
- Findings of biodiversity and ecological benefits at the 2020 selected sites
- Evaluation of equipment requirements will be undertaken in 2021
- 2021 communication campaign
- Next steps.

D. Hutch, along with Chad Townsend, Senior Environment and Sustainability Planner, Park Board, J. Tupper and C. Voth, responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on:

- Whether the final report will include metrics on the number of people that use the meadow sites and users' opinions of the space
- Concern regarding the public reluctance to walk through or use the meadow sites:
 - The need for public engagement to address the reluctance
 - Signage will be created to educate the public on the appropriate use of the meadow and to invite the public into the meadow
- The need to utilize an alternate means to reach the segment of the public that does not engage on social media
- Urban centres across the world are implementing low intensity turf maintenance as the biodiversity and ecological benefits are being recognized
- Information sharing:
 - Suggestion to share the research findings with other municipalities
 - Whether the mapping of turf typologies can be shared outside of the Park Board
 - Request that the information sheets be shared with Commissioners
- 5.5% of the total turf in parks that will be converted to meadows.

3. General Manager's Report

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

- On March 31, 2021, 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:
 - Actions taken by the City, BC Housing and Park Board following the signing of the MOU
- Planning for the resumption of a full operational season at pools and beaches in summer 2021, following COVID-19 protocols established in 2020:
 - Anticipated season opening date is May 22, 2021
- Parks and Recreation staff and volunteers are invited to attend the annual professional development events hosted by the Recreation Facilities Association of BC (RFABC) and the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA):
 - Both events will be hosted online
 - Darren Peterson, Recreation Manager, Park Board, will be presenting on a BCRPA symposium panel on the topic “COVID Opportunity: Activating Outdoor Spaces” to showcase the innovation and learnings from Vancouver’s pandemic response to outdoor activation
- Phase 1 engagement on the Skateboard Amenities Strategy will commence on May 7, 2021
- Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) has requested space for two new COVID-19 “pop-up” community vaccination clinics:
 - Killarney Community Centre from May 10 to 31, 2021
 - Strathcona Community Centre from May 11 to 26, 2021
 - Dates are subject to change
- Upcoming Council business related to or impacting parks and recreation:
 - Report titled “One Year In: City of Vancouver Contributions to COVID-19 Recovery and Report Back”
 - Member’s motion titled “Affirming Support for a Formula E World Championship Event”
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from April 13 to 26, 2021.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Irwin offered the following comments:

- Condemnation of the recent anti-semitic graffiti seen in Vancouver parks
- Asian Heritage Month from May 1 to 31, 2021, celebrating the contributions of the Asian community
- Wishes for a happy May Day to all workers and the labour movement.

Commissioner Giesbrecht expressed condolences and understanding to the family and friends of the youths who were involved in the tragic incident that occurred at a Vancouver park on April 25, 2021 and noted the need to support youth across the City.

ENQUIRIES

1. A Board member requested an update on any discussions Park Board staff have had with the Formula E event organizers regarding a potential race event in Vancouver as there was a motion approved by Council in July 2014 directing staff to explore this opportunity and report back.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 7:50 pm.

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Donnie Rosa
General Manager

Commissioner Camil Dumont
Chair