



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

MAY 31, 2021

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Monday, May 31, 2021, at 6:31 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.

Commissioner Mackinnon requested the observance of a moment of silence to remember and mourn the 215 children who were found in an unmarked grave on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.

IN CAMERA

1. In Camera Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

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 paragraphs:

- (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Council [Board] considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city;
- (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the City or Park Board;
- (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 – May 17, 2021

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Coupar

THAT the Park Board minutes of the May 17, 2021 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board was advised that from May 17, 2021 to 3:00 pm on May 31, 2021, the following emails were received via the PBCommissioners@vancouver.ca account with respect to the Board agenda items:

- One in support of the Member’s Motion titled “Iconic Vancouver Park Water Feature Renewals
- One in support of the Member’s Motion titled “Maintain Transit Accessibility During COVID-19 and Beyond”.

All email sent to the above-noted account are distributed automatically to Commissioners.

STAFF REPORTS

1. General Manager’s Report

Members of the Park Board Senior Leadership Team presented the General Manager’s Report and highlighted:

- Anticipated increase in attendance at Park Board pools, beaches and waterfronts over the summer months:
 - Recognition of Vancouver Park Board lifeguards for their commitment and actions they perform each year to ensure pools and waterfronts are safe
- Implementation of International Lifesaving Society (ILS) standard colours in the uniform of outdoor lifeguards
- Initiatives and adaptation by Community Centre Associations (CCAs) during COVID-19
- Hiring of the newly created Communications Coordinator II position
- Continuation of the Strathcona Park neighbourhood engagement

- Launch of the Alcohol in Parks pilot at 22 sites:
 - The pilot will continue from June to October 2021 and between the hours of 11:00 am and 9:00 pm daily
 - Staff will report back to the Board on the operational impacts and costs to support the initiative following the conclusion of the pilot
- Development of the Community Centre (CC) Strategy is underway
- Creation of an eagle-nesting platform in Hastings Park to address the recent occurrences of eagle nests falling and the resulting chick loss
- Updating of the Park Board’s 2013 Local Food Action Plan (LFAP) is in progress
- Work with Parks Canada to provide temporary environmental education/national parks promotion in parks and marinas during the summer 2021
- A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued shortly by the City, in collaboration with the Park Board, for the Sea2City Design Challenge
- Reopening of the Stanley Park Train on May 22, 2021 with COVID-19 protocols in place
- Retirement of Jenny Jung, Supervisor of Special Events and Filming
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from May 13 to 31, 2021.

Jessica Land, Acting Director of Recreation, Park Board, along with Dave Hutch, Director of Planning, Park Board, and Donnie Rosa, General Manager, Park Board, responded questions from the Board. There was discussion on:

- The rationale for selecting a US-based ticket service
- Drop-in swimming at pools will be reintroduced when the Provincial Health Officer’s orders allow
- Request for an update on the status of the Urban Food Forest proposed for Burrard View Park
- Request for an update on the responsibilities of the Communications Coordinator II position and an opportunity to meet the successful candidate.

BYLAWS

The Chair reported that the Bill to amend the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* was passed by the BC Legislature on May 31, 2021 authorizing the Park Board to designate specific public places where liquor may be consumed.

1. Parks Control By-Law – Amendment Regarding Liquor Consumption in Parks

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The By-law to Amend the Parks Control By-law Regarding Liquor Consumption in Parks,
be enacted.

CARRIED

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

Abstained: Irwin

MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Iconic Vancouver Park Water Feature Renewals

Commissioner Coupar withdrew the motion as he had been informed by the General Manager that planning for renewing water features is in progress.

2. Maintaining Transit Accessibility During COVID-19 and Beyond

Commissioner Irwin introduced the motion and responded to questions from the Board.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

WHEREAS:

1. COVID-19 has drastically reduced transit ridership and rebuilding rider confidence will be challenging.
2. Members of the City of Vancouver Seniors Advisory Committee do not approve of TransLink's proposal to reduce the number of bus stops from various bus routes because it forces seniors and persons with disabilities to travel farther on foot or on mobility devices to reach their buses, causing hardship to a considerable number of people.
3. The West End Seniors Network and Riley Park South Cambie Community Visions Steering Committee, among other organizations, are opposed to removing bus stops.
4. While TransLink is consulting with some people on what they call bus line "balancing", many riders who would normally participate in such consultations were following the Provincial Health Officer's instruction to stay home and therefore are not aware of the consultation or the changes.

5. The proposals to reduce the number of bus stops fails to recognize that a large percentage of the people who use transit have lower incomes with fewer other transportation options, and that they are often women and racialized residents.
6. The proposed relocation and elimination of bus stops will make it harder for seniors and people with disabilities to access community centres and other Park Board facilities.
7. The planned fare increase of 2.3% to take effect on July 1, 2021 will undermine the goal of increasing ridership and improving equity on transit.
8. Vancouver City Council passed a similar motion on April 14, 2021.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board Chair inform TransLink that the Board of Parks and Recreation recommends TransLink consult with seniors and disability groups, neighbourhood houses, community centres, women's groups, and the unions of workers who depend on buses before cutting the number of bus stops, or any other transit related services.
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board Chair inform TransLink that the Board of Parks and Recreation does not support bus fare increases.

Commissioner Couper requested that the motion be separated into distinct propositions.

Question on Item A

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Recreation recommends TransLink consult with seniors and disability groups, neighbourhood houses, community centres, women's groups, and the unions of workers who depend on buses before cutting the number of bus stops, or any other transit related services.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on Item B

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board Chair inform TransLink that the Board of Parks and Recreation does not support bus fare increases.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Signage for Safe Travel on Vancouver Park Pathways

Commissioner Barker gave notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT Vancouver Park Board staff work with our City of Vancouver partners and report back on suggested measures to improve safety on the Seaside Greenway and all other park pathways, with emphasis on clear signage at pedestrian crossing points, speed reduction, and other engineering solutions, such as (but not limited to): improved signage; rumble strips to warn these vehicles of upcoming pedestrian crossing points; and a clearly posted seawall speed limit as deemed necessary to reduce vehicle pedestrian collision risk;
- B. FURTHER THAT this report back be provided in time to begin safety improvements in the first quarter of 2022.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Coupar advised that the Bloedel Conservatory will be lit orange for 215 hours as a sign of remembrance of the children whose lives were lost at the Kamloops Indian Residential School.

Commissioners Giesbrecht and Irwin and Chair Dumont expressed sentiments regarding the tragic loss of children due to the residential school system and the need to take concrete action to reconcile with Indigenous peoples.

ENQUIRIES

1. A Board member enquired regarding the timeline for repairs of the boardwalk at the end of the pier at Fraser River Park. The boardwalk has now lifted and is off kilter and is no longer accessible to people on wheelchairs. This area has become a popular place for people with mobility challenges.
2. A Board member noted that there are many benches on the east side of Fraser River Park but not on the west side and asked if any could be relocated (or added) to address the lack of places to rest on the west side of the park.
3. A Board member asked if beach logs will be replaced.
4. A Board member asked if any beach logs will be returned to English Bay and western beaches for seating and sheltering.
5. A Board member enquired about the portion of time and resources Park Rangers spend responding and dealing with the unhoused population in Vancouver's parks.
6. A Board member asked if staff are promoting the Leisure Access Program (LAP) program across the city to ensure residents in need are aware of the services available to them.

7. A Board member asked for an update on the Vancouver Urban Food Forest proposed for Burrard View Park.
8. A Board member asked when the spray park at MacLean Park will be turned on for the summer season.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 7:24 pm.

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Donnie Rosa
General Manager

Commissioner Camil Dumont
Chair

**UPDATE PROPERTIES BEFORE
SUBMITTING**