



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

JULY 19, 2021

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Monday, July 19, 2021, at 6:35 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 Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

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;
- (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 – July 5, 2021

MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

THAT the Park Board minutes of the July 5, 2021 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Dumont highlighted the participation of Park Board Commissioners at official Park Board events since the July 5, 2021 Board meeting:

- July 10: Commissioners Barker and Coupar attended the Brock House Summer Fair
- July 13: Commissioner Giesbrecht spoke at an event to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Langara Ladies Golf Club. The Park Board purchased a bench that will be placed on the 17th tee to commemorate the milestone.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board was advised that from July 12, 2021 to 3:00 pm on July 19, 2021, the following emails were received via the PBCommissioners@vancouver.ca account and the [Contact Park Board Commissioners web form](#) with respect to the Board agenda items:

- 127 in support of the Member's Motion titled "Exploring Capital Funding for an Aboriginal Healing and Cultural Centre in CRAB Park"
- Two in support of the Member's Motion titled "Seniors' Safety in a Climate Emergency".

All correspondence noted has been shared with Commissioners.

STAFF REPORTS

1. Skateboard Amenities Strategy – Initial Findings

Doug Shearer, Manager of Planning, Policy and Environment, Park Board, introduced.

- Mark van der Zalm, Principal Landscape Architect, van der Zalm + Associates
- Michelle Larigakis, Project Manager, Park Board.

M. Larigakis led the review of a presentation on the findings of the public engagement on the skateboard amenities strategy and highlighted:

- Purpose of the strategy
- Schedule for the development of the strategy
- Public engagement:
 - Demographics and geographic distribution of the respondents to the online survey undertaken between May 13 and June 13, 2021
 - Three pop-up events were held
 - Reliance on social media and technology for outreach and promotion due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Organizations represented on the Skateboard Advisory Group for Engagement (SAGE)
- Internal representation on the Skate Plan Oversight Team (SPOT)
- Responses to the questions on the online survey:
 - Reasons for skating
 - Where do you skate?
 - What are your favourite locations to skate?
 - How are we doing with our skate parks?
 - How can we improve our skate parks?
 - Reasons for not skating
 - How can we change negative perceptions?
 - Benefits of skateboarding
 - Are there drawbacks to skateboarding?
- Summary and conclusions from responses
- Next steps.

M. Larigakis, along with D. Shearer, responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on:

- Suggestion to engage residents adjacent to potential skateboard park sites
- Concern regarding the potential conflict between pedestrians and skateboarders who use the hard surface on graded paths in parks
- In-depth workshops will be held with youth during the summer 2021
- Request to address the deficiency in skateboard amenities on the west side of the City
- Suggestion that consideration be given to providing age or skill separated areas in skateboard parks.

2. General Manager's Report

Members of the senior management team reported on:

- Appointment of Steve Kellock as the new Director of Recreation Services

- Update on the launch of the Alcohol in Parks pilot
- 2021 Special Events calendar:
 - Expectation that many of the 2021 special events that were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic will be reinstated with the implementation of Step 3 of the BC Restart Plan
 - The Gourmet Cabaret Cirque 2021/2022 event will be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Park development:
 - Ash Park playground renewal construction will commence in November 2020 and the park will be opened in early July 2021
 - Beaconsfield Park playground renewal construction commenced in November 2020 and opened in June 2021
 - Winona Park playground renewal construction commenced in late January 2021 and the park opened in early July 2021
 - The request for proposal (RFP) process for upgrading the Kerrisdale Park – Point Grey Secondary track and field facility is underway
 - The first of three phases of public engagement on the Kitsilano Beach Park Seaside Greenway improvements will commence in August 2021
- Upcoming Council business related to or impacting parks and recreation:
 - A report on Equity Framework
 - A report on Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants
 - A report on Quarterly Budget Adjustments and Closeouts
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from July 6 to 19, 2021 and those missed from the July 5, 2021 General Manager’s Report.

In response to questions from the Board, S. Jackson advised that, despite the approval of the cancelled 2021/2022 Gourmet Cabaret Cirque event, the 2022/2023 event will require Park Board approval as part of the 2022 Special Event Calendar.

MEMBERS’ MOTIONS

1. Exploring Capital Funding for an Aboriginal Healing and Cultural Centre in CRAB Park

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

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin

SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

WHEREAS:

1. For years the Aboriginal First Nations have called for an Aboriginal Cultural Healing Centre in CRAB Park;
2. Waterfront spaces are critically important both culturally and ecologically to the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and every opportunity should be sought to partner with them on the potential of such spaces over which the Board has jurisdiction;
3. CRAB Park could provide a possible site for the City Council, approved, Aboriginal healing and wellness centre, along with a proposed arts and cultural centre (which would include First Nations and Urban Indigenous programming);
4. The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority has stated its commitment to being a good neighbour to local communities, municipalities and First Nations and to demonstrating this commitment through its investments in those communities; and
5. The Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs recently [passed a motion in support of an Aboriginal Cultural Healing Centre in CRAB Park](#) (February 2021).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to seek clarity from the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority on the potential for a cultural healing centre to be permitted as a land use under the lease agreement for CRAB Park at Portside;
- B. THAT Park Board staff consult with the local first Nations (Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh) to confirm their desired level of involvement in a healing centre on the downtown waterfront;
- C. THAT, should the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority permit the use of land in CRAB Park for a cultural healing centre, Park Board staff work with City of Vancouver staff to request funding in the next capital budget (2022–2025) for a project definition phase (e.g. operator, program, capital, and operating budgets) for an aboriginal healing centre in CRAB park, combined with an arts and cultural centre, in partnership with local First Nations (Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh) urban Indigenous residents, and the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs; and
- D. THAT the Vancouver Park Board copy this request for capital funding to: Vancouver City Council, the federal Minister of Transportation, the local Member of Parliament, and the local Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

That Item D be amended to read:

- D. THAT the Vancouver Park Board copy this request for capital funding to: Vancouver City Council, the federal Minister of Transportation, the local Members of Parliament, and the local Members of the Legislative Assembly.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to seek clarity from the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority on the potential for a cultural healing centre to be permitted as a land use under the lease agreement for CRAB Park at Portside;
- B. THAT Park Board staff consult with the local first Nations (Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh) to confirm their desired level of involvement in a healing centre on the downtown waterfront;
- C. THAT, should the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority permit the use of land in CRAB Park for a cultural healing centre, Park Board staff work with City of Vancouver staff to request funding in the next capital budget (2022–2025) for a project definition phase (e.g. operator, program, capital, and operating budgets) for an aboriginal healing centre in CRAB park, combined with an arts and cultural centre, in partnership with local First Nations (Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh) urban Indigenous residents, and the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs; and
- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board copy this request for capital funding to: Vancouver City Council, the federal Minister of Transportation, the local Member of Parliament, and the local Member of the Legislative Assembly.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Senior's Safety in a Climate Emergency

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

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Barker
SECONDED by Commissioner Coupar

WHEREAS:

1. The shocking depth of British Columbia's unprecedented heat wave was revealed on July 2, 2021 when the province's Chief Coroner, Lisa Lapointe,

reported that over 700 people died suddenly from June 25 to July 1, 2021. Those that had succumbed to the heat were mostly seniors found alone in oven-like homes;

2. Compromised seniors, people with underlying health issues, and people with disabilities are at a great risk of succumbing to extreme heat;
3. We have an aging population in Vancouver and many of these people live alone in homes without adequate air conditioning or other methods to keep them cool;
4. Some people that live alone do not have a safety net of friends and family to check on them in times of emergency;
5. "The reality is we've never seen anything like this in B.C., and in fact the country, but especially in the Lower Mainland," Public Safety Minister, Mike Farnworth, said on June 30. "After we are past this, we will have to take a hard look at what we need to change for the future.";
6. The Vancouver Park Board has programs and services at community centres and senior centres. It is also affiliated with clubs and associations, such as the Vancouver Botanical Garden Association, lawn bowling clubs, gardening clubs, Carnegie Centre, Neighbourhood houses and others that engage with seniors across the city;
7. The City of Vancouver Seniors' Advisory Committee and Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee have mandates to advise the City and Park Board on matters affecting seniors and persons with disabilities and to engage in outreach with their constituent communities. They have lived experience and expertise to advise on what options could provide the greatest benefit in the next heatwave, especially to those who cannot easily leave their homes; and
8. We are in a Climate Emergency and the high temperatures will happen again.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board request staff to develop and implement a seniors and other vulnerable people safety plan to be employed in times of high temperatures. The plan would include, but not be limited to developing a voluntary registry of seniors and other vulnerable people to facilitate contacting them during a heat emergency;
- B. THAT the Park Board work with the City of Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia to provide a framework to deploy staff and resources that can be immediately deployed in the event of another heat emergency;
- C. THAT staff consult and work closely with the Seniors' Advisory Committee and the People With Disabilities Committee in the identification, development and implementation of the above; and
- D. THAT the Park Board do an inventory and status check on cooling aids in its jurisdiction such as drinking fountains, benches in shaded areas, misting stations, cooling stations and other things. Further that they report back on their

condition and take steps to ensure they are all accessible, functional, and in good working order.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

That the motion be amended to:

- A. THAT the Park Board, in collaboration with Community Centre Associations, work with the City of Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia to provide a framework to facilitate coordination among existing community-based services for seniors and people with disabilities in order to more effectively identify support for those vulnerable and isolated who may be negatively impacted by heat waves or other climate emergencies; and
- B. THAT staff consult and work closely with the Seniors' Advisory Committee and the People With Disabilities Committee, and others, in the identification, development and implementation of the above.

Amendment to the Amendment

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Coupar

That the amendment be amended by adding Item C:

- C. THAT staff report back on the short and long term strategies and recommendations outlined in, but not limited to, the July 5, 2021 memorandum from the Vancouver City Planning Commission titled "Climate Emergency: Extreme Heat and Air Quality Mitigation".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on the Amendment, as Amended

- A. THAT the Park Board, in collaboration with Community Centre Associations, work with the City of Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia to provide a framework to facilitate coordination among existing community-based services for seniors and people with disabilities in order to more effectively identify support for those vulnerable and isolated who may be negatively impacted by heat waves or other climate emergencies;
- B. THAT staff consult and work closely with the Seniors' Advisory Committee and the People With Disabilities Committee, and others, in the identification, development and implementation of the above; and

- C. THAT staff report back on the short and long term strategies and recommendations outlined in, but not limited to, the July 5, 2021 memorandum from the Vancouver City Planning Commission titled “Climate Emergency: Extreme Heat and Air Quality Mitigation”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Park Board, in collaboration with Community Centre Associations, work with the City of Vancouver and the Province of British Columbia to provide a framework to facilitate coordination among existing community-based services for seniors and people with disabilities in order to more effectively identify support for those vulnerable and isolated who may be negatively impacted by heat waves or other climate emergencies;
- B. THAT staff consult and work closely with the Seniors’ Advisory Committee and the People With Disabilities Committee, and others, in the identification, development and implementation of the above; and
- C. THAT staff report back on the short and long term strategies and recommendations outlined in, but not limited to, the July 5, 2021 memorandum from the Vancouver City Planning Commission titled “Climate Emergency: Extreme Heat and Air Quality Mitigation”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Urgent Business

Commissioner Demers introduced an urgent motion and responded to questions from the Board.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Park Board direct staff to allocate existing financial and/or human resources to emergency watering measures to mitigate the impacts of summer heat and drought on Vancouver’s urban forest, effective immediately and on a priority basis; and
- B. FURTHER THAT the Park Board direct staff to prioritize the work described in the Board motion titled “Urban Forestry and Climate Emergency Action Plan”, carried unanimously on July 22, 2019, and report back by the end of 2021 with preliminary and/or final recommendations.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

That the motion be amended by adding Item C:

- C. FURTHER THAT the Park Board embark on an education plan across the city to engage residents to help water street trees.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Park Board direct staff to allocate existing financial and/or human resources to emergency watering measures to mitigate the impacts of summer heat and drought on Vancouver’s urban forest, effective immediately and on a priority basis;
- B. FURTHER THAT the Park Board direct staff to prioritize the work described in the Board motion titled “Urban Forestry and Climate Emergency Action Plan”, carried unanimously on July 22, 2019, and report back by the end of 2021 with preliminary and/or final recommendations; and
- C. FURTHER THAT the Park Board embark on an education plan across the city to engage residents to help water street trees.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ENQUIRIES

1. A Board member asked for details on why parking lots along English Bay are closed sometimes, noting that many people rely on this parking during peak hours and finding lots closed upon arrival can present difficulties.
2. A Board member requested an update on when the Grace McCarthy plaza opening dedication ceremony will take place.
3. A Board member enquired if there will be any opening celebrations planned for new playgrounds and park amenities.
4. A Board member enquired if the seaside bike route on the seawall from Hornby to Stanley Park entrance will it be restored to cycling use as COVID-19 restrictions are no longer in effect outside.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 8:25 pm.

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Donnie Rosa
General Manager

Commissioner Camil Dumont
Chair