



BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 18, 2021

A Board Committee meeting was held on Monday, October 18, 2021, at 6:33 pm, via videoconference and at the Park Board Office.

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. Board Committee Meeting – October 4, 2021

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT the Board Committee minutes of the October 4, 2021 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Mackinnon noted that October 19, 2021 will mark the two year anniversary of the Board's approval of VanPlay. It was recently announced that VanPlay received the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) 2021 Professional Award for Analysis and Planning.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board Committee was advised that there are no communications of note related to the agenda items.

STAFF REPORTS

1. REPORT: VanDusen and Bloedel Strategic Plan

Steve Jackson, Director of Business Services, Park Board, introduced members of the project team in attendance.

Leila Todd, Planner III, Planning, Policy and Environment, Park Board, and S. Jackson, jointly led the review of a presentation on the proposed VanDusen and Bloedel Strategic Plan and highlighted:

- Overview of process to develop the draft strategic plan
- Engagement events and methods and number of participants
- Key themes of the engagement findings
- Strategic plan components:
 - Vision
 - Mission
 - Values
 - Transformative goals
- Next steps.

S. Jackson responded to questions from the Board Committee. There was discussion on:

- The negotiation of the new Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) will commence after the strategic plan is approved by both the Park Board and Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association Board of Directors
- Expectation that the new JOA will be finalized in early 2022.

Recess

The meeting was recessed at 6:57 pm and reconvened at 7:07 pm.

The Board Committee heard from two speakers who spoke in support of the staff recommendation. The speakers responded to questions from the Board Committee.

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the proposed “VanDusen & Bloedel Strategic Plan” attached as Appendix A, and direct staff to start the process of updating the existing Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) with the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recess

The meeting was recessed at 7:39 pm and reconvened at 7:44 pm.

2. REPORT: Park Ranger Service Model – Phase 1 Report Back

Donnie Rosa, General Manager, Park Board; Natalie Froehlich, Director of Financial Planning and Analysis, Park Board; and Amit Gandha, Director of Park Operations, Park Board, jointly led the review of a presentation on the proposed Park Ranger Service Model and highlighted:

- History of the Park Ranger program
- By-law enforcement by Park Rangers
- Park Ranger funding and park safety
- Increasing service demands on Park Rangers:
 - Funding and resources for the Park Ranger Program have not kept pace with expanding community needs and service requests
- Components of the proposed model:
 - City-wide Park patrols
 - Teams to support urban issues
 - Enhanced enforcement capabilities
- Financial considerations
 - The accumulated operating labour cost deficit from 2016 through 2020 was \$2.2 million
 - The Park Ranger Program will require an ongoing annual base funding investment of \$1.8 million
 - Potential sources of funding
- Conclusion and next steps.

D. Rosa and N. Froehlich responded to questions from the Board Committee. There was discussion on:

- Whether there is a mechanism to increase Park Rangers' powers without creating a new level of police officer
- A contingency plan will be developed if the City does not approve the request for additional funding for the Park Ranger Program:
 - Required fee increases and new revenue opportunities to fund the Park Ranger Program will be presented to the Board
- Additional funding will be necessary to provide the training required to enable Peace Officer status
- Concern that additional funding previously approved by Council for park operations was directed to the Park Ranger Program
- Whether the additional funding request of \$1.8 million is sufficient to improve the safety in parks.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Barker
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board endorse the proposed Phase 1 changes to the Park Ranger Service Model as outlined in the report, which include:
 - (i) Increasing the regular full-time staff complement to support expanded year-round coverage with additional daily shifts; and
 - (ii) Create new positions with Peace Officer status to provide enhanced by-law enforcement support; and
- B. THAT, subject to the Board's approval of Recommendation A, staff be directed to seek an additional \$1.8 million of funding through the 2022 Service Planning and Budget Process, along with considerations of reinvestment opportunities through increases in fees and internal budget allocation, in order to implement the proposed changes.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT Item A(ii) be amended to read:

- (ii) Exploring the creation of new positions with enhanced by-law enforcement authority that would be included as part of the regular full-time staff complement.

and Item C be added as follows:

- C. THAT, subject to the Board's approval of Recommendation A(ii), staff will report back to the Board with recommendations for the mandate of the new enhanced by-law enforcement positions, including details on the proposed position title, job scope, training requirements and schedule coverage.

CARRIED

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

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board endorse the proposed Phase 1 changes to the Park Ranger Service Model as outlined in the report, which include:
 - (i) Increasing the regular full-time staff complement to support expanded year-round coverage with additional daily shifts; and

- (ii) Exploring the creation of new positions with enhanced by-law enforcement authority that would be included as part of the regular full-time staff complement;
- B. THAT, subject to the Board's approval of Recommendation A(i), staff be directed to seek an additional \$1.8 million of funding through the 2022 Service Planning and Budget Process, along with considerations of reinvestment opportunities through increases in fees and internal budget allocation, in order to implement the proposed changes; and
- C. THAT, subject to the Board's approval of Recommendation A(ii), staff will report back to the Board with recommendations for the mandate of the new enhanced by-law enforcement positions, including details on the proposed position title, job scope, training requirements and schedule coverage.

Commissioner Coupar requested the motion be separated into distinct propositions.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

THAT Item B be amended to read:

- B. THAT, subject to the Board's approval of Recommendation A(i), staff be directed to seek an additional \$1.8 million of funding through the 2022 Service Planning and Budget Process, along with considerations of reinvestment opportunities through increases in fines, fees and internal budget allocation, in order to implement the proposed changes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on Items A(i) and B, as Amended

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board endorse the proposed Phase 1 changes to the Park Ranger Service Model as outlined in the report, which include:
 - (i) Increasing the regular full-time staff complement to support expanded year-round coverage with additional daily shifts; and
- B. THAT, subject to the Board's approval of Recommendation A(i), staff be directed to seek an additional \$1.8 million of funding through the 2022 Service Planning and Budget Process, along with considerations of reinvestment opportunities through increases in fines, fees and internal budget allocation, in order to implement the proposed changes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on Items A(ii) and C, as Amended

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board endorse the proposed Phase 1 changes to the Park Ranger Service Model as outlined in the report, which include:
 - (ii) Exploring the creation of new positions with enhanced by-law enforcement authority that would be included as part of the regular full-time staff complement; and
- C. THAT, subject to the Board’s approval of Recommendation A(ii), staff will report back to the Board with recommendations for the mandate of the new enhanced by-law enforcement positions, including details on the proposed position title, job scope, training requirements and schedule coverage.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

The Board Committee adjourned at 8:48 pm.

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Donnie Rosa
General Manager

Commissioner Gwen Giesbrecht
Chair