



BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 29, 2021

A Board Committee meeting was held on Monday, November 29, 2021, at 6:42 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, Board Support and 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 – November 15, 2021

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

THAT the Board Committee minutes of the November 15, 2021 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board Committee was advised that from November 22, 2021 to 3:00 pm on November 29, 2021, two emails in support of the staff recommendation on Low Intensity Turf Maintenance were received via the PBCommissioners@vancouver.ca account.

All emails sent to the above-noted email account and through the Park Board website are distributed automatically to Commissioners.

STAFF REPORTS

1. REPORT BACK: Low Intensity Turf Maintenance

Amit Gandha, Director of Park Operations, Park Board, and Krista Voth, Environmental Stewardship Coordinator, Park Board, led the review of a presentation on low intensity turf maintenance and highlighted:

- Background
- 2021 pilot site selection
- Meadow pilot findings:
 - Cooler moister soils during the summer months
 - Climate action benefits
 - Improved tree health
 - Increase in soil microbes
 - Flower and pollinator abundance
 - Increased biodiversity
 - Opportunities for citizen science and research partnerships
- Public feedback on the pilot program
- Meadow enhancements
- Operational considerations:
 - Diversifying turf maintenance practices
 - Development of best management practices and design guidelines
 - Fire prevention and risk mitigation
- Financial considerations.

A. Gandha and K. Voth, along with Chad Townsend, Senior Environment and Sustainability Planner, Park Board, responded to questions from the Board Committee. There was discussion on:

- Whether the size of the meadow at Queen Elizabeth Park will be reduced in response to negative public feedback
- The perceived concern about increased fire risk
- Communications strategy to inform the public of the benefits of meadows
- Mowing regimes are site specific
- Opportunities to identify sites where an annual mow is not required
- Request for the survey findings on the 2021 pilot project
- The rationale for the recommended target of a total of 42 hectares of naturally managed lands by 2030:
 - The number of hectares will be increased if opportunities arise.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 7:31 pm and reconvened at 7:42 pm.

The Board Committee heard from one speaker who expressed support for the staff recommendation. The speaker responded to questions from the Board Committee.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to continue the transition of 37 hectares of piloted low-use turf on park managed lands to natural management, and expand to a total of 42 hectares by 2030 (7% of total park managed turf).

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

THAT the motion be amended to read:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to continue the transition of 37 hectares of piloted low-use turf on park managed lands to natural management; and
- B. FURTHER THAT staff report back in Q1 of 2022 on the full extent of low-use turf on park managed lands that may be considered for transition to natural management.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the motion be amended by adding Item C:

- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to work with City of Vancouver Engineering Services to establish a plan to transition all suitable medians, road, etc. to natural management and report back in Q1 of 2022.

Amendment to the Amendment

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT Item C be amended to read:

- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to work with City of Vancouver Engineering Services to establish a plan to transition all suitable medians, road, etc. to natural management and report back.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

Question on the Amendment, as Amended

THAT the motion be amended by adding Item C:

- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to work with City of Vancouver Engineering Services to establish a plan to transition all suitable medians, road, etc. to natural management and report back.

CARRIED

In favour: Demers, Dumont, Irwin, Giesbrecht, 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 direct staff to continue the transition of 37 hectares of piloted low-use turf on park managed lands to natural management;
- B. FURTHER THAT staff report back in Q1 of 2022 on the full extent of low-use turf on park managed lands that may be considered for transition to natural management; and
- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to work with City of Vancouver Engineering Services to establish a plan to transition all suitable medians, road, etc. to natural management and report back.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

The Board Committee adjourned at 8:41 pm.

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Donnie Rosa
General Manager

Commissioner Gwen Giesbrecht
Chair



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 29, 2021

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Monday, November 29, 2021, at 9:00 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, Board Support and 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 Giesbrecht
SECONDED by Commissioner Coupar

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;

- (j) information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 [*disclosure harmful to business interests of a third party*] of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act;
- (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 – November 15, 2021

MOVED by Commissioner Demers
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the Park Board minutes of the November 15, 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 November 15, 2021 Board meeting:

- Nov 26: The Festival of Lights at VanDusen Garden returned after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Board Committee – November 29, 2021

The Board considered the report containing recommendations and actions taken by the Board Committee. Its items of business included:

1. REPORT BACK: Low Intensity Turf Maintenance.

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Board Committee at its meeting of November 29, 2021, as contained in item 1.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion to Defer

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the VanPlay Annual Report be deferred to a future Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS

1. Colonial Audit – Interim Progress Report

Rena Soutar, Manager, Decolonization, Arts and Culture, Park Board, introduced Spencer Lindsay, Reconciliation Planner, Park Board.

S. Lindsay and R. Soutar led the review of a presentation providing a progress report on the colonial audit and highlighted:

- Definitions of colonial, conditioning, reconciliation and decolonization

Extension of Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT the Park Board extend the meeting until all items on the agenda are completed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Work flows covering the past, present and future
- Types of work
- Comparison of financial and colonial audits
- Guiding questions
- Report content:
 - Data
 - Visualizations
 - Case studies

- Colonial audit process:
 - Colonial audit framework
 - Focus of the work
 - Concurrent projects
- Next steps
- Direct and big picture outcomes of the colonial audit.

R. Soutar and S. Lindsay responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on:

- The next report on the colonial audit will be provided in the summer or fall 2022
- The colonial audit will not preclude future reconciliation efforts
- Intention that a decolonization lens will be applied to all decisions made by the Park Board e.g., Local Food Action Plan
- The alignment of the colonial audit with the City's implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

2. VanPlay Annual Report

This item was deferred to a future Board meeting.

3. Team Urban Parks (Team UP) Activations

Karla Kloepper, Supervisor Recreation Services, Community Engagement, Park Board, and Marie Lopes, Recreation Services Coordinator, Decolonization, Arts and Culture, Park Board, jointly led the review of a presentation on Team UP activations and highlighted:

- Factors that led to the creation of Team UP
- Team UP purpose and objectives
- Principles
- Examples of work to date
- Highlights of urban park activations in summer 2019 and 2021
- Plans for 2022.

K. Kloepper and M. Lopes, along with Jessica Land, Manager, Recreation Services, Park Board, and Amit Gandha, Director of Park Operations, Park Board, responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on:

- Challenges encountered and adaptation required due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- The planned approach for the new Smithe and Richards Park
- Plans for Grandview Park
- Anticipated timeline for the reopening of the field house and return of programming at Oppenheimer Park
- Work with Park Rangers to ensure public safety in parks.

4. General Manager's Report

The General Manager's Report was received for information.

MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Park Board Commissioner COVID-19 Vaccinations

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

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

WHEREAS:

1. Vaccinations are the best line of defense against COVID-19 and its variants;
2. The Government of Canada has announced vaccine requirements for all federal employees;
3. The Province of BC has mandated all provincial employees to be fully vaccinated, stating "as more employees return to their regular workplaces later in the fall, this provides an additional and reassuring layer of protection for workers who are continuing the vital work of serving British Columbians";
4. Several major Canadian private sector employers and Crown corporations have also implemented mandatory vaccination policies;
5. On October 18, 2021, the City of Vancouver announced that all City and Park Board staff must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by December 6, 2021;
6. The City of Vancouver COVID-19 Vaccination Policy was created as a further step toward limiting the impacts of the virus on the community and aligns with provincial health officer recommendations for large employers to implement vaccine mandates;
7. The City of Vancouver policy applies to staff and volunteers, but does not apply to elected Council or Park Board officials as they are not subject to the same employment terms as employees; and
8. On October 19, 2021, the City of Vancouver issued an Information Bulletin announcing that all members of Council are voluntarily following the intent of the staff policy, as well as advice from public health.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, as the new City of Vancouver COVID-19 Vaccination Policy does not apply to elected officials, the Park Board confirms that all Commissioners are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and will voluntarily follow the intent of the staff policy, as well as advice from public health.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Co-Management of Vancouver Parklands with Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations

Commissioner Mackinnon gave notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to define and develop an implementation plan with the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations for co-management of parklands within their traditional territories that are currently under Park Board jurisdiction per the *Vancouver Charter*.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Coupar

THAT Commissioner Barker be granted leave on November 30, 2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ENQUIRIES

1. A Board member asked for an update on the relocation of the Air Force memorial garden from Stanley Park to Queen Elizabeth Park.
2. A Board member asked if staff could provide some information on the Communities for Climate Hope (C4CH) initiative as some Community Centre Association (CCA) members are getting involved.
3. A Board member asked about the extent and value of damages to the seawall after the storm in late November 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 10:30 pm.

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Donnie Rosa
General Manager

Commissioner Camil Dumont
Chair