



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 24, 2022

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Monday, January 24, 2022, at 8:03 pm, via videoconference and at the Park Board Office.

PRESENT: Commissioner Tricia Barker
Commissioner John Coupar
Commissioner Dave Demers
Commissioner Camil Dumont
Commissioner Gwen Giesbrecht, Vice-Chair
Commissioner John Irwin
Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon, Chair

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 Irwin
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT the Board will go into meetings 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*; and

- (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 – December 13, 2021

MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT the Park Board minutes of the December 13, 2021 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Chair's Annual Report – "2021 Year in Review"

Commissioner Dumont, former Chair, highlighted the 2021 Year in Review:

- Pandemic response and restart:
 - 101st Polar Bear Swim goes virtual
 - Hosting COVID-19 vaccination clinics
 - New staffing approaches to minimize the impact of lifeguard shortages
 - Update to the Procedure By-law to allow electronic Board meetings
 - Implementation of mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy
 - Return of the Festival of Lights and Bright Nights in Stanley Park holiday events
- Challenges and opportunities:
 - Stanley Park coyotes and feeding wildlife by-law updates
 - Homelessness in parks
 - Extreme weather events
 - Review of Park Ranger service model to respond to changing needs
- Receipt of an interim report on the colonial audit provided by the Decolonization, Arts and Culture Department
- Strategic plans and capital projects:
 - East Fraser Lands new park

- Coopers’ Park expansion and renewal
- Playground renewal projects
- Approval of the VanDusen and Bloedel strategic plan, developed in collaboration with Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA)
- Approval of Local Food Systems Action Plan
- VanSplash implementation update and outdoor pool study
- Pilot initiatives:
 - Low intensity turf maintenance (meadow pilot)
 - Stanley Park temporary bike lane on Park Drive was extended until the Stanley Park Mobility Study is completed
 - Alcohol in parks pilot.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board was advised that from November 29, 2021 to 3:00 pm on January 24, 2022, the following emails were received via the PBCommissioners@vancouver.ca account with respect to the Member’s Motion titled “Co-Management of Vancouver Parklands with the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations”:

- Five opposed to the motion
- One in support of the motion
- Two requests to speak to the motion.

STAFF REPORTS

1. Extreme Weather Impacts and Damages

Dave Hutch, Director, Planning and Park Development, Park Board, Amit Gandha, Director, Parks, Park Board, and Ian Stewart, Manager, Park Development, Park Board, led the review of a presentation on recent storm damage to the Park Board’s coastal assets and highlighted:

- King tides and storm surge that occurred on January 7, 2022
- Site specific impacts of the storm surge and high winds
- Safety and clean-up efforts
- Debris impact, washouts and debris accumulation
- Damage assessment of impacted park sites
- Update on the repair of the Stanley Park Seawall
- Next steps:
 - Coastal adaptation planning process
 - Adaptation and mitigation.

I. Stewart, D. Hutch and A. Gandha responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on:

- Suggested actions to protect the seawall from future log damage and wave action
- Request for an interim report on the estimated cost to repair the seawall
- The possibility of recovering costs to repair coastal assets from owners of the logs
- There is a debris trap on the Fraser River that captures many, but not all, logs
- The need to develop a clear understanding of the current coastal conditions to determine the actions required to protect the seawall from future storm damage.

2. General Manager’s Report

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

- Extreme weather response:
 - A warming centre was activated at the West End Community Centre from December 24, 2021 to January 7, 2022
 - Ice guarding and monitoring
 - impacts on Bright Nights in Stanley Park and VanDusen Festival of Lights holiday events
 - Tree damage at Queen Elizabeth Park
- Appreciation of staff efforts to respond to extreme weather events and updates to provincial health orders during the holiday season
- Upcoming Council business related to or impacting parks and recreation:
 - A motion titled “Towards a Quieter and Emission-Free Landscape Maintenance Equipment Future in Vancouver”
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from December 10, 2021 to January 20, 2022.

D. Rosa responded to questions from the Board. There were requests for:

- A report on actions to prevent future thefts from the Bright Lights at Stanley Park train
- Information regarding the correlation between droughts and storm damage to trees.

MEMBERS’ MOTIONS

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

* * * * *

At this point in the proceedings, Commissioner Mackinnon stepped down as Chair in order to introduce a motion and to participate in the discussion. Commissioner Giesbrecht, as Vice-Chair, assumed the chair.

* * * * *

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

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

WHEREAS:

1. The City of Vancouver is situated on the traditional, ancestral lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations;
2. The Vancouver Park Board is committed to reconciliation with First Nations;
3. Through the Vancouver Charter, the Park Board has exclusive jurisdiction over City of Vancouver land that has been designated as a permanent or temporary park;
4. The Park Board has accepted the Calls to Action within the Truth and Reconciliation Report of Canada, which includes the following:

“We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.” (TRC #47)
5. The Park Board has established the Stanley Park Intergovernmental Working Group with the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations to develop a long-term comprehensive plan for Stanley Park; and
6. Traditional knowledge and stewardship of lands should be an integral part of park management.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED 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.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Mackinnon
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

THAT the motion be amended to read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to explore opportunities with the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations (“the three Nations”) for the co-management of parklands within their own respective territories that are currently under Park Board jurisdiction per the *Vancouver Charter*;

- B. FURTHER THAT this work be conducted in the spirit of reconciliation and transparency by seeking, as an initial step, a joint meeting among the three Nations and Park Board staff to identify locations of parklands and to seek the guidance and input of the three Nations on how to proceed with the development of the proposed initiative in a manner that respects any relevant protocols or understandings that may exist among the three Nations; and
- C. FURTHER THAT staff report back to the Board with recommendations.

Motion to Refer

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT the Park Board refer consideration of the Member's Motion to a future Board Committee meeting to hear from local First Nations and the public.

DEFEATED

In favour: Barker, Coupar

Opposed: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht, Irwin, Mackinnon

Question on the Amendment to the Main Motion

THAT the motion be amended to read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to explore opportunities with the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations ("the three Nations") for the co-management of parklands within their own respective territories that are currently under Park Board jurisdiction per the *Vancouver Charter*;
- B. FURTHER THAT this work be conducted in the spirit of reconciliation and transparency by seeking, as an initial step, a joint meeting among the three Nations and Park Board staff to identify locations of parklands and to seek the guidance and input of the three Nations on how to proceed with the development of the proposed initiative in a manner that respects any relevant protocols or understandings that may exist among the three Nations; and
- C. FURTHER THAT staff report back to the Board with recommendations.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

Extension of Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

THAT the Park Board extend the meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to explore opportunities with the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations (“the three Nations”) for the co-management of parklands within their own respective territories that are currently under Park Board jurisdiction per the *Vancouver Charter*;
- B. FURTHER THAT this work be conducted in the spirit of reconciliation and transparency by seeking, as an initial step, a joint meeting among the three Nations and Park Board staff to identify locations of parklands and to seek the guidance and input of the three Nations on how to proceed with the development of the proposed initiative in a manner that respects any relevant protocols or understandings that may exist among the three Nations; and
- C. FURTHER THAT staff report back to the Board with recommendations.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Barker, Coupar

* * * * *

At 10:27 pm Commissioner Mackinnon reassumed the Chair.

* * * * *

NOTICE OF MEMBERS’ MOTIONS

1. Alcohol in Parks Pilot – Extension and Next Steps

Commissioner Demers gave notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to design and implement a second Alcohol in Parks Pilot for 2022 onwards, with consideration given to the lessons learned from the 2021 experience; and

- B. FURTHER THAT staff report back to the Board with recommendations for next steps beyond the Pilot.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Irwin provided a reminder that January 28, 2022 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Commissioner Coupar reported that the Bloedel Conservatory will be lit in yellow in recognition of the day.

Commissioner Barker wished the Scottish community and those who celebrate it, a happy Robbie Burns Day.

ENQUIRIES

1. A Board member asked if English Bay was tested for chemical and biological contaminants after the November 2021 flooding that affected the Fraser River watershed.
2. As the Park Board is a living wage employer, a Board member asked if that also applies to Community Centre Association instructors and staff.
3. A Board member asked if there would be any funding available from the Park Board for the Kitsilano Showboat to help replace the equipment that was damaged during the extreme weather event in January 2022
4. A Board member asked on behalf of a resident if there is an update on the Ceperley Park fire engine.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 10:32 pm.

* * * * *

Donnie Rosa
General Manager

Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon
Chair