



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 11, 2022

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Monday, April 11, 2022, at 8:54 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 Coupar  
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

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;
- (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 – March 30, 2022**

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont  
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT the Park Board minutes of the March 30, 2022 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Mackinnon highlighted the participation of Park Board Commissioners at official Park Board events since the March 30, 2022 Board meeting:

- Apr 02 Commissioners Barker, Coupar, Giesbrecht and Irwin attended the Cherry Blossom Festival's "Big Picnic" at David Lam Park
- Apr 09: Chair Mackinnon spoke on behalf of the Board and was joined by Commissioners Barker, Coupar, Giesbrecht and Irwin at the Sakura Days Japan Fair at VanDusen Botanical Garden.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Chair Mackinnon announced that Commissioner Demers has been appointed as the liaison to the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee for the current Board term.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board was advised that from April 4, 2022 to 3:00 pm on April 11, 2022, six emails were received in support of the Member's Motion titled "Bloedel Conservatory Visitor Centre – Feasibility and Funding" via the [PBCCommissioners@vancouver.ca](mailto:PBCCommissioners@vancouver.ca) account and the [Contact Park Board Commissioners](#) webform.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **1. Report of the Board Committee – April 11, 2022**

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

1. REPORT: Special Events Calendar 2022 – Major Events
2. REPORT BACK: Seaside Greenway Proposal at Kitsilano Beach Park.

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar

SECONDED by Commissioner Giesbrecht

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Board Committee at its meeting of April 11, 2022, as contained in items 1 and 2.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **1. Extreme Weather Impacts and Damages – Update**

Ian Stewart, Manager of Park Development, Park Board, introduced the following Park Board staff:

- Peter Fox, Manager, City-Wide Recreation
- Amit Gandha, Director of Park Operations
- Steve Kellock, Director of Recreation
- Kate McIntyre, Civil Engineer II (Acting).

I. Stewart, K. McIntyre, A. Gandha and P. Fox jointly led the review of a presentation providing an update on extreme weather impacts and damages and highlighted:

- January 7, 2022 king tide and storm event
- Response and recovery process
- Overview of damage to:
  - Spanish Banks
  - Jericho Pier
  - Kitsilano Beach Park: Balsam to Trafalgar Streets
  - Vanier Park
  - Sunset Beach to Third Beach
  - Third Beach to Prospect Point
  - Stanley Park Seawall – Third Beach to Prospect Point
- Debris removal from beaches and the Stanley Park Seawall

- Damage to the Kitsilano Pool and seawall:
  - Multi-disciplinary assessment has commenced
  - Next steps
- Order of magnitude cost estimates for repair work
- Coastal adaptation planning process.

I. Stewart responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on:

- The possibility of expanding the scope of the West End Waterfront Master Plan to include areas north of Third Beach
- The potential to reopen a portion of the Vanier Dock for the summer boating season
- Funding available from senior governments
- Whether measures will be put in place to prevent damage from hazards, such as barges, in the future.

## **2. General Manager's Report**

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

- Introduction of Betty Lepps, Director of Urban Relationships
- Discounted admission to Playland has been added to the Leisure Access Program
- Expectation that the Oppenheimer Park fieldhouse and playground will reopen by the end of April 2022
- Reminders not to release, touch or feed Jericho Beach rabbits, which are an invasive species
- Upcoming Council business related to or impacting parks and recreation:
  - Report on Wildlife Feeding Regulation
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from March 28 to April 11, 2022.

B. Lepps was invited to share a few words on the first day of her employment with the Park Board.

It was suggested that the Park Board explore opportunities to partner with other organizations to expand the Leisure Access Program.

## **MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

### **1. Bloedel Conservatory Visitor Centre – Feasibility and Funding**

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

#### **Main Motion**

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar

SECONDED by Commissioner Mackinnon

#### WHEREAS:

1. The Vancouver Park Board manages the iconic Bloedel Conservatory at the pinnacle of Vancouver with the Vancouver Botanical Garden Association (VBGA) and has done so since 2012;
2. There has been an identified need to expand the Conservatory's footprint to include a visitor centre containing classrooms, gift shop, and food services; this need was confirmed in the joint business plan of 2011 and at a VBGA strategic planning session in November 2018; past VBGA Board motions also support the need for a new visitor centre, including formally indicating to the Park Board that they were prepared to contribute \$50,000 toward a feasibility study;
3. In March 2019, the VBGA President indicated the VBGA Board was prepared to fund a portable option as proof of concept and was prepared to tender a contract to purchase. In July 2019, in support of Bloedel Conservatory's 50th anniversary, the Park Board approved a motion directing staff to explore the feasibility of allocating up to \$150,000 from the operating budget to provide a portable for the VBGA to do public education at Bloedel; staff indicated in the feasibility report back that although it was not possible to provide a facility for the 50th anniversary celebrations, staff would continue to work with the VBGA toward the goal of increased programming capacity for Bloedel Conservatory;
4. In the book "The Jewel atop Vancouver: 50 years at the Bloedel Conservatory", published to commemorate the 50th anniversary and signed by Stephen Shapiro, the Executive Director of VBGA, the VBGA has signalled that improvements can be made through investments from both donors and taxpayers alike in building a state-of-the-art Visitor Centre that includes: a new admissions and information desk; an airlock door for better temperature control; a classroom to deliver and expand on world class education programming; and a café with food service for guests to enjoy refreshments. Continued investment in the collections will ensure endangered plant species can be saved and cultivated in the Conservatory's environment. Since then, the VBGA has discussed plans to raise up to 5 million dollars in support of this new addition; and
5. The Park Board will soon be deciding on Capital funding priorities for the upcoming 4 year Capital Plan, and almost 10 years have passed since the need for a new Visitor Centre was identified in the joint business plan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board accept the offer of \$50,000 from the Vancouver Botanical Garden Association (VBGA) toward funding a feasibility study for a new Visitor Centre at the Bloedel Conservatory, and direct staff to immediately begin work on this study;
- B. FURTHER THAT this feasibility study be carried out concurrently with the ongoing work on the Queen Elizabeth Park Master Plan; and
- C. THAT staff report back with the study findings and recommendations for next steps.

**Extension of Meeting**

MOVED by Commissioner Irwin  
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT the Park Board extend the meeting until all agenda items have been completed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Amendment to the Main Motion**

MOVED by Commissioner Demers  
SECONDED by Commissioner Dumont

THAT the Main Motion be amended to read:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board accept the offer of \$50,000 from the Vancouver Botanical Garden Association (VBGA) toward funding a feasibility study for a new Visitor Centre at the Bloedel Conservatory, and that this feasibility study be carried out concurrently with the ongoing work on the Queen Elizabeth Park Master Plan; and
- B. THAT staff report back with the study findings and recommendations for next steps.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Question on the Main Motion, as Amended**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board accept the offer of \$50,000 from the Vancouver Botanical Garden Association (VBGA) toward funding a feasibility study for a new Visitor Centre at the Bloedel Conservatory, and that this feasibility study be carried out concurrently with the ongoing work on the Queen Elizabeth Park Master Plan; and

- B. THAT staff report back with the study findings and recommendations for next steps.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **ENQUIRIES**

1. A Board member asked if Leisure Access Program discounts are offered at VanDusen Botanical Gardens and the Bloedel Conservatory.
2. A Board member requested an update on when the mobility beach mat (Mobi-Mat) at Kitsilano Beach would be reinstalled; it was removed due to damage from the January storm.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 10:03 pm.

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Donnie Rosa  
General Manager

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Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon  
Chair