



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

MAY 17, 2022

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at 6:32 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.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board expressed sympathy for the 10 members of the Black community who were killed and the three who were injured by a white male shooter on May 14, 2022. The Board urged all to look deeply at the racism that exists in our systems, to make changes to ensure that Park Board staff feel safe and supported and to take action to actively and aggressively dismantle systemic racism.

### IN CAMERA

#### 1. In Camera Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht  
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;

- (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 – April 25, 2022**

MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht  
SECONDED by Commissioner Coupar

THAT the Park Board minutes of the April 25, 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 April 25, 2022 Board meeting:

- Commissioner Giesbrecht spoke at the start of the 8km race at Lagoon Drive in Stanley Park. Since its inception. The BMO Vancouver Marathon has raised over \$16 million for local charities and inspired healthy active lifestyles for hundreds of thousands.
- Commissioner Mackinnon attended the 2022 BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) in Whistler to celebrate the resilience and brilliance of recreation and parks.
- Commissioner Mackinnon spoke at the West End Community Centre Association's Mural Celebration. The Association was a recipient of a grant from your Neighbourhood Matching Fund Program. Commissioners Barker, Coupar and Giesbrecht also attended the event.
- Commissioner Mackinnon spoke on behalf of the Board at the announcement of the return of the Honda Celebration of Light for its milestone 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Commissioner Coupar also attended the event.
- Commissioners Barker, Giesbrecht, Irwin and Mackinnon and Councillor Wiebe were joined by staff for the soft opening of the new, multi-dimensional park of the future at Smithe and Richards streets.

Commissioner Coupar advised that he spoke at the start of the BMO Marathon at Queen Elizabeth Park.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board was advised that from April 26, 2022 to 3:00 pm on May 16, 2022, the following emails were received via the [PBCommissioners@vancouver.ca](mailto:PBCommissioners@vancouver.ca) account and the [Contact Park Board Commissioners](#) webform with respect to the Member's Motion titled "Preserving Green Space in the Grandview Cut:

- 141 in support of the Member's Motion
- 19 opposed to the development at the Safeway site.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **1. Report of the Board Committee – May 16, 2022**

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

1. REPORT: John Hendry (Trout Lake) Park Renewal Plan
2. REPORT: Alcohol in Parks Pilot 2022 – Proposed By-law Amendments.

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 May 16, 2022, as contained in items 1 and 2.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **STAFF REPORTS**

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

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

- Public engagement on the Collingwood Park renewal will commence in May 2022 with construction targeted for spring/summer 2023, subject to budget approval
- Vancouver Bird Celebration will run from May 14 to 13, 2022
- The Park Board's All Bodies Community (ABC) Program was awarded an Honourable Mention at the 2022 BCRPA Symposium
- Upcoming Council business related to or impacting parks and recreation:
  - Report on the Broadway Plan on May 18, 2022
  - Public Hearing on the Oppenheimer District Official Development Plan on May 19, 2022
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from April 26 to May 16, 2022.

Catarina Gomes, Planner III, Park Board, and Donnie Rosa, General Manager, Park Board, responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on:

- The building heights proposed in the Oppenheimer District Official Development Plan
- Confirmation that the General Manager will be present at the May 18, 2022 Council meeting to respond to questions regarding her non-concurrence with the Broadway Plan.

## **BY-LAWS**

### **1. Parks Control By-law – Amendment Regarding Liquor Consumption in Parks**

MOVED by Commissioner Demers  
SECONDED by Commissioner Irwin

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The By-law to amend the Parks Control By-law Regarding Liquor Consumption in Parks, be enacted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

### **1. Preserving Green Space in the Grandview Cut**

In response to a question from Commissioner Coupar, the Chair ruled that the motion is in order

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

MOVED by Commissioner Giesbrecht  
SECONDED by Commissioner Demers

WHEREAS:

1. The Grandview Cut is one of the most significant habitat corridors in Vancouver's highly urban context. Due to its length (approximately 2.5km) - the Cut offers rare east-west habitat connectivity along with key ecological functions of water filtration, room for urban forest canopy that provide cooling, and natural carbon sequestration. It is land owned by the City of Vancouver, and is referenced as a natural asset in the Grandview Woodland Community Plan.
2. The current proposal for redevelopment of the Safeway site at East Broadway and Commercial Drive (1780 E Broadway rezoning) includes plans that would result in destruction of a key section of the Grandview Cut forest and greenspace between Victoria Drive and Commercial Drive. These plans call for excavation, shoring, and two permanent vehicle access ramps that would traverse into the Cut and serve this development alone.

3. The Grandview Cut has been identified as a priority greenspace for more than 25 years. Per VanPlay, Grandview-Woodland (along with Fairview) has the lowest areal cover of parkland per capita of any neighbourhood in Vancouver. Wooded parts of the Grandview Cut, including the proposed ramp location were identified as priority habitat for protection, restoration, and connectivity as part of the city's overall ecological network in the Park Board's Biodiversity Strategy.
4. The proponents' own Environmental Impact Assessment Update Report dated September 24, 2021, prepared by Envirowest Consultants Inc., found "*[r]amp construction will remove part of the tree canopy from the south side of the Cut, thereby reducing the urban tree canopy in Grandview-Woodland and reducing associated ecological functions as a green corridor within the citywide ecological network, as well as carbon sequestration, rainfall interception, and heat mitigation*", but does not include commitments to mitigate these impacts.
5. According to the Council and Park Board approved Vancouver Bird Strategy (updated December 2020), habitat loss is the leading cause of bird population decline in British Columbia – "*35% decline in characteristic bird species in the Pacific Coast region of Canada since 1970*" and "*estimated that approximately 87% of the forest cover has been replaced with urban development since the 1850's.*"
6. "Healing the Cut-Bridging the Gap" was in 1993 a City commissioned public art installation undertaken by artist Oliver Kellhammer, with artist Janis Bowley. The installation was an ecological restoration of the Cut. The intention of this living art installation was to repair the damage incurred to the Cut by bridges recently built across it. This installation, on the south slope of the Grandview Cut, between Victoria Drive and Commercial Drive, and the rehabilitation of lost forest would be lost, should the proposal and the ramp go ahead.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board communicate to the City of Vancouver its concerns about the climate, bird habitat, forest canopy, connectivity, and cultural impacts of the proposed redevelopment of the Safeway site at 1780 East Broadway; especially the impacts of the proposed ramps through the Grandview Cut, and request that the City direct the applicant to relocate or redesign the proposed access points to the development to mitigate these impacts.
- B. FURTHER THAT the Park Board support preserving the publicly owned Grandview Cut and its ecological and community benefits from further encroachments associated with future adjacent redevelopments along the length of these City lands.

DEFEATED

*In favour: Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht*

*Opposed: Barker, Coupar, Irwin, Mackinnon*

## **NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

### **1. Renaming Pioneer Place (Pigeon Park) to Peoples' Park**

Commissioner Irwin gave notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board explore the feasibility of changing the name of Pioneer Place (Pigeon Park) to "Peoples' Park"; and
- B. FURTHER THAT this work be considered a priority action for the Commemoration Framework to be implemented once the Framework is complete.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. Protecting Parks and Recreation Interest in the Broadway Plan**

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

#### **Main Motion**

MOVED by Commissioner Dumont  
SECONDED by Commissioner Coupar

WHEREAS:

1. The Broadway Plan is a comprehensive land use policy plan that will guide growth and change in Kitsilano, Fairview and Mount Pleasant neighbourhoods, encompassing 485 city blocks or 860ha, and will add 50,000 residents and 42,000 jobs over the next 30 years. The majority of the forms of housing proposed in the Plan will be rental buildings typically with little or no access to private outdoor space;
2. As outlined in a Board briefing memo dated May 13, 2022, the average provision of existing park space in the Broadway area is very low at 0.33ha/ 1000 residents, compared to a provision level of 0.49ha/1000 residents in downtown Vancouver;
3. Given that the Broadway area is envisioned as a second downtown, and recognizing the built up nature of the area, Park Board staff recommend that the park provision target be set to a minimum of 0.38ha/1000 people which is equivalent to 13ha of new parkland (or 5 new neighbourhood parks) in the Broadway Plan area by 2052;
4. VanPlay seeks to maintain the current citywide average of 1.2 square feet of community centre space per person (excluding rinks and pools) to support liveability and equity. Based on the needs assessment of the Broadway area and to keep up with growth, Park Board staff recommend that 70,000 square feet of community centre space be added in or near the Broadway area;
5. Sunshine is a fundamental building block of our parks, and is essential for human health particularly in Vancouver's rainforest climate;

6. The incremental shading of existing parks by new buildings after 4pm will impact a time of day when individuals seek outdoor time for health, wellness, leisure and social connectedness; and
7. With more park users expected in the Broadway area, and limited number of new parks, existing parks will be expected to “work harder” to serve the existing and future populations. Protecting solar access in parks up to 6pm would help extend use into the evening, especially in the cooler spring and fall seasons.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board request City Council consider including open space and recreation targets in the Broadway Plan to ensure that parks and recreation service levels keep pace with growth and support equity and liveability of the future Broadway area in line with more affluent areas of the city, in recognition that the higher density and affordable housing aspects of the development plan will affect equity-denied communities; and
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board request City Council consider extending the shadow protection time frame in the Broadway Plan to at least 5:00 pm to provide access to sunlight in the cooler seasons in order to protect and extend use of the parks in the Broadway area.

#### **Amendment to the Main Motion**

MOVED by Commissioner Coupar  
SECONDED by Commissioner Barker

THAT the preamble to the motion be amended by adding Item 8:

8. That Park Board General Manager did not concur with the Broadway Plan report to Council.

CARRIED

*In favour: Barker, Couper, Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht*

*Opposed: Mackinnon*

*Abstain: Irwin*

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board request City Council consider including open space and recreation targets in the Broadway Plan to ensure that parks and recreation service levels keep pace with growth and support equity and liveability of the future Broadway area in line with more affluent areas of the city, in recognition that the higher density and affordable housing aspects of the development plan will affect equity-denied communities; and
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board request City Council consider extending the shadow protection time frame in the Broadway Plan to at least 5:00 pm to provide access to sunlight in the cooler seasons in order to protect and extend use of the parks in the Broadway area.

Commissioner Irwin requested that the motion be separated into distinct propositions.

**Question on Item A**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board request City Council consider including open space and recreation targets in the Broadway Plan to ensure that parks and recreation service levels keep pace with growth and support equity and liveability of the future Broadway area in line with more affluent areas of the city, in recognition that the higher density and affordable housing aspects of the development plan will affect equity-denied communities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Question on Item B**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board request City Council consider extending the shadow protection time frame in the Broadway Plan to at least 5:00 pm to provide access to sunlight in the cooler seasons in order to protect and extend use of the parks in the Broadway area.

CARRIED

*In favour: Barker, Coupar, Demers, Dumont, Giesbrecht*

*Opposed: Irwin, Mackinnon*

**ENQUIRIES**

1. A Board member requested an update on plans for a 2022 holiday event at the Bloedel Conservatory.
2. A Board member requested an update on repairs to the "Dancing Waters" fountain at Queen Elizabeth Park Plaza, including an estimate of when it will be operational again.
3. A Board member has requested an update on when the waterfall in the quarry garden at Queen Elizabeth Park will be operational.



## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 7:48 pm.

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Donnie Rosa  
General Manager

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Commissioner Stuart Mackinnon  
Chair