



Urgent Report on Park Board Preparations for the 2023 Summer Season

Excerpted from Minutes December 5, 2022

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MOVED by Commissioner Christensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

WHEREAS:

1. The mission Board of Parks and Recreation is to provide, preserve, and advocate for parks and recreation services to benefit all people, communities, and the environment;
2. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation looks after 250 public parks and beaches, VanDusen Botanical Garden, Bloedel Conservatory, and a large public recreation system of community centres, pools, rinks, fitness centres, golf courses, street trees, marinas, sports fields, and playgrounds;
3. VanPlay is the Board's Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan. It serves as the Board's decision making guide;
4. VanPlay embodies the Board's strong commitment to equitable delivery of excellent parks and recreation opportunities in a connected, efficient manner, and assists in the day-to-day operations of the Park Board;
5. Among the goals encompassed by the VanPlay Master Plan are the Board's "10 Goals to Shape the Next 25 Years" which includes GOAL 4: FOCUS ON CORE RESPONSIBILITIES of the Park Board;
6. During, and in advance of, the summer of 2022, the Park Board encountered a number of issues related to pools and spray parks, including delays in the opening Kits Pool — the longest saltwater pool in North America — which did not open until July 30th due to damage incurred from the King-tide storm on Jan. 7;
7. Also evident in the summer of 2022 was a notable reduction in services at Kits Pool and the outdoor pool at Second Beach: Drop-in swimmers could not be accommodated due to challenges with lifeguard availability;
8. Likewise, the water was also turned off at two popular Vancouver splash pads, namely the CRAB Park splash pad at Portside (temporarily closed for electrical upgrades) and the Lumberman's Arch Spray Park in Stanley Park;
9. In recent years summer heat waves have become more common and more severe due to the impacts of climate change, and it is incumbent the Park Board to be prepared to meet the needs of all park users;
10. In order to avoid issues similar to those that arose in advance of and during the summer of 2022, it is vitally important that planning for the summer of 2023 in a timely manner happen to meet the Board's mandate to deliver excellent parks and recreation opportunities for Vancouver.



THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to prepare an urgent report for the consideration of the Board on preparations for the summer 2023 season, inclusive of (but not limited to):

- i. maintenance status of outdoor pools and spray parks, including the earliest possible opening dates;
- ii. processes to meet the staffing requirements to permit full operation of pools and spray parks including (but not limited to) lifeguards and maintenance staff; and,
- iii. current operating status and condition of all Park Board drinking fountains;

FURTHER THAT staff provide a briefing to the Board in January 2023, and provide a more detailed report and action plan to the Board in February 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY