

Commissioner Board Meeting Enquiries

Date Received	Topic	Submitted By	Summary of request	Board Update	Status
27-Feb-23	Childcare	Commissioner Digby	<p>Commissioner would like staff to provide a response to the following questions regarding commitments to a universal system of childcare and early learning ("childcare") that have been made by the federal and provincial governments, and have recently been supported by Vancouver City Council and the Vancouver School Board.</p> <p>Please provide a summary of current Park Board support/engagement of childcare in Vancouver, and any future plans. If you can, please include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Does PB have statutory authority/obligations towards childcare? What is the existing scope of childcare services we support, or have recently supported, at community centres and other park board managed locations. Are there any existing proposals (or blue sky option lists) for new childcare services and/or facilities observing that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The new Vancouver Aquatic Centre has a potentially significant contribution for childcare spaces listed in the Capital Plan 2023-26. (Can childcare funding be used to support Community Centre renewal elsewhere in the city?) Do Community Centres need special authorization under their JOAs to initiate childcare support? Has there been any assessment done about whether childcare services are a good strategic fit for park board support? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Park Board does not have any specific obligations regarding childcare. Park Board is the "small p" partner where childcare occurs in Park Board buildings, however it is the Community Centre Associations (CCA's) and third parties (i.e. leasees) that are the operators. Similarly, Park Board staff work closely with City staff from Arts, Culture and Community Services (ACCS) as the City is the lead on childcare. Currently across the network there are: (1,472) Preschool spaces, (830) Out of School Care spaces and (91) Full Day Care spaces. There are also a number of park locations where park playgrounds are used by adjacent or childcare centres for outdoor play. Embedded in the Community Centre Renewal Strategy is a provision that that for any new or renewed facilities that childcare space is to be incorporated. https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/community-centre-strategy.aspx <p>There are several current initiatives that PB staff are currently working on in collaboration with ACCS, working with our CCA partners, to increase childcare spaces. Examples include: funding for preschool conversion to all day care and licensing changes that would allow for higher enrolment for school age services.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> CCA's do not require any special authorization to increase and/or change childcare spaces as Childcare is under their purview. However, if a licensing requirement for expanded childcare (0-5yrs) that outdoor space is needed, then additional dedicated green space would need to be allocated. There has not been a formal assessment to date. The ACCS team has completed the Making Strides - Vancouver's Childcare Strategy that supports the need of expansion of childcare https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/making-strides-vancouvers-childcare-strategy-2022-overview.pdf 	COMPLETE
27-Feb-23	Crosstown Elementary School - Playground	Commissioner Jensen	<p>Can staff review the fence at Crosstown School to consider making the playground space larger? Could this be achieved by working with engineering services to move the fence closer to pacific boulevard?</p>	<p>Park Board staff are presently reviewing this request with staff in the City's Engineering Department and will provide a further enquiry update when more information becomes available.</p>	IN PROGRESS
27-Feb-23	Riley Park Farmers Market - Location	Commissioner Jensen	<p>Has staff worked with Riley Park Farmers market to consider other suitable locations, for example the top of QE park?</p>	<p>Answer in progress</p>	IN PROGRESS
27-Feb-23	Tennis Canada	Commissioner Howard	<p>Can staff provide an update outlining discussions that have occurred with Tennis Canada and Tennis BC in relation to tennis court renewals? With the update to include proposed scope of work, timing and location of renewals.</p>	<p>Staff have been working with Tennis Canada and Tennis BC in follow up to Tennis Canada identifying funding that has become available under the National Bank Play Your Court (PYC) program. Staff met with both organizations to review the funding opportunity and to understand current needs for tennis courts across the Park Board network from Tennis BC's point of view.</p> <p>Tennis BC has recently (late 2022) identified for Park Board staff the need to resurface the tennis courts at Stanley Park. Through these discussions they have shared the successes of the Hub model that they operate at Stanley Park, allowing bookable access to six tennis courts, and noted that to continue successfully resurfacing at this site is needed.</p> <p>With Tennis Canada identifying the PYC funding opportunity, this allows for potential granting of up to \$100,000 per site for Tennis Court refurbishment/revitalization. As VanPlay outlines a prioritization approach to ensure equity is considered, staff inquired if Tennis Canada would consider a second site – ensuring that an equity deserving neighbourhood also benefits from this external funding opportunity. Staff approached Tennis BC, asking where their members are least served and Robson Park is located at Kingsway Avenue and St. George Street in the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood. This location was identified as a neighbourhood underserved, in an identified equity zone, with tennis courts in need of renewal. Tennis Canada is in support of Park Board submitting two applications to this program, and Park Board is currently working to prepare these applications for 2023 renewals at both Robson Park, or another equity needing location, and the Stanley Park tennis courts.</p> <p>The Scope of work for the Stanley Park Tennis Courts (located near Stanley Park Brewing) includes drain cleaning and flushing to improve the drainage issues, filling of major cracks in the surface, and five coats of tennis court painting. The cost for this work is estimated at \$70,000 and the work could start in May 2023. The duration of the work, which requires warm and dry weather, is estimated to take four weeks. We understand that Tennis BC would like to have this work completed before the Stanley Park Open (July 7, 2023). Complete resurfacing of the Stanley Park Courts is not recommended and would cost in excess of \$500,000.</p> <p>The Robson Park courts are in extremely poor condition and within a VanPlay equity-initiative zone. Major cracks in these courts were covered with asphalt several years ago and the scope of work for this location could be significant. Staff are seeking quotes for renewal of these courts and this information is expected to be received the week of March 13, 2023. Once the costing information for the Robson Park courts becomes available discussions about the renewal of these courts, or alternative courts in another equity needing location, will ensue with Tennis Canada.</p>	COMPLETE
27-Feb-23	Monument Donations	Commissioner Haer	<p>Enquired regarding the process to consider the donation of monuments to parks. Two separate groups have contacted Commissioner Haer with enquiries and interest to have monuments added to our park sites.</p>	<p>The Vancouver Park Board and City of Vancouver are currently undertaking a process to create a clear, consistent, and equitable approach to commemoration. This policy planning work is to ensure that the decision of what monuments and memorials land in Vancouver Parks reflect the Park Board and City's values, including reconciliation, decolonization, cultural redress, anti-racism, equity, and accessibility. While the policy is under development, the Park Board and City are not considering any new commemorative requests.</p> <p>In the past, where community groups wish to make financial contributions or philanthropic donations for new monuments, the Park Board has established designated funds for the care and maintenance of monuments.</p> <p><u>More information on the preliminary stages of development can be found in the Commemoration Framework: Guiding Principles, Vision & Emerging Priorities</u></p>	COMPLETE
27-Feb-23	George Park - Washroom	Commissioner Haer	<p>Requested an update on the installation of a temporary washroom in George Park.</p>	<p>Park Operations will have one delivered and placed on the seasonal list, as a temporary portable washroom at George Park. We will monitor the use and functionality until Labour Day. We may extend the pick up date if the weather is favourable and park use is still high.</p>	COMPLETE