



## Park Board General Manager's Report May 8, 2023

*The following report is intended to provide an overview and update on recent and upcoming activities within the Park Board.*

### **Sakura Days at VanDusen Botanical Garden**

VanDusen Botanical Garden and the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival was delighted to present Sakura Days Japan Fair this year on April 15 and 16 in partnership with the Japan Fair Association of Vancouver. The Association is an all-volunteer organizing committee who assist in planning this two day event.

Despite the wet weather, Sakura Days welcomed thousands of guests to the garden to celebrate all things Japan. From Japanese food, performances to arts and culture. Activities included tea ceremonies, taiko drumming, theatre performances, woodworking demonstrations and a renewed Japanese Garden display. Visitors immersed themselves in Japanese culture and experienced a wide variety of vendors and exhibitors featuring local Japanese food and crafts amidst the beautiful garden backdrop at VanDusen Garden.

### **Vanier Park Boat Launch Float Repairs**

The Vanier Park boat launch float repairs has entered the construction phase. A contractor is engaged and procurement of dock parts has started off-site. The contractor anticipates to mobilize on the site in July 2023, with total completion by end of summer 2023.

Following the damages incurred in winter storms of 2021 and 2022, the repairs will reinstate the west and east boat launch floats and increase their resiliency to local tide and wave conditions. The west float is intended for small craft boats while the east float is for non-motorized human powered vessels. The repairs include replacement of damaged components and installation of a new steel cable system to connect the float segments.

### **Showboat Fire Update**

A fire broke out on April 22, 2023, and upon inspection, it has been determined that rebuilding is necessary as the damage is beyond repair. The main building has suffered about 60% fire damage, with 50% of the roof timber and 70% of the cracked brick masonry walls affected.

Currently, we are waiting for City Risk to assess insurance coverage and available funding to determine the next steps for the facility. The building has been secured by staff for safety reasons, and they will see to it that the outward appearance is cleaned up and readied for the shows as scheduled for this year. The Kitsilano Pool, which is set to open, is unaffected by the fire, and demolition will be scheduled after the swimming season.

Our team is in constant communication with the current lease for updates, and we are working hard to ensure that the stage and power supply are available for all events as scheduled.

### **Council Business (related to or impacting parks & recreation):**

Council [approved the recommendations](#) in a report titled [Water Works By-law Exemptions and/or Viable Exemptions for Notable Decorative City Water Features](#), with amendments. This directs staff to continue to collaborate with the Park Board on drinking water demand management with non-compliant decorative water features remaining off until they can comply. This also directs staff to draft by-law amendments to exempt specific Park Board non-circulating water features from these drinking water restrictions, and to determine if reactivation of these water features would be a suitable use for private donations or a fundraising campaign under the Parks and Recreation Foundation.



Council to make a decision on a Member’s Motion titled ‘[The Bird is the Word: Elevating Vancouver’s Strategy](#)’. This motion would direct staff to reapply for Bird Friendly City certification, update the 2020 Vancouver Bird Strategy, and proclaim May 13 to 30 as Vancouver Bird Celebration.

**Board Briefing Memos and Emails: April 25 to May 8, 2023**

Date	Topic
May 8	<a href="#">Showboat Update</a>