



NOTICE of MOTION

Submitted at the Board meeting held on May 6, 2024

Revitalizing the Park Board

Submitted by: Commissioner Bastyovanszky

WHEREAS

1. The residents of Vancouver have had a democratically elected Park Board for 134 years since 1890;
2. A majority of the present City Council is proposing to abolish the elected Park Board without explaining to residents of Vancouver why this is necessary or what will replace it;
3. The Park Board budget is currently subject to approval by Council;
4. The decision to create an elected Park Board recognizes the special value placed on parks by Vancouver residents;
5. The elected Park Board is a unique public institution that provides Vancouver residents with a degree of public access and input in the future direction of park and recreational services, while providing protection for greenspaces against the pressures of development put on the City Council;
6. Park Board implemented the UNDRIP framework as of 2016, and is currently implementing co-management with indigenous peoples,
7. The next area of interest for reconciliation, as advised by Park Board staff in the April 2024 report on reconciliation, is that elected representation at the Board may be of interest to the First Nations;
8. The Park Board recognizes the need to revitalize its public mandate to address the growing and evolving needs of the community it serves; and is committed to working with its park partners, Community Centre Associations, Indigenous peoples and the public to modernize current governance structures and services to meet the recreational needs and expectations of the community and create resilience in the face of future challenges such as climate change.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Park Board adopts the following principles for its future:

- A. The Park Board remains a democratically elected board, directly accountable to the people of Vancouver for a future vision for parks and recreation that is sustainable and inclusive.
- B. The Park Board will develop a governance model in partnership with First Nations for the stewardship and future preservation of Vancouver's green space, parks and



recreation facilities. Such a governance model will be mutually agreed to and enacted through amendments to the Vancouver Charter.

- C. The Park Board will work in partnership with the City of Vancouver to secure a new funding formula to ensure the financial and operational independence of the elected Park Board, including Vancouver Charter amendments as required, informed by the Auditor General.
- D. The Park Board will work with First Nations, the City of Vancouver, Community Centre Associations, park partners, the Province and the public to achieve a modernized mandate based on transparency, accountability and a commitment for excellent parks and recreation for the future.

FURTHER THAT the Park Board directs staff to develop a collaborative process for broad public consultation with the aim to design and implement a revitalized mandate for an elected Park Board by October 2026.