



MOTION on NOTICE

Park Board Response to 2026 Budget Reductions

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Bastyovanszky

WHEREAS

1. The Mayor's proposed Zero Means Zero 2026 Operating Budget imposes a \$120 million city-wide spending reduction, of which \$15 million is assigned to the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation;
2. In 2025, the Park Board's operating budget represented 7.9% of the city's budget; yet the Park Board is being asked to absorb 12.5% of the target reduction (\$15 million out of \$120 million);
3. The \$15 million reduction target assigned to the Park Board is a significant portion (8%) of the Park Board's operating budget; and even more significant portion (15%) of the tax-funded component of the Park Board budget,
4. The Mayor's Zero means Zero plan will directly impact frontline community services, reduce service hours, defer additional maintenance, and undermine cleanliness across the city's parks and recreation system; and will have a disproportionate impact on residents' day to day lives;
5. The Mayor recently stated in the Vancouver Sun "... what I can tell you is we are going to do whatever it takes to deliver better parks in the city of Vancouver as soon as possible" and this statement appears to be incompatible with the \$15 million reduction target;
6. The Park Board is being directed to increase revenue from parking, fees, and services by \$8.9 million in addition to absorbing the \$15 million cut to its tax-funded portion;
7. Despite exceeding its 2025 revenue targets and achieving a \$4.5 million surplus, the Park Board is not permitted to retain these revenues, as they are absorbed into the City's general accounts, further constraining the Park Board's ability to manage its own fiscal pressures; and
8. Recreation Services and Park Operations — responsible for community centres, pools, arenas, urban forestry, park maintenance, public washrooms, and frontline



community services—constitute the majority of the Park Board's tax-funded operations and will likely be deeply impacted by these reductions (<https://cityhallwatch.wordpress.com/2025/10/20/parks-recreation-on-the-line-zero-zero-budget-christensen/>)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT The Park Board requests that City Council reduce the 2026 budget reduction target assigned to the Park Board to reflect the Park Board's share of the municipal tax base and thereby be limited to 8% of the total target, or about \$9.6 million of the \$120 million target, not \$15 million (12.5% of the total target); and
- B. THAT The Park Board requests that the Chair, or delegate, engage in a dialogue with the Mayor and City Manager to seek a constructive path forward and to reaffirm the shared obligation to maintain equitable, transparent budget targets for the Park Board.