



June 4, 2018

MEMO TO : Mayor, Council & Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Sadhu A. Johnston – City Manager, City of Vancouver
Malcolm Bromley - General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks & Recreation

SUBJECT : **Park Board Jurisdiction – Joint CoV/PB Review Project**

Dear Mayor, Council and Park Board Commissioners,

We are writing to inform you about a joint City of Vancouver and Park Board project we have recently initiated that will undertake a comprehensive review of the jurisdiction and authority of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation. The primary goal of this review is to ensure that our parks and greenspaces remain protected, that matters that fall under the Park Board's governance and jurisdiction are clarified, and that processes to improve operational relationships between the City and Park Board are identified.

As you are aware, there have been a few jurisdictional questions raised recently in relation to various Park Board and Council projects and initiatives. In some cases, uncertainty around the official status of a park or ambiguity in the Vancouver Charter has contributed to confusion around legal authority and operational jurisdiction. This lack of clarity can result in significant challenges for both our elected officials and staff, and so to address these concerns we are co-sponsoring a project to complete a thorough park status inventory; to identify areas of governance and policy that are unclear or misaligned; to review operational practices that are creating challenges; and to bring recommendations back to both the Park Board and Council for consideration.

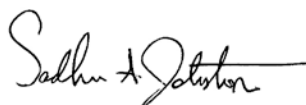
The last time a joint study of similar breadth occurred, was in the mid-1970s. From those findings, Council approved several recommendations that resulted in improved operational processes, as well as key changes to the Vancouver Charter that greatly clarified park designations and the Park Board's jurisdiction over those parks. However, since that time there have been considerable operational, policy, and process changes and so it is understandable that these guiding documents will not always clearly address the complex challenges and questions we face today and therefore need to be periodically reviewed and updated.

We have tasked Jesse Goranson, from the Business Planning & Project Support (BPPS) team, to lead this project with support from several other CoV and PB staff members. Jesse will work with the team to develop a project charter outlining the project objectives and target timelines, identify key stakeholders, and serve as the official reference of authority for the initiative. To help inform the project scope and objectives, Jesse will be reaching out over the next month or so to provide all of you with an opportunity to share your thoughts and experiences on this matter.

In the meantime, the project team is already working to create a complete and up-to-date inventory of all park sites and assets, which includes locating official and archival documentation to confirm current status and to inform future recommendations. Additionally, we have already initiated discussions with Human Resources to develop guidelines and processes to ensure Park Board Commissioners are involved in decisions related to the hiring and evaluation of the Park Board General Manager. As we anticipate the overall project will likely take 1-2 years to complete thoroughly, our intent is to have some “quick wins” to bring back to the Board and Council, which could include officially designating more permanent parks and implementing new GM evaluation processes in time for the Board to be included in this year’s performance review cycle.

We are very pleased to be moving forward on this important project and plan to present more details to you in July, including the project charter. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact either of us directly.

Regards,



Sadhu Aufochs Johnston
City Manager
City of Vancouver



Malcolm Bromley
General Manager
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

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Copy to: City Manager’s Correspondence Group
CoV City Leadership Team
PB Senior Leadership Team
PB Communications
Project Team