
From: Jackson, Steve
Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 2:24 PM
To: PB Commissioners
Cc: PB SLT (Senior Leadership Team) - DL; PB Communications; Park Board GM's Office; Tanaka, Ema; Downie, Alex
Subject: Update - QE Service Yard Fire

Dear Commissioners,

This email is to update you on the fire that occurred at the Queen Elizabeth Park Service Yard (built 1965) on the evening of January 4, 2022.

Regrettably, the service yard structures including equipment sheds and staff lunchroom/office building are a total loss. That said, we are extremely fortunate and thankful that no one was injured by this event. Lost in the fire were many pieces of equipment, including a F150 pickup truck, 3 Gator all-terrain vehicles, and one 60" ride-on lawn mower. In addition, the fire destroyed various pieces of small equipment including push mowers, line trimmers, chain saws, aerators, etc. The estimated value of the loss is unknown at this time. We will file an insurance claim with the City once we know the full extent of the loss involved. The neighbouring field house and public washroom building, along with the Pitch and Putt Pro Shop building were unaffected by the fire. The public washrooms, however, will remain closed until the demolition of the yard is complete as there is risk due to the unstable walls in the adjacent impacted buildings.

VFRS conducted an initial investigation indicating the fire may have been electrical in nature. VPD major crimes section reviewed the site and did not see evidence of foul play or arson. We will share more upon completion of the investigation if the findings are materially different to what has been assessed to this point.

In the short term we are evaluating the option to repurpose the vacant fieldhouse for use as a temporary QE Park service yard. The fieldhouse formerly housed a caretaker, and when they retired, a seasonal Junior Park Ranger program was hosted here. As this program can be run from an alternate location, no services to the public will be impacted by the repurposing of the fieldhouse. In the mid term, staff will continue to explore options to ensure sufficient amenities are available for our maintenance staff as seasons change and more staff are on site. In the longer term, an up-to-date replacement service yard will be incorporated into the QE Park Master Plan.

Park maintenance will be affected in the interim until we can replace lost equipment and build a temporary service yard. Staff have been relocated to VanDusen Gardens and are shuttled daily to QE Park. We are diligently sourcing equipment to replace that which was lost to the fire. In the meantime our snow and ice control efforts will be impacted as plowing and salting operations that were done by machine will now need to be done by hand. We will be focusing our efforts on priority areas to ensure our best efforts are made to keep park facilities including Bloedel Conservatory remain open and accessible.

We have extended our appreciation to the many City service groups who supported us during this event, most notably VFRS, VPD and REFM. Through this support and cooperation we were able to ensure power to key areas of the park, notably the Bloedel Conservatory were maintained so as not to put our beloved plants and animals inside at risk.

If you have any further questions on this event, please let me know and we can coordinate a response.

Thank you.

Regards,
Steve Jackson on behalf of Donnie Rosa

Steve Jackson, CPA CA | Director, Business Services - Board of Parks and Recreation



My pronoun is: he, him

[Vancouver Park Board](#) | 2099 Beach Avenue
t. 604.257.8408 c.604.358.8359

I acknowledge that we are on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish Nation, the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), s^kwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliiwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh)