

# B.4

## MOTION

### 4. Funding Support for Park Board Service Costs Associated With Key Problem Parks

MOVER: Councillor Affleck

SECONDER:

#### WHEREAS

1. The mission of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is to provide, preserve, and advocate for parks and recreation services to benefit all people, communities, and the environment;
2. In recent years, the Park Board and its budget have experienced significant challenges related to drug use and litter in various Downtown parks, notably Andy Livingstone Park, Emery Barnes Park, and Stanley Park, and increasingly at Hinge Park, Creekside Park, and others;
3. Used syringes, in particular, represent an ongoing safety risk in a number of Vancouver parks, especially for children who frequent Vancouver parks;
4. At the Monday, November 6, 2017, Park Board meeting, City of Vancouver Engineering staff made a presentation to the Board regarding sanitation in parks (including service types and responsibilities, ongoing service challenges, and challenges with needle collection from parks) and responded to questions from the Board (including discussion of the potential to engage not-for-profit organization micro-cleaner programs for park sanitation);
5. At the November 6, 2017, Park Board meeting, the Park Board unanimously resolved to “continue a service agreement with the City’s Engineering Streets division to assist with key problem parks, as well as additional security attendants in Andy Livingstone and Creekside Parks in 2018; and further that costs be supported through a funding request to the City of Vancouver or through the Park Board’s 2018 Operating Budget.”;
6. At the November 6, 2017, Park Board meeting, the Board also directed Park Board staff “to develop a comprehensive and sustainable Park Ranger Service Model, in consultation and collaboration with the Vancouver Police Department, City of Vancouver, and community partners, to address safety, security, cleanliness and maintenance concerns, particularly in relation to the increased use of injectable drugs in Vancouver parks;
7. At the October 3, 2017, Regular Council meeting, a motion entitled “2018 Budget Enhancements Pertaining to Littering and Residents’ Safety” calling for additional funding for the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation to enable 24-hour-a-day Park Ranger patrols at all Vancouver parks impacted by the significant challenges of drug use and littering, as well as additional funding to maintain the cleanliness and safety of impacted Vancouver parks on an ongoing basis, was postponed (with unanimous Council support) until the matter had been fully considered by the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation as part of their regular business.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Vancouver City Council direct City of Vancouver staff, as part of the 2018 operating budget planning process, to prioritize forthcoming requests from the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation for increased funding to cover the service costs associated with key problem parks, as well as additional security attendants in Andy Livingstone and Creekside Parks in 2018, as per the Park Board resolution at the November 6, 2017, Park Board meeting;

FURTHER THAT the funding be sufficient to maintain the cleanliness and safety of impacted Vancouver parks on an ongoing basis.

- B. THAT Vancouver City Council direct City staff to assist as needed with Park Board efforts to develop of a comprehensive and sustainable Park Ranger Service Model, as per the Park Board resolution at the November 6, 2017, Park Board meeting, in consultation and collaboration with the Vancouver Police Department and community partners to address safety, security, cleanliness and maintenance concerns, particularly in relation to the increased use of injectable drugs in Vancouver parks.
- C. THAT Vancouver City Council direct City staff to continue to liaise with their Park Board staff counterparts to explore ways in which Park Board can assist in efforts to locate appropriate housing and supports for those struggling with mental health and addiction challenges.

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