

MOTION

13. Jurisdiction, Land Use and the Biodiversity of Langara Golf Course

At the Regular Council meeting on April 17, 2018, Vancouver City Council referred the following matter to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on April 18, 2018, to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor De Genova

WHEREAS

1. A Park Board report dated March 1, 2018, titled “Langara Golf Course Drainage Improvement Project- Construction Contract” states “The course itself is a diverse natural area and is certified by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary program. The property is host to over 100 species of birds and healthy communities of small animals including coyotes, skunks, racoons and rabbits. As well, the course hosts a thriving bat colony that controls the insect population on the course and in the surrounding neighbourhood. The two large ponds on the property provide an urban sanctuary for many species of water fowl”;
2. On June 26, 2012, The Vancouver Sun published an article quoting Mayor Gregor Robertson as saying “At this point it is debatable as to whether that is valuable green space”, the Mayor said, “The public can’t access it, it is not biodiverse and there is no strong business case”;
3. On July 11, 2012, an article titled “Mayor Gregor Robertson’s golf-course housing dreams would be disastrous for biodiversity” was published by The Georgia Straight;
4. On July 9, 2012, Park Board Commissioner Aaron Jasper brought a motion to the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation titled “Golf Course Metrics”, asking staff to consider alternative uses for Langara Golf Course;
5. The July 9, 2012 motion brought to the Vancouver Park Board questioning the land use of Langara Golf Course was not ruled out of order at the Vancouver Park Board meeting. Furthermore, the motion was discussed and debated at a Park Board meeting. If Langara Golf Course was under City of Vancouver jurisdiction, this motion should not have been discussed, debated or decided at a Park Board meeting;
6. On March 14, 2018, Mayor Robertson moved a strike and replace motion that delayed the drainage contract for Langara Golf Course. In response to a Council member’s question, as to the jurisdiction of the Vancouver Park Board for Langara Golf Course, staff replied that it was City-owned land;
7. On March 14, 2018, Mayor Robertson moved a strike and replace motion that delayed the \$3 million contract that is necessary to repair drainage of Langara Golf Course; and

8. The Park Board General Manager stated that the Park Board supported Golf Course drainage and estimated that \$2.25 million in revenue for the Park Board would be lost in 2018 due to the delay of repairs to the drainage.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council acknowledge that Langara Golf Course should be under Vancouver Park Board jurisdiction and should be respected as protected Park Land.
- B. THAT if there is any question as to the jurisdiction and governance of the land use of Langara Golf Course, that Council direct staff to take any steps necessary to ensure that legally, Langara Golf Course is under the jurisdiction of the Vancouver Park Board.
- C. THAT Council acknowledges that Langara Golf Course is a diverse natural area and any change of land use could adversely affect the biodiversity and wildlife in this area.
- D. THAT Council increase the Park Board Budget to compensate the Vancouver Park Board for any revenue that will be lost at Langara Golf Course in the next year due to the delay in repairs to the drainage.

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