



## REPORT TO COUNCIL

### STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON CITY FINANCE AND SERVICES

DECEMBER 13, 2023

A meeting of the Standing Committee of Council on City Finance and Services was held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 9:32 am, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall. This Council meeting was convened by electronic means as authorized under Part 14 of the *Procedure By-law*.

**PRESENT:**

- Councillor Rebecca Bligh, Chair
- Mayor Ken Sim
- Councillor Christine Boyle\*
- Councillor Adriane Carr
- Councillor Lisa Dominato
- Councillor Pete Fry
- Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung\* (Leave of Absence – Civic Business - 11 am to 3:30 pm and 5 pm onwards)
- Councillor Mike Klassen
- Councillor Peter Meiszner
- Councillor Brian Montague\*
- Councillor Lenny Zhou, Vice Chair

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:**

- Paul Mochrie, City Manager
- Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
- Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:**

- Lesley Matthews, Acting Deputy City Clerk
- Olivia Kam, Meeting Coordinator

\* Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

### WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh People. We thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

The Chair also recognized the immense contributions of the City of Vancouver's staff who work hard every day to help make our city an incredible place to live, work, and play.

POSTPONEMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung  
SECONDED by Councillor Klassen

THAT the Committee postpone the Presentation entitled “Climate Emergency Action Plan – Annual Update” to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on January 24, 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09744)

### **MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

MOVED by Councillor Dominato  
SECONDED by Councillor Klassen

THAT Council adopt Report 2 on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **1. Sea2City Design Challenge Award**

Staff from Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability provided a presentation, acknowledged the City of Vancouver’s work on public engagement, decolonization and coloration with Indigenous partners and presented the City of Vancouver with the Sea2City Design Challenge award along with a representative from the International Association for Public Participation.

#### **2. Climate Emergency Action Plan – Annual Update**

Council agreed to postpone the above-noted presentation to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on January 24, 2024.

### **REPORTS**

#### **1. Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements November 29, 2023**

Staff from Development, Buildings and Licensing provided a presentation and responded to questions along with Staff from Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability and the Vancouver Police Department.

\* \* \* \* \*

*During questions to staff, it was*

*MOVED* by Councillor Kirby-Yung  
*SECONDED* by Councillor Meiszner

*THAT under Section 5.4(d) of the Procedure By-law, the Committee be allowed to ask a second round of questions to staff.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

\* \* \* \* \*

The Committee heard from five speakers who spoke in support of the recommendations, seven speakers who spoke in opposition to the recommendations and one speaker who spoke to other aspects of the recommendations.

*MOVED* by Councillor Dominato  
*SECONDED* by Councillor Klassen

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council repeal the *Liquor License Capacity and Location Policy and Guidelines* and adopt the *Policy on Establishments with Provincial Liquor Primary Licences* as described in the report dated November 29, 2023, entitled "Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements" and shown in Appendix A of the same report.
- B. THAT Council remove the moratorium on new Liquor Establishments and seat expansions at existing establishments, in the Granville Entertainment District.
- C. THAT Council approve amendments to the Licence By-law to update the definition of Liquor Establishment Class 2 to change the person capacity generally as shown in Appendix B of the report dated November 29, 2023, entitled "Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements";

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Licence By-law generally in accordance with Appendix B of the above-noted report.

- D. THAT Council approve amendments to the Licence By-law to expand the definition of Liquor Establishment Class 8 to enable more types of non-traditional liquor serving businesses to apply for provincial liquor licences as permitted under Provincial regulation, generally as shown in Appendix B of the report dated November 29, 2023, entitled "Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements";

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Licence By-law generally in accordance with Appendix B of the above-noted report.

- E. THAT Council approve amendments to the Licence By-law to the definition of Limited Service Food Establishment to enable these businesses to apply for a provincial non-traditional liquor licence generally as shown in Appendix B of the report dated November 29, 2023, entitled "Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements";

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Licence By-law generally in accordance with Appendix B of the above-noted report.

- F. THAT Council approve amendments to the Licence By-law to delegate authority to the Chief Licence Inspector to provide recommendations to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch on new Liquor Primary applications as a way to decrease the City's processing time on Liquor Primary applications generally as shown in Appendix B of the report dated November 29, 2023, entitled "Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements";

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Licence By-law generally in accordance with Appendix B of the above-noted report.

- G. THAT Council approve amendments to Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law to align operating hours for Standard and Extended Hours Liquor Establishments located on the 1000 to 1300 blocks of Granville Street with hours in the Downtown Regulation Area Primarily Commercial Area as described in the report dated November 29, 2023, entitled "Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements" and generally as shown in Appendix C of the same report;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Licence By-law generally in accordance with Appendix C of the above-noted report.

- H. THAT Council approve a policy to support evening hours for Dual Liquor Primary licences to begin operation at 9:00 pm, aligned with hours allowed under provincial liquor licensing regulations.

- I. THAT, subject to approval of A above, Council approve amendments to the Cabaret and Restaurant Guidelines to align them with the proposed Policy on Establishments with Provincial Liquor Primary Licences as shown in Appendix D of the report dated November 29, 2023, entitled "Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements".

amended

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung  
SECONDED by Councillor Meiszner

THAT the following be added to B:

FURTHER THAT the Chinatown, Gastown, Industrial, Thornton Park, and Victory Square areas as defined by the *Liquor Policy for the Downtown Eastside*, also be removed from the moratorium on new Liquor Establishments and seat expansions at existing establishments.

FURTHER THAT the following be added to G:

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to also align operating hours for Standard and Extended Hours Liquor Establishments located in the Chinatown, Gastown, Industrial, Thornton Park, and Victory Square areas as defined by the *Liquor Policy for the Downtown Eastside* with hours in the Downtown Regulation Area Primarily Commercial Area, and bring forward the necessary amendments and by-law changes for Council's consideration in Q1 2024.

AND FURTHER THAT the following be added as J:

THAT Council direct staff to engage with relevant stakeholders in the DEOD with respect to the impacts of the above changes, including impacts on vulnerable populations and the services they rely on, transportation availability, and impacts on existing establishments as it relates to affordability, and report back in Q1 2025.

Following discussion, Council agreed to separate the vote on the components of the amendment. B and G were put and CARRIED (Vote No.09729) with Councillor Boyle opposed, and J was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09730).

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Boyle  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT the following be added as K:

THAT Council direct staff to work with Vancouver Coastal Health, the Vancouver Police Department, Good Night Out and other community partners to monitor and report back on the impacts of these policy changes on public health and safety;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff report back with recommendations to mitigate negative health and safety impacts related to these policy changes, including but not limited to:

- a) Engaging with Translink about extending public transportation access and hours to match extended liquor establishment hours and reporting back on recommended service improvements.
- b) Bringing back policy and funding recommendations for addressing sexual assault and gender based violence related to increased access to alcohol.

- c) Include recommendations in the upcoming public washroom strategy to prevent an increase in public urination and defecation related to increased consumption of alcohol.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09731)  
(Councillor Meiszner abstained from the vote)

\* \* \* \* \*

*At this point in the proceedings, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor Meiszner  
SECONDED by Councillor Montague*

*THAT the Committee extend the meeting past noon in order to complete Report 1 and hear Speakers on Report 3;*

*FURTHER THAT the Committee vary the order of business to hear registered speakers for Report 3 prior to questions to staff on Report 3.*

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY**

*Note: For clarity, the minutes are recorded in chronological order.*

\* \* \* \* \*

Prior to the vote on the amended motion, Council agreed to separate the vote on the components of the amended motion. B and the last clause of G was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09732) with Councillor Boyle abstaining from the vote. A, C, D, E, F, the first two clauses of G, H, I, J and K was then put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09733).

### **FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council repeal the *Liquor License Capacity and Location Policy and Guidelines* and adopt the *Policy on Establishments with Provincial Liquor Primary Licences* as described in the report dated November 29, 2023, entitled "Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements" and shown in Appendix A of the same report.
- B. THAT Council remove the moratorium on new Liquor Establishments and seat expansions at existing establishments, in the Granville Entertainment District;

FURTHER THAT the Chinatown, Gastown, Industrial, Thornton Park, and Victory Square areas as defined by the *Liquor Policy for the Downtown Eastside*, also be removed from the moratorium on new Liquor Establishments and seat expansions at existing establishments.

- C. THAT Council approve amendments to the Licence By-law to update the definition of Liquor Establishment Class 2 to change the person capacity generally as shown in Appendix B of the report dated November 29, 2023, entitled “Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements”;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Licence By-law generally in accordance with Appendix B of the above-noted report.

- D. THAT Council approve amendments to the Licence By-law to expand the definition of Liquor Establishment Class 8 to enable more types of non-traditional liquor serving businesses to apply for provincial liquor licences as permitted under Provincial regulation, generally as shown in Appendix B of the report dated November 29, 2023, entitled “Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements”;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Licence By-law generally in accordance with Appendix B of the above-noted report.

- E. THAT Council approve amendments to the Licence By-law to the definition of Limited Service Food Establishment to enable these businesses to apply for a provincial non-traditional liquor licence generally as shown in Appendix B of the report dated November 29, 2023, entitled “Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements”;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Licence By-law generally in accordance with Appendix B of the above-noted report.

- F. THAT Council approve amendments to the Licence By-law to delegate authority to the Chief Licence Inspector to provide recommendations to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch on new Liquor Primary applications as a way to decrease the City’s processing time on Liquor Primary applications generally as shown in Appendix B of the report dated November 29, 2023, entitled “Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements”;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Licence By-law generally in accordance with Appendix B of the above-noted report.

- G. THAT Council approve amendments to Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law to align operating hours for Standard and Extended Hours Liquor Establishments located on the 1000 to 1300 blocks of Granville Street with hours in the Downtown Regulation Area Primarily Commercial Area as described in the report dated November 29, 2023, entitled “Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements” and generally as shown in Appendix C of the same report;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Licence By-law generally in accordance with Appendix C of the above-noted report;

AND FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to also align operating hours for Standard and Extended Hours Liquor Establishments located in the Chinatown, Gastown, Industrial, Thornton Park, and Victory Square areas as defined by the *Liquor Policy for the Downtown Eastside* with hours in the Downtown Regulation Area Primarily Commercial Area, and bring forward the necessary amendments and by-law changes for Council's consideration in Q1 2024.

- H. THAT Council approve a policy to support evening hours for Dual Liquor Primary licences to begin operation at 9:00 pm, aligned with hours allowed under provincial liquor licensing regulations.
- I. THAT Council approve amendments to the Cabaret and Restaurant Guidelines to align them with the proposed Policy on Establishments with Provincial Liquor Primary Licences as shown in Appendix D of the report dated November 29, 2023, entitled "Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements".
- J. THAT Council direct staff to engage with relevant stakeholders in the DEOD with respect to the impacts of the above changes, including impacts on vulnerable populations and the services they rely on, transportation availability, and impacts on existing establishments as it relates to affordability, and report back in Q1 2025.
- K. THAT Council direct staff to work with Vancouver Coastal Health, the Vancouver Police Department, Good Night Out and other community partners to monitor and report back on the impacts of these policy changes on public health and safety;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff report back with recommendations to mitigate negative health and safety impacts related to these policy changes, including but not limited to:

- a) Engaging with Translink about extending public transportation access and hours to match extended liquor establishment hours and reporting back on recommended service improvements.
- b) Bringing back policy and funding recommendations for addressing sexual assault and gender based violence related to increased access to alcohol.
- c) Include recommendations in the upcoming public washroom strategy to prevent an increase in public urination and defecation related to increased consumption of alcohol.



**2. 1115 Granville Street (2nd Floor) – RRRJ Holding Ltd (“The Refinery”) Dual Licence – Liquor Primary Licence Application Liquor Establishment Class 2 November 21, 2023**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Council, having considered the opinion of area residents and business operators as determined by neighbourhood notification, site sign, noise impacts and relevant Council policy as outlined in this report, endorse the application submitted by Christa Montpetit of Blue Diamond Hospitality Inc, on behalf of the applicant, RRRJ Holdings Ltd doing business as “The Refinery”, for a new Dual Licence – Liquor Primary liquor licence (Liquor Establishment Class 2), located on the second floor at 1115 Granville Street, subject to:

- i. A maximum interior capacity of 74 persons and outdoor patio capacity of 30 persons. Maximum capacity (interior and outdoor areas combined) is not to exceed 74 persons;
- ii. Extended Hours of operation limited to 10 pm to 2 am, Sunday to Thursday, and 10 pm to 3 am, Friday and Saturday;
- iii. The outdoor patio ceasing all liquor service and vacated by 11 pm nightly;
- iv. No music or entertainment permitted on the patio;
- v. A Time-limited Development Permit;
- vi. An acoustic report to be submitted certifying that the establishment meets Noise Control By-law requirements; and
- vii. Signing a Good Neighbour Agreement with the City prior to business licence issuance.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT (Vote No. 09745)

**3. Plumbing, Sprinkler and Mechanical Updates to the Building By-law November 28, 2023**

The Committee heard from four speakers who spoke in support of the recommendations.

\* \* \* \* \*

*The Committee recessed at 12:20 pm and reconvened at 2:05 pm.*

\* \* \* \* \*

Staff from Development, Buildings and Licensing responded to questions.

MOVED by Councillor Klassen  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve, in principle, various miscellaneous amendments to the Building By-law as generally described in the report dated November 28, 2023,

entitled "Plumbing, Sprinkler and Mechanical Updates to the Building By-law" and as set out in Appendix A of the same report.

- B. THAT Council instruct the Director of Legal Services to bring forward for enactment amendments to the Building By-law as set out in Appendix A of the report dated November 28, 2023, entitled "Plumbing, Sprinkler and Mechanical Updates to the Building By-law".

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09734)  
(Councillor Kirby-Yung absent for the vote)

#### **4. December 2023 Community Services and Other Social Policy Grants November 28, 2023**

Staff from Arts, Culture and Community Services responded to questions.

The Committee heard from eleven speakers who spoke in support of the recommendations.

MOVED by Councillor Zhou  
SECONDED by Councillor Meiszner

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

- A. THAT Council approve ten (10) Social Innovation Project (SIP) Anti-Black Racism Grants, totalling \$125,000, from the 2023 Social Policy Grants Operating budget to the organizations listed in Appendix A-1 of the report dated November 28, 2023, entitled "December 2023 Community Services and Other Social Policy Grants", for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "2023 Recommend" column to support Black-led and Black-serving organizations.
- B. THAT Council approve one (1) Social Innovation Project (SIP) Food Grant to Vancouver Food Runners Society, totalling \$100,000 from the 2023 Social Policy Grants Operating budget to administer the Vancouver Food Recovery Network Innovation Project, as described in Appendix B of the report dated November 28, 2023, entitled "December 2023 Community Services and Other Social Policy Grants".
- C. THAT Council approve one (1) Sustainable Food Systems Grant to the Disabled Independent Gardeners Association (DIGA), totalling \$9,000 from the 2023 Social Policy Grants Operating budget to support the DIGA Food Security Program, as described in Appendix C of the report dated November 28, 2023, entitled "December 2023 Community Services and Other Social Policy Grants".
- D. THAT Council approve one (1) grant of \$30,000 from the 2023 Social Policy Grants Operating budget to Salal Sexual Violence Support Centre to support the planning and delivery of an Elders and Knowledge Keepers Retreat in 2024, as described in Appendix D the report dated November 28, 2023, entitled "December 2023 Community Services and Other Social Policy Grants".
- E. THAT Council approve four (4) Organizational Capacity Building and Project Grants totalling \$98,170, from the 2023 Social Policy Operating Grants budget, including the recommended conditions on the grant, to the organizations listed in

Appendix E of the report dated November 28, 2023, entitled "December 2023 Community Services and Other Social Policy Grants", for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "2023 Recommend" column, to strengthen governance and strategic planning in the non-profit sector.

- F. THAT Council approve two (2) Childcare Capacity Building Grants totalling \$115,000 from the 2023 Social Policy Grants Childcare Operating Budget to the organizations listed in Appendix F of the report dated November 28, 2023, entitled "December 2023 Community Services and Other Social Policy Grants", for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "2023 Recommend" column to support the management of large childcare providers.
- G. THAT Council approve three (3) Childcare Project Grants totalling \$132,000 from the 2023 Social Policy Grants Childcare Operating Budget to the organizations listed in Appendix G of the report dated November 28, 2023, entitled "December 2023 Community Services and Other Social Policy Grants", for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "2023 Recommend" column to support childcare projects and stabilize current childcare operations.
- H. THAT Council approve six (6) Small-Medium Capital Grants totaling \$200,000 from the 2023 Social Policy Small Capital Grants Budget to the organizations listed in Appendix H-1 of the report dated November 28, 2023, entitled "December 2023 Community Services and Other Social Policy Grants", for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "2023 Recommend" column to support improvements to social facilities serving residents experiencing marginalization.
- I. THAT Council approve three (3) Childcare Small Capital Grants totalling \$45,159 from the 2023 Small Capital Grants for Non-City Owned Childcare to the organizations listed in Appendix I-1 of the report dated November 28, 2023, entitled "December 2023 Community Services and Other Social Policy Grants", for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "2023 Recommend" column to support infrastructure improvements for licensed childcare facilities.
- J. THAT Council approve eight (8) Hastings Legacy Fund grants totalling \$142,400 from the Hastings Social Responsibility Reserve to the organizations listed in Appendix J-1 of the report dated November 28, 2023, entitled "December 2023 Community Services and Other Social Policy Grants", for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "2023 Recommend" column to build the capacity of the Hastings-Sunrise neighbourhood to respond to local social issues. Disbursement of the grants is conditional on the receipt of the 2023 Community Legacy Fund Fee from Hastings Entertainment Inc.
- K. THAT Council approve two (2) Reframing South Vancouver grants totalling \$280,324 from the 2023 ACCS Operating Budget to the organizations listed in Appendix K of the report dated November 28, 2023, entitled "December 2023 Community Services and Other Social Policy Grants", for the amounts recommended for each organization in the "2023 Recommend" column to support the work described in Appendix K of the same report.
- L. THAT, pursuant to Section 206(1)(j) of the *Vancouver Charter*, Council deems any organization listed in Appendix A-K of the report dated November 28, 2023, entitled "December 2023 Community Services and Other Social Policy Grants",

that is not otherwise a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency to be contributing to the health and welfare of the City.

- M. THAT Council delegate its authority to the General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services to negotiate and execute agreements to disburse the grants described in A to K above on the terms and conditions set out herein or such other terms and conditions as are satisfactory to the General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services and the Director of Legal Services.
- N. THAT no legal rights or obligations will arise or be created by Council's adoption of these Recommendations unless and until all legal documentation has been executed and delivered by the respective parties.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND A TO K  
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY (Vote No. 09735)  
(Councillor Montague absent for the vote)

### COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTIONS

#### 1. Requests for Leave of Absence

MOVED by Councillor Zhou  
SECONDED by Councillor Dominato

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

THAT Councillor Kirby-Yung be granted a Leave of Absence for civic business from meetings on April 11, 2024, from 6 pm onwards.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### 2. Amendment to the Vancouver Charter

*Prior to hearing from speakers, it was*

MOVED by Councillor Fry  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

*THAT the Committee suspend the rules of the Procedure By-law to ask questions of the mover.*

LOST (Vote No. 09736)  
(Councillors Bligh, Dominato, Kirby-Yung, Klassen, Meiszner, Montague and Zhou opposed)  
(Mayor Sim abstained from the vote)  
(Councillor Boyle absent for the vote)

The committee heard from nine speakers who spoke in support of the motion, 86 speakers who spoke in opposition to the motion and eight speakers who spoke to other aspects of the motion.

\* \* \* \* \*

*During the hearing of speakers, Councillor Klassen rose on a point of order, under section 7.8(c) of the Procedure By-law regarding comments made by a speaker. The Chair cautioned the Speaker to not engage in improper conduct.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*At this point in the proceedings, it was*

*MOVED by Councillor Dominato  
SECONDED by Councillor Boyle*

*That the Committee extend the meeting past 5 pm in order to continue hearing from speakers on Council Member's Motion 2.*

*CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY*

\* \* \* \* \*

*The Committee recessed at 5:31 pm and reconvened at 6:03 pm.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*During the hearing of speakers, Councillor Kirby-Yung rose on a point of order under section 7.8(c) of the Procedure By-law regarding comments made by a speaker. The Chair cautioned the Speaker to not engage in improper conduct.*

\* \* \* \* \*

*MOVED by Mayor Sim  
SECONDED by Councillor Zhou*

*THAT the Committee recommend to Council*

*WHEREAS*

1. The City of Vancouver, including the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation ("Park Board"), is primarily created and governed by the *Vancouver Charter* ("VC"), a provincial statute enacted in 1953 that incorporates the City of Vancouver;
2. The VC sets out the statutory powers and authorities which govern the City of Vancouver, and provides a range of powers and responsibilities different from those of other communities governed primarily by the *Community Charter* ("CC") and the *Local Government Act* ("LGA");
3. The VC governs how the City operates, what by-laws Council can enact, and how budgets are determined. Under the VC, Council has the authority to enact by-laws to regulate such things as noise and land use, to buy and sell property,

to collect certain taxes, to approve expenditures, and to take on debt, give grants, and hire and discharge employees;

4. The Park Board is established by section 485 of the VC (Part XXIII – Parks), which reads:  
  
“A board of commissioners, to be known as the "Board of Parks and Recreation" or "Park Board," shall be elected as hereinafter provided, and shall consist of seven members or such other number as the Council may by by-law prescribe. The Board has the legal capacity to exercise the powers bestowed on it and to enforce those powers and the exercise thereof by actions, proceeding or prosecution.”;
5. The Park Board looks after 250 public parks and beaches, including Stanley Park, VanDusen Botanical Garden, Bloedel Conservatory, and a large public recreation system of 24 community centres, swimming pools, rinks and arenas, sport playing fields, playgrounds, fitness centres, three championship golf courses, street trees, and marinas, among other services and facilities;
6. The City of Vancouver is the only municipality in Canada with an elected park board, with the exception of the Cultus Lake Park Board which is made up of five elected Commissioners (i.e., three elected from the Cultus Lake Park jurisdiction and two elected from the City of Chilliwack jurisdiction);
7. Vancouver’s Auditor General (AGO) recently released a performance audit report of the revenue management practices of the Park Board. The audit determined that while some processes were used to inform fee-setting, the Park Board did not operate an effective framework for achieving revenue-related objectives for its revenue-generating assets and services;
8. The AGO’s audit report further noted that the Park Board’s overall funding structure, as set out in the VC, requires it to obtain City Council approval for all expenditures, including the expenditure of funds generated from revenue-generating activities. The audit found that while the Park Board has strategies to guide the delivery of parks and recreation services, it had not proactively engaged with City Council to align its priorities with available funding;
9. Vancouver’s parks, recreation, and cultural assets are prized by Vancouverites and visitors alike and must be protected, maintained, and preserved sustainably and in good working order for future generations;
10. The Park Board, for most practical intents, functions like any other department of the City, albeit as a separate entity with significant independent authority through its elected board;
11. Over the years, the Province has amended the VC numerous times to accommodate the changing needs and priorities of the city. Some amendments have been significant while others have been consequential and/or incidental to other legislation introduced by the Province;

12. In recent years it has become abundantly clear, given the poor state of Vancouver's parks, recreation services, and infrastructure, that a fundamental change in governance structure is not only needed, it is the only viable path forward to an efficient and effective parks and recreation service for the people of Vancouver.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council formally request that the Province of British Columbia amend or repeal section 485 of the *Vancouver Charter* ("VC") to remove the requirement for an elected board of commissioners, variously referenced in legislation and elsewhere as the "Board of Parks and Recreation" and/or "Park Board", including any and all consequential and/or incidental amendments required to the VC and/or other related legislation, including that any and all legal obligations of the Park Board be assumed by the City;

FURTHER THAT the legal capacity to exercise the powers currently bestowed on the Park Board under the VC, and the authority to enforce those powers, shall be devolved to and bestowed upon Council, and the delivery of parks and recreation services shall be administered by the City in accordance with Council direction;

AND FURTHER THAT, in accordance with the above, Council formally request that the Province of British Columbia amend the process for revoking and/or cancelling the designation of areas designated as permanent public parks of the City under the VC, notably under section 488 of the VC ("Parks in care of Board"), to a unanimous vote of all Council members, along with provisions for a public referendum.

- B. THAT a Parks and Recreation Transition Working Group ("PRTWG") (Type D advisory body) be convened to facilitate the smooth transition of responsibility for park and recreation services, from the current oversight by an elected Park Board to the oversight of Council;

FURTHER THAT the PRTWG shall have a time-limited mandate of six (6) months to coordinate the ongoing engagement and relationships with park and recreation stakeholders, supported by City staff, and be comprised of the Mayor, the Mayor's Chief of Staff, two City Councillors appointed by the Mayor, a current Park Board Commissioner appointed by the Mayor, and up to six (6) members of the public appointed by the Mayor, with Terms of Reference for the working group to be determined by the Mayor in consultation with, and under the advisement of, the City Manager and the General Manager of Parks and Recreation.

amended

\* \* \* \* \*

*In order to participate in debate on the amendment below, Chair Bligh relinquished the Chair to Vice-Chair Zhou, and resumed the Chair once finished.*

\* \* \* \* \*

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Kirby-Yung  
SECONDED by Councillor Klassen

THAT the following be added as C:

THAT Council direct staff to report back on parks that are currently designated as temporary parks following enactment by the Province of the Charter changes requested in clause "A" above;

FURTHER THAT the report include the status of the ongoing directed staff work to review properties currently designated as temporary parks or that were previously designated by Council as under the care, custody and management of the Park Board, in order to accelerate the transition to permanent park status.

CARRIED (Vote No. 09737)  
(Councillors Boyle and Fry opposed)  
(Councillor Carr abstained from the vote)

\* \* \* \* \*

*In order to participate in debate on the amendment below, Chair Bligh relinquished the Chair to Vice-Chair Zhou, and resumed the Chair once finished.*

\* \* \* \* \*

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Boyle  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT the following be added as D:

THAT Council direct staff to work with Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations to explore and seek direction on any future changes to the governance of the Vancouver Park Board, as outlined in the City's UNDRIP Strategy, the Province's legal commitments under DRIPA, and existing work and relationships between the local Nations and the Park Board.

not put

\* \* \* \* \*

*During discussion on the amendment above, Councillor Bligh rose on a point of order, under section 8.7(f) of the Procedure By-law, stating that the amendment above is frivolous as it is outside of the City's jurisdiction to engage in discussion with the Nations around their relationship with the Province. After consulting with staff, Vice-Chair Zhou ruled in favour of Councillor Bligh's point of order and ruled the amendment out of order.*

\* \* \* \* \*



AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT A and B be struck and replaced with the following:

THAT Council refer the motion “Amendment to the Vancouver Charter” to staff to consult with public, stakeholders, and relevant authorities and report back by end of Q4 2024 with recommendations for improving (including considerations for replacing) the function and role of the Vancouver Park Board and options for providing more efficient and effective parks and recreation services for the people of Vancouver;

FURTHER THAT requested staff report include and consider: recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General’s Audit of Park Board Revenue Management and associated service provision cost savings opportunities; emerging Park Board strategies including unfunded revenue and fee structure improvements, coastal and climate adaptation, and xʷməθkʷəy̅əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) co-management of parklands; operating agreements and relationships with Community Centre Associations; and the inventory, status and possible dispossession of all de facto parks, Crown lands, and lands considered to be under the custody, care and management of the Board of Park and Recreation.

LOST (Vote No. 09738)  
(Councillors Bligh, Dominato, Kirby-Yung, Klassen, Meiszner, Montague, Zhou and Mayor Sim opposed)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Carr  
SECONDED by Councillor Fry

THAT B be struck and replaced with the following:

THAT Council formally request that the Province of British Columbia put the issue of whether or not to continue with an elected Park Board to the Vancouver electorate in a referendum at the time of the next local election in 2026 and that the actions by the Province of British Columbia as detailed in clause A shall not commence unless a majority of voters vote in support of these measures.

LOST (Vote No. 09739)  
(Councillors Bligh, Dominato, Kirby-Yung, Klassen, Meiszner, Montague, Zhou and Mayor Sim opposed)

\* \* \* \* \*

*In order to participate in debate, Chair Bligh relinquished the Chair to Vice-Chair Zhou, and resumed the Chair once finished.*

\* \* \* \* \*

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT B be amended by deleting all references of “appointed by the Mayor” and replacing them with the words “appointed by Council”.

carried

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Fry  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT the phrase “and that final decisions and deliberations take place in open public meetings” be added to the end of the amendment above.

LOST (Vote No. 09740)  
(Councillors Bligh, Dominato, Kirby-Yung, Klassen, Montague, Zhou and Mayor Sim opposed)

The amendment to the amendment having lost, the amendment was put and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (Vote No. 09741)

AMENDMENT MOVED by Councillor Boyle  
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

THAT the following be added as D:

THAT Council direct staff to consult with Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations on any future changes to the governance of the Vancouver Park Board, as outlined in the City’s UNDRIP Strategy, and aligned with existing work and relationships between the local Nations and the Park Board, before implementing any governance changes.

LOST (Vote No. 09742)  
(Councillors Bligh, Kirby-Yung, Klassen, Montague, Zhou and Mayor Sim opposed)

The amendments having either carried or lost, the motion as amended was put and CARRIED (Vote No. 09743) with Councillors Carr, Boyle and Fry opposed.

## **FINAL MOTION AS APPROVED**

THAT the Committee recommend to Council

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver, including the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (“Park Board”), is primarily created and governed by the *Vancouver Charter* (“VC”), a provincial statute enacted in 1953 that incorporates the City of Vancouver;
2. The VC sets out the statutory powers and authorities which govern the City of Vancouver, and provides a range of powers and responsibilities different from

those of other communities governed primarily by the *Community Charter* ("CC") and the *Local Government Act* ("LGA");

3. The VC governs how the City operates, what by-laws Council can enact, and how budgets are determined. Under the VC, Council has the authority to enact by-laws to regulate such things as noise and land use, to buy and sell property, to collect certain taxes, to approve expenditures, and to take on debt, give grants, and hire and discharge employees;
4. The Park Board is established by section 485 of the VC (Part XXIII – Parks), which reads:

“A board of commissioners, to be known as the "Board of Parks and Recreation" or "Park Board," shall be elected as hereinafter provided, and shall consist of seven members or such other number as the Council may by by-law prescribe. The Board has the legal capacity to exercise the powers bestowed on it and to enforce those powers and the exercise thereof by actions, proceeding or prosecution.”;
5. The Park Board looks after 250 public parks and beaches, including Stanley Park, VanDusen Botanical Garden, Bloedel Conservatory, and a large public recreation system of 24 community centres, swimming pools, rinks and arenas, sport playing fields, playgrounds, fitness centres, three championship golf courses, street trees, and marinas, among other services and facilities;
6. The City of Vancouver is the only municipality in Canada with an elected park board, with the exception of the Cultus Lake Park Board which is made up of five elected Commissioners (i.e., three elected from the Cultus Lake Park jurisdiction and two elected from the City of Chilliwack jurisdiction);
7. Vancouver’s Auditor General (AGO) recently released a performance audit report of the revenue management practices of the Park Board. The audit determined that while some processes were used to inform fee-setting, the Park Board did not operate an effective framework for achieving revenue-related objectives for its revenue-generating assets and services;
8. The AGO’s audit report further noted that the Park Board’s overall funding structure, as set out in the VC, requires it to obtain City Council approval for all expenditures, including the expenditure of funds generated from revenue-generating activities. The audit found that while the Park Board has strategies to guide the delivery of parks and recreation services, it had not proactively engaged with City Council to align its priorities with available funding;
9. Vancouver's parks, recreation, and cultural assets are prized by Vancouverites and visitors alike and must be protected, maintained, and preserved sustainably and in good working order for future generations;
10. The Park Board, for most practical intents, functions like any other department of the City, albeit as a separate entity with significant independent authority through its elected board;

11. Over the years, the Province has amended the *VC* numerous times to accommodate the changing needs and priorities of the city. Some amendments have been significant while others have been consequential and/or incidental to other legislation introduced by the Province;
12. In recent years it has become abundantly clear, given the poor state of Vancouver's parks, recreation services, and infrastructure, that a fundamental change in governance structure is not only needed, it is the only viable path forward to an efficient and effective parks and recreation service for the people of Vancouver.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council formally request that the Province of British Columbia amend or repeal section 485 of the *Vancouver Charter* ("VC") to remove the requirement for an elected board of commissioners, variously referenced in legislation and elsewhere as the "Board of Parks and Recreation" and/or "Park Board", including any and all consequential and/or incidental amendments required to the VC and/or other related legislation, including that any and all legal obligations of the Park Board be assumed by the City;

FURTHER THAT the legal capacity to exercise the powers currently bestowed on the Park Board under the VC, and the authority to enforce those powers, shall be devolved to and bestowed upon Council, and the delivery of parks and recreation services shall be administered by the City in accordance with Council direction;

AND FURTHER THAT, in accordance with the above, Council formally request that the Province of British Columbia amend the process for revoking and/or cancelling the designation of areas designated as permanent public parks of the City under the VC, notably under section 488 of the VC ("Parks in care of Board"), to a unanimous vote of all Council members, along with provisions for a public referendum.

- B. THAT a Parks and Recreation Transition Working Group ("PRTWG") (Type D advisory body) be convened to facilitate the smooth transition of responsibility for park and recreation services, from the current oversight by an elected Park Board to the oversight of Council;

FURTHER THAT the PRTWG shall have a time-limited mandate of six (6) months to coordinate the ongoing engagement and relationships with park and recreation stakeholders, supported by City staff, and be comprised of the Council, the Mayor's Chief of Staff, two City Councillors appointed by Council, a current Park Board Commissioner appointed by Council, and up to six (6) members of the public appointed by Council, with Terms of Reference for the working group to be determined by Council in consultation with, and under the advisement of, the City Manager and the General Manager of Parks and Recreation.

- C. THAT Council direct staff to report back on parks that are currently designated as temporary parks following enactment by the Province of the Charter changes requested in clause "A" above;

FURTHER THAT the report include the status of the ongoing directed staff work to review properties currently designated as temporary parks or that were previously designated by Council as under the care, custody and management of the Park Board, in order to accelerate the transition to permanent park status.

The Committee adjourned at 9:49 pm.

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**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
STANDING COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON  
CITY FINANCE AND SERVICES**

**DECEMBER 13, 2023**

A meeting of the Council of the City of Vancouver was held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 9:49 pm, in the Council Chamber, Third Floor, City Hall, following the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting, to consider the recommendations and actions of the Committee.

**PRESENT:**

Mayor Ken Sim  
Councillor Rebecca Bligh  
Councillor Christine Boyle  
Councillor Adriane Carr  
Councillor Lisa Dominato  
Councillor Pete Fry  
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung  
Councillor Mike Klassen  
Councillor Peter Meiszner  
Councillor Brian Montague  
Councillor Lenny Zhou

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE:**

Paul Mochrie, City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE:**

Lesley Matthews, Deputy City Clerk  
Olivia Kam, Meeting Coordinator

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Report of Standing Committee on City Finance and Services  
Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Council considered the report containing the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services. Its items of business included:

Reports:

1. Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements
2. 1115 Granville Street (2nd Floor) – RRRJ Holdings Ltd ("The Refinery") Dual Licence – Liquor Primary Licence Application Liquor Establishment Class 2
3. Plumbing, Sprinkler and Mechanical Updates to the Building By-law
4. December 2023 Community Services and Other Social Policy Grants

Council Members' Motions

1. Requests for Leaves of Absence
2. Amendment to the Vancouver Charter

MOVED by Councillor Fry

SECONDED by Councillor Klassen

THAT the recommendations and actions taken by the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services at its meeting of December 13, 2023, as contained in Reports 1 through 4 and Council Members' Motions 1 to 2, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND  
REPORT 4 A TO K BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

**BY-LAWS**

MOVED by Councillor Bligh

SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT Council enact the by-laws listed on the agenda for this meeting as numbers 1 to 2 inclusive, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign and seal the enacted by-laws.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. A By-law to amend the License By-law No. 4450 regarding miscellaneous amendments to liquor establishment and liquor licence regulations (By-law No. 13896)
2. A By-law to amend the Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law No. 8022 regarding an adjustment of hours for Granville Street (By-law No. 13897)

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Councillor Zhou

SECONDED by Councillor Kirby-Yung

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Council adjourned at 9:51 pm.

\* \* \* \* \*