
From: Park Board GM's Office
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 3:09 PM
To: PB Commissioners
Cc: PB SLT (Senior Leadership Team) - DL; PB Communications; De Genova, Melissa
Subject: Pigeon Park Maintenance Enquiry Follow-up - Board Update

Dear Commissioners,

As follow-up to the below email received from former Commissioner Constance Barnes regarding Pigeon Park maintenance, I am writing to share the information that staff provided in response for your reference.

Pioneer Place (Pigeon Park) experiences a high volume of use that requires a significant joint effort between Park Board, City, and community partners to maintain. The Park Operations team is responsible for graffiti removal, pressure washing, and repairing damages to park infrastructure, with regular cleaning and ongoing maintenance services provided by the following City of Vancouver Engineering Services teams:

- Street Cleaning team: nightshift crew services the park daily in addition to surrounding streets;
- Urban Issues team: attends the park daily, during the day, to remove structures and debris;
- Sanitation team: conducts a daily midday cleaning along East Hastings, from Dunlevy to Abbott, including the park space;

In addition, micro-cleaning services are provided through the City's [Street Cleaning Grant program](#) to supplement the street cleaning services. Groups such as United We Can and Mission Possible provide low barrier employment to individuals within the Downtown Eastside (DTES), who assist with the daily collection of litter on foot using brooms, shovels, and wheeled garbage carts – work that's outside the scope of City services. This micro-cleaning work is scheduled during the daytime.

With respect to concerns regarding the lack of garbage totes in the park, the regular totes in that area often go missing or become damaged and so Engineering Services staff are in the process of replacing them with more permanent totes and will monitor the results. There is a garbage enclosure adjacent to the park, on the curb on East Hastings just west of Carrall Street.

We will continue to work with our City colleagues to address ongoing maintenance challenges and enhance park cleanliness efforts in order to meet the service levels expected.

Thank you,



Amit Gandha | Director of Parks
[Vancouver Park Board](#) | 2099 Beach Avenue
t. 604-654-0781 | amit.gandha@vancouver.ca
pronouns: he/him/his

I am thankful to live, work, and play on the unceded, ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm ([Musqueam](#)), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh ([Squamish](#)), and səliłwətaʔ / seilíwíłh ([Tsleil-Waututh](#)) nations.

From: Constance Barnes s22(1) Personal Privacy
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 4:26 PM
To: Rosa, Donnie <Donnie.Rosa@vancouver.ca>

Cc: Irwin, John <John.Irwin@vancouver.ca>; Mackinnon, Stuart <Stuart.Mackinnon@vancouver.ca>; Coupar, John <John.Coupar@vancouver.ca>; Barker, Tricia <Tricia.Barker@vancouver.ca>; Dumont, Camil <Camil.Dumont@vancouver.ca>; Giesbrecht, Gwen <Gwen.Giesbrecht@vancouver.ca>; De Genova, Melissa <Melissa.DeGenova@vancouver.ca>; Gandha, Amit <Amit.Gandha@vancouver.ca>; Demers, Dave <Dave.Demers@vancouver.ca>

Subject: [EXT] Pigeon Park Maintenance or LACK thereof

Good afternoon to you all,

I would like to first and foremost thank the 3 folks that got back to me immediately after I left a message regarding Pigeon Park Maintenance.

Donnie Rosa, Melissa DeGenova and Stuart Mackinnon BRAVO!

As a former Park Board Chair and Commissioner I totally understand the overwhelming amount of emails you can receive over the course of one day so I am grateful for the quick responses.

I know that General Manager Donnie Rosa has already reached out to Amit, the custodian for the DTES Parks. I have had the great opportunity to work with Amir on a few projects and he is reliable, quick to the task and all around a good guy!

Here is the issue, Many of you were at the unveiling of the refurbished Survivors Pole, carved by the amazing Skundaal (Bernie Williams) . Sadly the pole has already been defaced and needed to be touched up. I reached Skundaal and she got right to it.

The Park itself is an unsightly disaster on many days and as much as the good folks at Millenium have done their best including hiring/paying DTES individuals to power wash , sweep or rake, do garbage pickup. dispose of needles, cigarette butts etc (**not their responsibility**) it is an ongoing problem.

No garbage cans at all in the park, no regular garbage pickup or maintenance, not to the art/pole, concrete patterned surface, the trees or for that matter any of the landscaping.

I remember when the City cut the PB budget and and Penny Ballem decided city engineering dept would take over garbage pickup of all parks....the problem with that is as Amir so eloquently pointed out to me at our last meeting the city are not custodians, they do not have the same respect, admiration and pride as the Park Board custodians do. This is something we may want to revisit.

I know that the DTES is a tough area but I am there daily and so many people especially our Indigenous brothers and sisters are tired of the filth, they in fact have talked to me extensively about starting to uses Pigeon Park as a Gathering Place for memorials, monthly celebrations, drum circles and many other special occasions.

The land needs to be respected and nurtured just as much as any other park in the system .

I know that a park art maintenance plan is being worked on but that does not help us now.

New families with children have moved into the neighbourhood, it is not at all an inviting park but it should be.

The daily users are all for a beautiful spot, it will give them pride and mark my words. It has gotten better over the years.

What can we dpo to address this issue immediately?

I know that I have asked numerous time for a sign to be erected making it clear of park hours and no overnight camping but that request was deniedcan we not look at a community artist that could create a DTES Park friendly sign? It is actually unfair that every single park in the system but this one has signage with RULES. Rules are not a bad thing, structure and rules are a positive for many individuals in this particular community.

I will make myself available to meet with any or all of you to discuss these concerns and look at solutions. I have many ideas as cto options that could work well.

Really appreciate you taking the time to read my email.

Time for positive change and positive energy in all our Parks!

Stay Safe

Constance Barnes

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