



July 22, 2020

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Shauna Wilton – Acting General Manager, Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Skateboard Amenities Strategy RFP – Board Briefing Memo**

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Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the development of the new Park Board Skateboard Amenities Strategy and to notify you of an upcoming Request for Proposals (RFP) to assemble a project team. This city-wide strategy will identify opportunities to implement and improve amenities for skateboarding and other wheeled sports and will expand on the groundwork and direction provided through VanPlay.

On July 24, 2017, the Board unanimously passed the [Skateboard Strategy motion](#), which directed staff to work with community and City of Vancouver stakeholders to “create a framework for achieving an effective city-wide network of skateboarding amenities that will accommodate current and future recreation needs of all residents”. This need for a new strategy was also supported by strong public demand, recognizing the previous strategy had expired in 2015.

The city-wide Skateboard Amenities Strategy will be led by a project team headed by Park Board staff with support from Engineering Services staff, and will be jointly funded by Park Board and Engineering Services. The project will explore opportunities for skateboarding (and other wheeled sports) in parks, plazas, streets, greenways/bikeways, and potentially other publicly accessed locations. The project work will include investigating current service levels, gaps, and both current and projected needs. A substantial component of the project will consist of public engagement and an educational component illustrating the physical, health, and psychological benefits skateboarding provides youth and all participants.

The Skateboard Amenities Strategy will guide the prioritization and phasing of the renewal of current skateboard facilities in parks, as well as identify potential opportunities to include smaller scale skateboard features as projects emerge. The strategy will provide a “Toolkit” with a variety of suggested approaches to assist other departments in incorporating skateboarding in their projects.

Work will also include planning for a new skate park to be located in central Vancouver. In 2014, public engagement identified Jonathan Rogers as a potential new skate park location to alleviate the pressure on the Mount Pleasant Skateboard Park. Since several years have passed since this engagement occurred, the project team will re-engage with the community to confirm whether this is still a desired location.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, this project has been identified as a strong candidate for community-building endeavors and for securing trust among the community who advocated for this strategy in 2017. Additionally, once implemented in parks and streets, these small measures can bring disparate groups together and improve the neighbourhood morale at a time when residents are encouraged to recreate close to home.



Staff anticipate initiating the strategy work in Q3 2020, with the process to include the following components:

- develop a Skateboard Amenities Strategy Advisory Group to provide input on the strategy, and the 'toolkit';
- meet with other wheeled sport user groups to identify their needs and incorporate their suggestions into above;
- conduct a gap analysis of current skateboarding opportunities in the city and develop a long-range plan for future opportunities in parks and elsewhere;
- offer a comprehensive and robust community and stakeholder engagement strategy, including at least one advisory group; and
- identify optimum city-wide service levels and delivery, including metrics that measure effectiveness of skateboard and wheeled sports service provision.

Initial findings, including a summary of public input received through the advisory group(s) and community engagement activities held throughout the summer/fall, will be presented to the Board for feedback in late 2020/early 2021. This feedback will help inform recommendations for the new Skateboard Amenities Strategy, which is currently targeted for Board consideration and decision in Q2 2021.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shauna Wilton". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Shauna Wilton  
Acting General Manager  
Vancouver Park Board

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Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team  
PB Project Team  
PB Communications