



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 30, 2023

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, October 30, 2023, at 8:06 pm, in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference.

### PRESENT:

Commissioner Scott Jensen, Chair  
Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Laura Christensen  
Commissioner Tom Digby  
Commissioner Angela Haer  
Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard  
Commissioner Jas Viridi

### GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE:

Steve Jackson, General Manager  
Denise Swanston, Acting Manager, Board Relations & Meeting Clerk  
Jessica Kulchyski, Board Support and Meeting Assistant  
Victoria Tyers, Board Support and Meeting Assistant & Meeting Clerk

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. The meeting is being held on the land respectfully and with the knowledge that there must be continued acknowledgement of the history of injustice toward Indigenous peoples. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is committed to supporting truth and reconciliation, and to use this opportunity to amplify local First Nations voices and culture through our work in community.

### IN CAMERA MEETING

MOVED by Commissioner Digby  
SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT the Board will go into meetings prior to the next Regular Board Meeting, which are closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*, to discuss matters related to paragraphs:

- (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city;
- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- (j) information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 [disclosure harmful to business

interests of a third party] of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act;  
and

(k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of an activity, work or facility that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city if they were held in public.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **1. Special and Regular Board Meetings – October 16, 2023**

MOVED by Commissioner Haer

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of October 16, 2023 and the Regular Board meeting of October 16, 2023, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair [highlighted](#) the participation of Commissioners at Park Board events since the previous Board meeting on October 16, 2023:

- Commissioner Bastovanszky visited the West End Seniors Network ahead of their annual Halloween Haunted House at Barclay Manor
- Commissioner Viridi attended the HI Vancouver Downtown grand reopening

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

No communication related to the meeting agenda was received.

## **STAFF REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. West End Waterfront Master Plan - Update**

The Director of Planning and Park Development introduced the item, and the Manager of Park Development, along with Senior Planner Gomes [provided an update](#).

Following the presentation, staff responded to questions related to:

- Feasibility and management of intertidal areas
- Budget and funding sources
- Impact of storm events

- Framework for project prioritization
- Impact on nearby neighbourhoods
- Ensuring safe transportation as a result of potential increased visitors
- Estimated projections on community growth in the coming years
- Expanded Off-Leash Area amenities for dogs
- Impact on event hosting within the concept plan area
- Supporting increased covered outdoor space

## **2. General Manager's Report**

The Director of Planning and Park Development presented the [General Manager's Report](#), highlighting:

- Recently completed Vanier Park Boat Launch repairs, which is now fully open to the public as of October 23, 2023
- The first round of public engagement for the new Burrard Slopes Park has concluded, with a preliminary concept plan expected to be brought to the public for feedback in spring 2024.
- Staff completed the Natural Area Reclamation project at Jericho Park, removing downed trees, invasive species, and seeding reclaimed areas with natural turf/meadow seed and tree planting.
- A wildflower meadow planting project was recently completed at the intersection of Seaforth Peace Park and the Burrard Bridge, improving the area with aesthetic plantings to include pollinator habitat.
- Staff completed the dredging of ponds at McCleery Golf Course. This process is essential for effective functioning of the golf course water system, and creates open water spaces that benefit wildlife, including swallows and other bird species
- At this stage in the season, staff at Sunset Nursery advised that the poinsettia crop is in its best condition ever. Uncle Fester the Corpse Flower is also currently in leaf at Bloedel Conservatory, and is anticipated to remain in leaf for the upcoming year.
- Upcoming Council business related to or impacting parks and recreation:
  - Report titled "Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants – Fall 2023 Intake"
  - Motion titled "Advancing Britannia Renewal"
- Board briefing memos issued from October 16, 2023 to October 30, 2023.

## **MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

### **1. An Inclusive Children's Water Park at Ross Park – Bridging the Gap in South East Vancouver, an Underserved Neighbourhood**

Commissioner Haer introduced the motion and responded to questions.

MOVED by Commissioner Haer

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

WHEREAS:

1. The children of Vancouver deserve access to inclusive and safe recreational facilities that promote physical activity and social interaction, fostering a sense of community among residents;
2. Ross Park, located in the underserved neighborhood of South East Vancouver, presents a unique opportunity to address the recreational needs of the children in this community;
3. An inclusive children's water park will not only provide much-needed fun and enjoyment for the young residents but also contribute to the overall development and well-being of the neighborhood;
4. The residents of South East Vancouver have expressed their desire for more recreational amenities to cater to the diverse needs of their children.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to construct an inclusive children's water park at Ross Park, Vancouver, as a crucial step towards bridging the recreational gap in this underserved neighborhood.
- B. THAT staff thoughtfully design the water park to ensure accessibility for children of all abilities, including those with physical, sensory, or cognitive challenges. It should feature water play elements that engage and stimulate children's senses, providing a safe and enjoyable space for everyone to come together. The inclusive children's water park at Ross Park will not only enhance the quality of life for the local children but also create a focal point for community gatherings and activities, fostering a sense of pride and unity among the residents.
- C. THAT staff ensure the project will be undertaken with community engagement at its core, seeking input and feedback from the residents of South East Vancouver, community organizations and local stakeholders to incorporate their ideas and preferences into the park's design to ensure the project's success and sustainability.
- D. THAT staff work with Vancouver City Council to allocate adequate funds and resources to initiate the planning, design, and construction of the inclusive children's water park at Ross Park.

**Amendment to the Main Motion**

MOVED by Commissioner Bastovanszky  
SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

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

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to begin the engagement and design process for an inclusive and accessible spray park at Ross Park.

- D. THAT staff work with City staff to allocate \$2.5M from the Growing Community Fund grant provided by Vancouver City Council and conduct the appropriate analysis and reporting back to both Park Board and City Council regarding the scope, cost, and delivery timelines of the Ross Park Spray Park project, ideally to be constructed by summer 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Question on the Main Motion, as Amended**

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to begin the engagement and design process for an inclusive and accessible spray park at Ross Park;
- B. THAT staff thoughtfully design the water park to ensure accessibility for children of all abilities, including those with physical, sensory, or cognitive challenges. It should feature water play elements that engage and stimulate children's senses, providing a safe and enjoyable space for everyone to come together. The inclusive children's water park at Ross Park will not only enhance the quality of life for the local children but also create a focal point for community gatherings and activities, fostering a sense of pride and unity among the residents.
- C. THAT staff ensure the project will be undertaken with community engagement at its core, seeking input and feedback from the residents of South East Vancouver, community organizations and local stakeholders to incorporate their ideas and preferences into the park's design to ensure the project's success and sustainability.
- D. THAT staff work with City staff to allocate \$2.5M from the Growing Community Fund grant provided by Vancouver City Council and conduct the appropriate analysis and reporting back to both Park Board and City Council regarding the scope, cost, and delivery timelines of the Ross Park Spray Park project, ideally to be constructed by summer 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**MOTICE OF MEMBERS MOTIONS**

**1. Advancing Britannia Renewal**

Commissioner Digby submitted Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of November 27, 2023, as Member's Motion.

- A. THAT the Board affirms its commitment to advancing Britannia Renewal planning and holding in high regard the community vision developed to date for the Grandview Woodland and Strathcona/Kiwassa area;

FURTHER THAT the Board recognizes that full funding is not currently available for the 2018 Britannia Renewal Masterplan,

AND FURTHER THAT despite the funding challenges, the Board affirms its commitment to working with City of Vancouver, Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Public Library, and Britannia Community Services Centre Society (BCSCS) to achieve the Britannia Renewal goals;

- B. THAT the Board directs staff to report back in Q2 2024 with a revised high level plan for Britannia Renewal, in parallel with the corresponding City of Vancouver report now underway, to include:
- i. The amount of funding allocated for Britannia Renewal in previous Capital Plans (2015-18; 2019-2022), confirming the amount remaining for the purpose of Britannia Renewal, is approximately \$17.4m, and identifying the categories of spending permitted (e.g. new construction versus renovation; design versus implementation);
  - ii. A schedule of planned spending for repairs and enhancements of Britannia Pool and Fitness Centre, Britannia Rink and Britannia Community Centre facilities over the next 5 years;
  - iii. Re-assessment of capital planning for replacement of indoor swimming pools scheduled in VanSplash to include the Britannia Pool and Fitness Centre, and continuation of the associated Park Board funded planning process;
  - iv. Re-assessment of the replacement of skating rinks scheduled in the VanPlay 2040 Asset Targets to include renewal of the Britannia Rink;
  - v. Working with the City of Vancouver and its commitment to BCSCS for renewal of the Britannia Community Centre facilities;
  - vi. Considerations that might support disentanglement of responsibilities for the Britannia Renewal between the City of Vancouver, Vancouver School Board, the BCSCS, and this Board, and
  - vii. Continued respect for the autonomy of the BCSCS;
- C. THAT the Board directs staff to engage with Provincial partners including but not limited to Ministries of Finance, Housing, Children and Family Development, Education and Childcare, Municipal Affairs, Social Development and Poverty Reduction, and Britannia-adjacent MLAs, as well as Federal partners including but not limited to area-adjacent MPs and the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and Pacific Economic Development Canada program for funding opportunities and potential partnerships to prioritize and advance the Britannia Renewal.

## **2. Beach Chair & Umbrella Rental Service**

Commissioner Haer submitted Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of November 27, 2023, as a Member's Motion.

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to prepare and issue a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI) seeking proposals from qualified vendors interested in offering a seasonal beach chair and umbrella rental service and additional equipment i.e. paddle board, canoe, water equipment etc.

- B. THAT staff report back to the Vancouver Park Board with viable vendor options by the end of Q1 2024.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**ENQUIRIES**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 9:31 pm.

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Steve Jackson  
General Manager

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Commissioner Scott Jensen  
Chair