



PARK BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

— June 6, 2022 —

The following information is intended to provide a brief overview of the Board's governance work at the Committee and Board meetings. The full agenda, meeting materials, video clips and official minutes can be found on the [Park Board website](#).

STAFF REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS

Skateboard Amenities Strategy (CitySkate)

After hearing from over 20 speakers, the Board approved staff's recommendations in the [Skateboard Amenities Strategy \(CitySkate\) Report](#). This strategy will guide the planning and implementation for skateboard and small-wheeled sport amenities in Vancouver.

Name for New Park at Smithe & Richards - Host Nations Engagement Process

The Board approved staff's recommendations in the [Name for New Park at Smithe & Richards – Host Nations Engagement Process](#) report, which includes a plan to receive a gifted name from the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations for the new downtown park located at Smithe & Richards, and received an update on the naming process review. The name for the park will be formally presented at a special ceremony at the park on Friday, June 17, 2022.

Draft 2023-2026 Capital Plan Preliminary Engagement Findings - Parks & Rec

Staff presented the [Draft 2023-2026 Capital Plan Preliminary Engagement Findings for Parks & Recreation](#). Themes found in the public input included places and programs that served seniors, aquatics and marine infrastructure, washroom and community centre upgrades, and nature in the city. This input was received through several avenues including online surveys and information sessions, community centre pop ups, and stakeholder meetings. Staff will bring the 2023-2026 Capital Plan - Parks & Recreation report to the Board at a Special Board meeting June 27, 2022.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Mackinnon presented the [Chair's Report](#) which highlights recent events attended by Commissioners:

- **Invictus Games Announcement** - Chair Mackinnon and Director Kellock attended a special announcement for the Invictus Games 2025 at Rogers Arena. Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Horgan announced that the Federal and Provincial Governments would be pledging \$25million to the 2025 games to be held in Vancouver and Whistler.
- **Honouring the Legacy of Grace McCarthy - Commemorative Naming Ceremony** - Chair Mackinnon and Commissioner Coupar spoke at an event honouring Grace McCarthy, an elected Park Board Commissioner who had an instrumental role in the creation of the VanDusen Botanical Gardens in the 1960's. Commissioners Barker and Giesbrecht also attended.
- **2022 Awards of Excellence** - Commissioners Barker, Coupar, Giesbrecht and Irwin attended this ceremony. The event featured a reception, entertainment, and award presentations to the youth, individuals and organizations that are making Vancouver a greener, healthier, more inclusive and more prosperous city. Mr. Yosef Wosk was honoured with the Freedom of the City award
- **Arts & Health: Healthy Aging Through the Arts** - Commissioner Mackinnon spoke at this celebratory event that showcased highlights from the year. The Arts & Health project highlights the need for new ways to think about and serve our aging population. Bringing seniors and Elders together with professional artists to create art which contributes to their communities.



- **BCLTA Gathering: Governance and Relationship Building** - Chair Mackinnon spoke at this workshop on June 4 where participants were informed about the priorities of municipal, regional, and First Nation governance and operations and learned to better prepare for building and strengthening their local relationships.
- **Trout Lake Floating Ecosystem** - Commissioner Giesbrecht spoke at the installation of a floating ecosystem of local plants at Trout Lake in John Hendry Park on June 6. Park Board staff worked with Biomatrix and BlueTech Research as a part of the BlueTech Forum for this installation. Commissioners Barker, Coupar and Irwin also attended.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The General Manager and staff [presented](#) an overview of the [GM's Report](#):

- **Bloedel Conservatory and VanDusen Botanical Garden Spring Events** -
 - **Spring Strings:** VanDusen hosted a cello concert by Low Strung from Yale University on May 28 and 29.
 - **Year of the Garden & Garden Days:** from June 11-19 activities will be planned at both Bloedel and VanDusen to celebrate.
 - **National Indigenous Peoples Day Activities at VanDusen:** Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator Geronimo Alec will be sharing his knowledge highlighting the relationships between Indigenous Peoples and plants through self-guided tours on June 17 and guided tours on June 20. The Guided tours are free but require registration.
- **Retirement – Alex Downie, Manager of Park Operations** - Alex is retiring after nearly 40 years of working with Parks & Recreation. Take care, Alex!
- **East Fraser Lands New Park Construction (South Kinross)** – An Invitation to Tender will be issued in early June to identify suppliers for the construction of the new 0.40 hectare park in the East Fraser Lands (River District) development referenced as South Kinross for the project. Construction is targeted to commence in late summer.
- **Upcoming Council Agenda Items:**
 - Council to receive a report regarding [Development Application and Permitting Modernization Task Force – Report Back on Design Guidelines and Protection of Trees By-Law Policies](#) on June 7. This would accelerate permit processing times and would require a tree permit to remove trees 20cm in diameter or over. Previously this affected trees 30cm or over in diameter.
 - Council to receive a referral report regarding the [East Fraser Lands Waterfront Precinct](#) on June 7, which includes considerations for the in-kind delivery of the community centre. This would shift responsibility for design and construction from the City to the developer, and in doing so, would secure a funding mechanism and timeline for the delivery of the new centre.
 - Council to receive a report on the [Sites for 2022 Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas Program](#) on June 8, outlining the locations for this year's program and the by-law amendments necessary for this program.
 - Council to receive a report on [Making Strides: Vancouver's Childcare Strategy](#), with recommendations from staff that would support the strategy and increased childcare in



Vancouver. Recommendations include requesting a meeting between the Ministry of Education and Child Care and the City of Vancouver as soon as possible to discuss ways to advance policy, planning and delivery of childcare at the City of Vancouver and all its partners, including the Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) and BC Housing.

- Council to reconvene on June 9 to continue asking questions of staff followed by a debate and decision on the [Broadway Plan](#). Previously, Council received a presentation from staff and heard from speakers regarding the proposed plan.
- At the June 14th Public Hearing, Council will be considering a [rezoning of 1406-1410 East King Edward Avenue](#) to permit the development of a 13-storey mixed-use building, with 109 social housing units, led by the Vancouver Affordable Housing Agency. This site is located immediately north of Kingcrest Park. Park Board staff is working with the City to minimize temporary impacts on the park that may result from construction of this development.

BOARD MOTIONS

Renaming Pioneer Place (Pigeon Park)

The Board approved a motion to explore the feasibility of [changing the name of Pioneer Place \(Pigeon Park\)](#). This work will align with the forthcoming Commemoration Framework and will begin once the Framework is complete.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next Committee and Board meetings are scheduled for June 20, 2022 and a Special Meeting to discuss the 2023-2026 Capital Plan - Parks & Recreation on June 27, 2022.

