



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

**MARCH 6, 2023**

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Monday, March 6, 2023, at 6:42 pm, via videoconference and at the Park Board Office.

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Laura Christensen  
Commissioner Tom Digby  
Commissioner Angela Haer  
Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard  
Commissioner Scott Jensen, Chair  
Commissioner Jas Virdi

**GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE:** Donnie Rosa, General Manager  
Steve Jackson, Director, Business Services  
Denise Swanston, Acting Manager, Executive Office and Board Relations  
Carol Lee, Meeting Clerk  
Jessica Kulchyski, Board Support and Meeting Assistant  
Julia Scott-Lenz, Board Support and Meeting Assistant

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Board 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 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.

The Board acknowledged that the significant religious holidays and other celebrations that will occur prior to the next Regular Board meeting.

### IN CAMERA

#### 1. In Camera Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen  
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

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:

- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;

- (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 Board, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the City and Park Board if they were held in public.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **1. Regular Board Meeting – February 27, 2023**

MOVED by Commissioner Digby  
SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Park Board minutes of the February 27, 2023 meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair highlighted the participation of Park Board Commissioners at official Park Board events since the February 27, 2023 Board meeting:

- Park Board Commissioners and Leadership Team attended the World Rugby Sevens at BC Place.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board was advised that there are no communications of note related to the agenda items.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **1. Sports Field Renovations**

Amit Gandha, Director, Parks, Park Board, led the review of a presentation on proposed sports field renovations and highlighted the 2023 plans for:

- Ball diamonds
- Baseline servicing for sports fields
- Sports fields
- Warm season field maintenance
- Cool season field maintenance.

Park Board staff responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion on:

- The need to optimize the use of sports fields:
  - The need to balance the provision of adequate field rest periods with user access
  - The impact of reducing the length of the rest period to the future playability of the field
  - The impact of overuse on the sport field and user groups
- Sports Field Strategy:
  - Timeline for completion
  - The amendment of the sports field allocation process and the determination of the optimal number of hours of use for each sport field will be considered in the Sports Field Strategy
  - Suggestion that the Sport Field Strategy include opportunities to collaborate with the Vancouver School Board to increase the availability of sport fields to user groups
- Suggestion that the fee charged to each sport group be correlated with sport user group's level of use.

### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 8:02 pm and reconvened at 8:12 pm.

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

Members of the Park Board Leadership Team presented the General Manager's Report and highlighted:

- Staff recruitment campaign initiatives
- Snow response from February 24 to 26, 2023
- Commencement of the Tatlow and Volunteer Parks Creek Daylighting project
- Receipt of a Certificate of Merit from the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH) and the World Green City Awards, 2022, for the Vancouver Meadows project
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from February 27 to March 6, 2023.

Park Board staff responded to questions from the Board. There was discussion ensued on:

- The rationale for the continued closure of the Stanley Park seawall
- Communication of the Stanley Park seawall closure to the public.

## **NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

### **1. Field Maintenance and Permitting**

Commissioner Virdi gave notice of motion on the following:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to initiate a pilot that adjusts rest period and season timing to maximize the best use of the following sports fields:

- i. Connaught Park;
  - ii. Jericho;
  - iii. Brockton Oval;
  - iv. Strathcona;
  - v. John Hendry; and
  - vi. Rupert Park;
- B. FURTHER THAT, staff are to allow permitting for the grass fields at Connaught Park and Jericho until the end of March 2023, and to allow permitting at John Hendry, Jericho, Rupert Park and Brockton Oval until the end of April 2023;
- C. FURTHER THAT staff to identify additional pilot fields to reduce rest periods between sports and user groups; and
- D. FURTHER THAT a report back at the end of summer to review the impact the shortened rest period has on fields and user groups, and with other pilot opportunities to maximize community use and benefit.

## OTHER BUSINESS

MOVED by Commissioner Virdi  
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT the Park Board schedule a Special Board meeting to be held via electronic means, at 5:30 pm on March 9, 2023 to consider the Member's Motion titled "Field Maintenance and Permitting".

CARRIED

*In favour: Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Haer, Howard, Jensen, Virdi*

*Opposed: Digby*

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 8:26 pm.

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Donnie Rosa  
General Manager

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Commissioner Scott Jensen  
Chair