



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 24, 2023

The Regular Park Board meeting was held on Monday, April 24, 2023, at 8:54 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:** Steve Jackson, Acting General Manager  
Denise Swanston, Manager, 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.

### IN CAMERA

#### 1. 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:

- (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the city or another position appointed by the city;
- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose; 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 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 – March 27, 2023**

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Park Board minutes of the March 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 March 27, 2023 Board meeting:

- Commissioners and Park Board staff attended the annual Cherry Blossom Festival events in VanDusen Botanical Garden and David Lam Park, including Sakura Days and the Big Picnic
- Chair Jensen spoke at a press conference on April 24, 2023 announcing the competitors in the 2023 Honda Celebration of Light
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky attended the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden's 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky and Chair Jensen attended the Billie Jean King Cup tennis tournament
- Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen and Digby and Chair Jensen attended the Invictus Games announcement
- Commissioners Haer and Viridi and Chair Jensen attended the Vaisakhi Parade in Surrey.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

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

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **1. Report of the Board Committee – April 24, 2023**

The Board considered the report containing recommendations and actions taken by the Board Committee. Its items of business included:

1. Park Board Code of Conduct Policy – Review
2. Attire for Swimming in Public Aquatic Facilities – Policy
3. Alcohol in Parks Program 2023 - Proposed By-law Amendments, Sites, and Program.

MOVED by Commissioner Haer  
SECONDED by Commissioner Howard

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Board Committee at its meeting of April 24, 2023, as contained in items 1 through 3.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **STAFF REPORTS**

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

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

- Provincial announcement of \$30 million in one-time grants through the BC Fairs, Festival and Events Fund for eligible events
- Council approval of the Still Creek Enhancement Opportunities Study (SCEOS) to update the 2002 study
- Upcoming Council business related to or impacting parks and recreation:
  - Report titled "Accessibility Strategy Implementation Update and Council Motion Report Back"
  - Report titled "Protecting People on Cornwall Avenue"
  - Report titled "Kerrisdale Park/Point Grey Secondary School Track and Field – Licence Agreement and Custody, Care and Management of Land"
  - Report titled "Oak Park – Permanent Park Designation"
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from March 27 to April 24, 2023.

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

- Request for information regarding the fire damage to the Kitsilano Showboat and insurance coverage
- The timing for a staff report on the Still Creek study.

## MEMBERS' MOTIONS

### 1. Tree Planting

Commissioner Howard introduced the motion and responded to questions from the Board.

MOVED by Commissioner Howard  
SECONDED by Commissioner Viridi

#### WHEREAS:

1. The Urban Forest Strategy identified the need to double the streets' tree density in below average blocks of the Downtown Eastside, Marpole and other priority neighbourhoods by 2030. However, according to staff, the canopy coverage has been barely being maintained since 2019;
2. A new report by the LevelUp Planning Cooperative identifies tree-planting efforts as the best way to reduce the unequal impact of poor air quality and extreme heat. According to the report, the tree canopy in the region is expected to decrease to 28 per cent because of population growth and development. However, the report also cites Metro Vancouver's objective of increasing the tree canopy cover from the current 32 to 40 per cent by 2050;
3. A 2019 TransLink survey established that the loss of urban green space is among the top three concerns of Metro residents; and
4. Although, the 2023 Park Board budget shows \$0 allocated to tree planting (2023 Capital Budget page B-87), funds earmarked for spending in 2023 as part of the Rain City Strategy are allocated to planting a total of 268 trees on boulevards and 37 in parks in under-treed areas of the City.

#### THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT staff coordinate continuously with City Council to plant 100,000 new trees by 2026 with the goal of increasing our tree canopy, in addition to replacing aging and damaged trees as needed;
- B. THAT staff develop a program to encourage private dedication and corporate sponsorships of trees on sidewalks, boulevards and parks;
- C. THAT staff work with MST to plant thousands of trees in Stanley Park;
- D. THAT staff prioritize addressing the inequity of canopy cover across the city by planting trees in urban heat spots, and
- E. THAT staff present a preliminary report on its strategy to work with City staff on planting 100,000 new trees over four years in Q2, 2023.

CARRIED

*In favour: Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Jensen, Haer, Howard, Viridi*  
*Abstained: Digby*

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Virdi requested that a leave of absence be granted for the May 8, 2023 meetings.

MOVED by Commissioner Virdi

SECONDED by Commissioner Howard

THAT the Board grants a leave of absence to Commissioner Virdi from meetings on May 8, 2023.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ENQUIRIES**

1. A Board member questioned whether it is feasible to add a seasonal or permanent cover or bubble on tennis and pickleball courts in Queen Elisabeth park.
2. A Board member requested staff provide an update on the severity of the fire damage to the Kitsilano Showboat venue and a timeline for repairs.
3. A Board member questioned whether the reactivation of decorative water features could be a suitable focus for private donations and a fundraising campaign under the recently reactivated Parks and Recreation Foundation.
4. A Board member requested staff provide an update on the state of discussions with MST and with TransLink with respect to a Fraser River foreshore path and/or biodiversity area connecting Shaughnessy Park to the proposed new TransLink Marpole electric bus hub.
5. A Board member requested an update on the removal of the Stanley Park Bike Lane and requested confirmation that the May 2023 deadline for removal will be met.
6. A Board member requested information on whether the Stanley Park Train will be operational by summer 2023.
7. A Board member questioned whether discussions are in progress with TransLink regarding the resumption of public transit in Stanley Park and western beaches.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 9:21 pm.

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Steve Jackson  
Acting General Manager

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Commissioner Scott Jensen  
Chair