



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

A Special Board Meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 6:32 pm, in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Commissioner Laura Christensen (Leave of Absence)

**GENERAL MANAGER'S
OFFICE:**

Steve Jackson, General Manager
Denise Swanston, Acting Manager, Board Relations & Meeting Clerk
Connie Law, Board Support and Meeting Assistant
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.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications related to the Board meeting agenda were received via email or the [Contact Park Board Commissioners](#) web form:

- one piece of correspondence related to the Report titled “2024 Fees & Charges – Parks and Recreation”
- one piece of correspondence related to the Report titled “2023 Service Plan, Operating and Capital Budgets – Parks and Recreation”

STAFF REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

1. 2024 Fees & Charges – Parks and Recreation

The General Manager introduced the item, and the Director of Financial Planning and Analysis presented the report on the proposed 2024 fees and charges increases.

Following the presentation, staff responded to questions related to:

- Impact and manageability of increased fees and charges on various user groups, including low-income user groups and Leisure Access Pass card holders
- Impact on service levels as a result of increased fees
- Proposed fees and charges increases as they compare to non-Park Board facilities and other municipalities
- Consideration of longer facility hours
- Breakup of larger fee increased over the remainder of the 2022-2026 Board term
- Information on the proposed infrastructure fee framework

The Board heard from two speakers opposed to some of the proposed fee increases.

Subsequently it was,

MOVED by Commissioner Digby

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2024 Fees and Charges, as summarized in the Report dated November 20, 2023, entitled “2024 Fees & Charges - Parks & Recreation”, and detailed in Appendix A of the same Report.
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to explore options for implementing an infrastructure fee, as recommended by the “Think Big Action Plan”, that would provide for infrastructure improvements and maintenance of revenue generating facilities and to report back to the Board with options for implementation, including the creation of an interest-bearing Infrastructure Reserve and a process for approving expenditure from that reserve, prior to the development of the 2025 Fees and Charges report.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED to Commissioner Digby

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the following be added as C:

THAT the increase in baseball diamond fees for minors be limited to 34% for 2024.

LOST

In favour: Commissioners Digby, Jensen

Opposed: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Haer, Howard

Abstained: Commissioner Virdi

Question on the Main Motion

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2024 Fees and Charges, as summarized in the Report dated November 20, 2023, entitled “2024 Fees & Charges - Parks & Recreation”, and detailed in Appendix A of the same Report.
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to explore options for implementing an infrastructure fee, as recommended by the “Think Big Action Plan”, that would provide for infrastructure improvements and maintenance of revenue generating facilities and to report back to the Board with options for implementation, including the creation of an interest-bearing Infrastructure Reserve and a process for approving expenditure from that reserve, prior to the development of the 2025 Fees and Charges report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. 2024 Service Plan, Operating & Capital Budgets – Parks and Recreation

The General Manager introduced the item, and the Director of Strategic Operations and Board Relations, along with the Director of Financial Planning and Analysis presented a report on the proposed 2024 Park Board service plan and budgets.

Following the presentation, staff responded to questions related to:

- Major amenities improvements slated for John Hendry Park
- Details on unfunded parks and initiatives
- Funding sources outside of Park Board / City of Vancouver budgets for unfunded parks and initiatives
- Impact of tree planting initiatives on the Urban Forestry budget
- Expanding joint sport field operations and indoor facility access with the Vancouver School Board
- Stanley Park Train operations and revenue shortfalls
- Equitable field access and allocation, and permit backlog
- Timeline of contract award for dedicated staff to evaluate sponsorship agreements and donations

The Board heard from one speaker who spoke to other aspects of the recommendations.

Subsequently it was,

MOVED by Commissioner Viridi
SECONDED by Commissioner Howard

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the proposed 2024 Service Plan as outlines in the Report dated November 17, 2023, titled “2024 Service Plan, Operating & Capital Budgets - Parks & Recreation” and attached as Appendix A of the same Report.

- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the proposed 2024 Parks & Recreation Operating Budget of \$168,784,318 in expenditures and transfers, funded by \$78,663,600 in revenues and \$90,120,718 of tax-based operating funds, as outlined in the Report dated November 17, 2023, titled "2024 Service Plan, Operating & Capital Budgets - Parks & Recreation" and in Section 3 of the proposed Service Plan (Appendix A of the same Report).
- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2024 Parks & Recreation Multi-Year Capital Project Budget in the amount of \$45,228,000 which consists of \$34,728,000 in the Parks and Open Spaces service category, and \$10,500,000 in the Recreation Facilities and Service Yards service categories as outlined in Section 3 of the proposed Service Plan (Appendix A of the Report dated November 17, 2023, titled "2024 Service Plan, Operating & Capital Budgets - Parks & Recreation").
- D. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2024 Parks & Recreation Annual Capital Expenditure Budget in the amount of \$75,549,197, which consists of \$50,881,087 in the Parks and Open Spaces service category, and \$24,668,110 in the Recreation Facilities and Service Yards service categories as outlined in Section 3 of the proposed Service Plan (Appendix A of the Report dated November 17, 2023, titled "2024 Service Plan, Operating & Capital Budgets - Parks & Recreation").
- E. THAT, subject to approval of A, B, C, and D above, the Parks & Recreation 2024 Operating and Capital Budgets be submitted to Vancouver City Council for consideration in the approval of the City of Vancouver's 2024 Operating and Capital Budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Special Board meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

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Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Scott Jensen
Chair