



PARK BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS — January 22-23, 2024 —

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

Creating Vancouver's First Inclusive and Accessible Sensory Park for Children

The Board approved the [motion with amendments](#) directing staff to report back on the progress of the July 4, 2022 motion, "[Accessible and Inclusive Design Guidelines for Playgrounds](#)", the progress of [VanPlay initiatives P.1.2 and P.1.3](#), the status of other current initiatives, policies, previous member motions and staff recommendations on the topic of inclusive and accessible parks, and capital and operating funding estimates to implement the motions and initiatives.

Staff were also directed to update the Vancouver ParkFinder website to include accessible and sensory features currently available at each Park Board playground, ideally with a tool to search by feature.

The Board also directed the Chair to write a letter, on behalf of the Park Board, to Mayor and Council requesting up to \$5M in funding for capital or ongoing operating costs related to the implementation of the aforementioned motions and initiatives.

Foundation 9.0 – Special Event

The Board approved the [Foundation 9.0 Special Event](#) at New Brighton Park on Saturday, May 18, and Sunday, May 19, 2024 from 4:00pm to 11:00pm. The Board also approved an application for a Special Event Permit from the BC Liquor & Cannabis Regulation Branch to serve alcohol at the event. This 19+ event will feature BIPOC and 2SLGBTQIA+ artists, promote local artists and foster social connectivity.

Approval of Council amendment to Park Board 2024 Fees & Charges

The Board approved amendments to the [Park Board 2024 Fees & Charges](#) report, which included changes to Appendix A of the report, to approve deferring the proposed 2024 fee increase on 'Baseball Diamonds Rentals for Minors – Prime Time'.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Bastyovanszky [highlighted recent events](#) attended by Commissioners:

- Polar Bear Swim – Chair Bastyovanszky spoke at the 104th Annual Polar Bear Swim at English Bay. This event was attended by Commissioners Christensen, Digby, and Jensen, along with over 8,000 registered participants.
- Vancouver Skateboard Coalition Meeting – Chair Bastyovanszky attended a meeting with the Vancouver Skateboard Coalition at the Green Ramp on Granville Island.
- Rac Rim Cup Bonspiel – Chair Bastyovanszky attended the Pac Rim Cup Bonspiel with the president of the Pacific Rim Curling League. The League is Greater Vancouver's curling league for 2SLGBTQIA+ curlers and their allies.



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The Leadership Team presented an overview of the [GM's Report](#):

- Snow and Ice Response – Park Board crews have been busy responding to the recent snow and ice conditions in the last week. Crews cleared major park roadways, sidewalks, parking lots, and pathways to our major facilities. In response to cold weather conditions, Rangers also completed wellness checks at Hillcrest Aquatic Centre and Dunbar Community Centre.
- Sunset Seniors Centre Public Information Session – Staff are holding a public information session for the Sunset Seniors Centre building on January 25 from 3-5pm at the Sunset Community Centre. The new facility will be about 10,000 sqft. And have various multipurpose rooms, a commercial kitchen, a lounge, and support spaces such as offices, a reception area, and washrooms.
- 104th Polar Bear Swim at English Bay – On January 1, 2024, The Vancouver Park Board hosted the 104th Polar Bear Swim at English Bay. A record breaking 8,683 registered participants celebrated the New Year by taking a cold plunge, while many more spectators cheered on.
- VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory – Staff highlighted that VanDusen Botanical Garden, Bloedel Conservatory, and Festival of Lights had record-breaking attendance for 2023. From 2022 to 2023, regular admission at VanDusen increased by 18%, Bloedel increased by 33%, and attendance for Festival of Light increased by 12%.
- Killarney Society Holiday Lights – The Killarney Society hosted a Tree Lighting event on November 25, 2023. The event featured a youth orchestra and senior choir, along with ornament making crafts and cookie decorating for all to enjoy. Hot chocolate was also served while guests listened to the music.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next Committee and Board meetings are scheduled for February 5, 2024.

