



## BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**JANUARY 22 and 23, 2024**

A Committee meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 6:32pm, in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference. Subsequently, the meeting recessed and reconvened on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 5:30 pm.

**PRESENT:**

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

**GENERAL MANAGER'S  
OFFICE:**

Steve Kellock, Acting General Manager  
Denise Swanston, Acting Manager, Board Relations & Meeting Clerk  
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 territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

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### Motion to Suspend the Rules

MOVED by Commissioner Virdi  
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the Board suspend section 15.1 of the Procedure By-law to allow a speaker who requested to speak after the deadline.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **1. Board Committee Meeting – December 11, 2023**

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen  
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Minutes of the Board Committee meeting on December 11, 2023, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

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

- five pieces of correspondence in support of the Member’s Motion titled “Creating Vancouver’s First Inclusive and Accessible Sensory Park for Children”
- four pieces of correspondence in support of the report titled “Foundation 9.0 – Special Event”
- 22 pieces of correspondence in opposition of the report titled “Foundation 9.0 – Special Event”

## **REFERRED ITEMS**

### **1. Creating Vancouver’s First Inclusive and Accessible Sensory Park for Children**

Commissioner Viridi introduced the motion and responded to questions.

At this point in the proceedings, Commissioner Digby called a Point of Order requesting clarity on the validity of the motion and the similarities to a motion passed in July 2022 titled “Accessible and Inclusive Design Guidelines for Playgrounds”. The Meeting Clerk advised that the motion on the table was considered in order as it directed staff to begin new construction of a purpose-built park, while the July 2022 motion spoke to overarching design guidelines and policy; the Chair agreed and ruled the motion in order.

The Committee heard from 38 speakers in support of the recommendations and one speaker in opposition of the recommendations.

Subsequently it was,

MOVED by Commissioner Viridi  
SECONDED by Commissioner Howard

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation commit to the planning, development, and construction of Vancouver's first inclusive and accessible sensory park, designed to accommodate the unique needs and preferences of neurodiverse children, those with Autism Spectrum Disorder, and those with mobility challenges.
- B. THAT the sensory park's design shall accommodate and prioritize, but not be limited to, the following features in accordance with best design practices:
  - i. Sensory-rich play zones that stimulate various senses, including touch, sight, sound, and smell, while ensuring comfort and sensory-friendly experiences for children, particularly children with autism.
  - ii. Inclusive and accessible sensory equipment and elements designed to be usable by children of all abilities, including those in wheelchairs.
  - iii. Accessible pathways, ramps, and surfacing to ensure safe and easy mobility for children with mobility challenges.
- C. THAT staff be directed to identify and recommend an optimal location for an inclusive and accessible sensory park, taking into account existing parks that may be up for renewal and/or new park development opportunities that may arise or be currently contemplated.
- D. THAT staff be directed to explore a diversity of funding sources, including but not limited to the Park Board and City capital budgets, government grants, private donations, corporate partnerships, and community fundraising, in order to secure the necessary financial resources for this project.
- E. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and Park Board staff shall actively seek community and key stakeholder input on the vision outlined in this motion for an inclusive and accessible sensory park project, including feedback from parents, caregivers, and organizations that represent children with autism such as the Pacific Autism Family Network (PAFN), and those with mobility challenges, to ensure that the sensory park's design is inclusive and responsive to the community's needs;  
  
FURTHER THAT staff be directed to engage with, and potentially partner with, relevant organizations that specialize in designing inclusive and accessible sensory experiences to facilitate the successful implementation of this flagship project.
- F. THAT staff be directed to update the Board, the public, and all relevant stakeholders on the progress of the project on a regular basis and not less than once per year, to see their ongoing input and feedback throughout the project development process.

## **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 8:57pm and reconvened at 9:15pm.

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*At this point in the proceedings, Commissioner Jensen assumed the role of Chair.*

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## **Amendment to the Main Motion**

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the motion be struck and replaced with the following:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to report back on:
  - i. The progress of the July 4, 2022 motion, “Accessible and Inclusive Design Guidelines for Playgrounds”, which directed staff to develop and implement accessible and inclusive design for new and renewed playgrounds for people with mobility, auditory, visual and sensory needs;
  - ii. The progress of VanPlay initiatives P.1.2 (audit the physical accessibility of all park amenities” and P.1.3 (design and build five additional fully-accessible destination play areas);
  - iii. The status of other current initiatives, policy, previous member motions and staff recommendations on the topic of inclusive and accessible parks; and,
  - iv. Capital and operating funding estimates to implement the motions and initiatives listed in items i & ii.
- B. THAT the fundraising enveloped be opened at the Vancouver Parks Foundation for private donations towards sensory park equipment, and if sufficient, a dedicated sensory park.
- C. THAT staff update the Vancouver ParkFinder website to include accessible and sensory features currently available at each Park Board playground. The Parks and Recreation website should be, ideally, updated to include a tool to search by playground feature.

## **Recess**

The Committee meeting recessed on Monday, January 22, 2024, at 9:59pm and reconvened on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 5:30pm.

Prior to proceeding with the item, Commissioner Virdi raised a point of order regarding further rounds of questions to the mover that may not have been completed prior to the recess on Monday, January 22, 2024. The Chair advised they would continue with comments on the item, and Commissioners may ask additional questions via Points of Information. The Chair called a challenge to his own ruling, which was LOST not having received the required majority (Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby and Jensen opposed to the challenge).

Subsequently, the Board proceeded into providing comments on the amendment.

At this point in the proceedings, Commissioner Virdi raised a point of order regarding there being only one round of comments on the amendment. The Chair advised the Committee would proceed with one round at the Chair's discretion. Subsequently, Commissioner Howard request an appeal of the Chair's decision, which was LOST, not having received the required majority (Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby and Jensen opposed to the challenge). Subsequently, the Board continued with one round of comments on the amendment. Following the round of questioning, the Board proceeded to vote on the amendment which CARRIED with Commissioners Haer, Howard and Virdi opposed.

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*At this point in the proceedings, Commissioner Christensen resumed the role of Chair.*

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### **Amendment to the Main Motion**

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky  
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the following be added as D:

THAT the Board directs the Chair to write a letter, on behalf of the Park Board, to Mayor and Council requesting up to \$5 million, subject to cost estimates provided in the report back from staff, in funding for capital and ongoing operating costs related to the implementation of the motions and initiatives listed in items A.i and A.ii.

CARRIED

*In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, and Jensen*  
*Opposed: Commissioners Haer, Howard, and Virdi*

### **Question on the Main Motion, as Amended**

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to report back on:
  - i. The progress of the July 4, 2022 motion, "Accessible and Inclusive Design Guidelines for Playgrounds", which directed staff to develop and implement

- accessible and inclusive design for new and renewed playgrounds for people with mobility, auditory, visual and sensory needs;
- ii. The progress of VanPlay initiatives P.1.2 (audit the physical accessibility of all park amenities” and P.1.3 (design and build five additional fully-accessible destination play areas);
  - iii. The status of other current initiatives, policy, previous member motions and staff recommendations on the topic of inclusive and accessible parks; and,
  - iv. Capital and operating funding estimates to implement the motions and initiatives listed in items i & ii.
- B. THAT the fundraising enveloped be opened at the Vancouver Parks Foundation for private donations towards sensory park equipment, and if sufficient, a dedicated sensory park.
- C. THAT staff update the Vancouver ParkFinder website to include accessible and sensory features currently available at each Park Board playground. The Parks and Recreation website should be, ideally, updated to include a tool to search by playground feature.
- D. THAT the Board directs the Chair to write a letter, on behalf of the Park Board, to Mayor and Council requesting up to \$5 million, subject to cost estimates provided in the report back from staff, in funding for capital and ongoing operating costs related to the implementation of the motions and initiatives listed in items A.i and A.ii.

CARRIED

*In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, and Jensen*

*Opposed: Commissioners Haer, Howard, and Viridi*

## STAFF REPORTS

### 1. Foundation 9.0 – Special Event

The Manager of Business Development presented an update on the proposed Foundation 9.0 Special Event.

Following the presentation, staff responded to questions related to:

- Ecological impact of the event on the park and waterfront and mitigation steps being taken to preserve ecologically sensitive areas
- Impact of a deferral of event timeline for a more fulsome site plan
- Site accessibility for event patrons
- Compensation for the loss of revenue for early pool closures
- Alternative event locations
- Traffic management and site access for emergency services

The Committee heard from six speakers in opposition of the recommendations, and one who spoke to other aspects of the recommendations.

Subsequently it was,

MOVED by Commissioner Haer  
SECONDED by Commissioner Howard

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve an application from Blueprint and Live Nation Canada to host the Foundation 9.0 special event at New Brighton Park on Saturday, May 18, 2024, and Sunday, May 19, 2024, from 4:00pm to 11:00pm, with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager of the Park Board.
- B. THAT the park Board approve an application from Blueprint and Live Nation Canada for a Special Event Permit from the BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch to serve alcohol at the aforementioned location and dates, with a maximum capacity of 10,000 guests daily.

CARRIED

*In favour: Commissioners Christensen, Haer, Howard, and Viridi*

*Abstained: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Digby, and Jensen*

The Committee meeting adjourned on January 23, 2024, at 7:55 pm.

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Steve Kellock  
Acting General Manager

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Commissioner Laura Christensen  
Chair