



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**JANUARY 23, 2024**

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, January 23, 2024, at 8:04 pm, in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference.

**PRESENT:**

Commissioner Scott Jensen, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Brennan Bastovanszky, Chair  
Commissioner Laura Christensen  
Commissioner Tom Digby  
Commissioner Angela Haer  
Commissioner Jas Virdi

**ABSENT:**

Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard

**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

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*As the Chair was participating virtually, the Vice-Chair assumed the role of Chair for this meeting.*

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### **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 align with actions supporting local First Nations voices and culture through our work in community.

### **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:

(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city;

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

(j) information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 [disclosure harmful to business interests of a third party] of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act;

(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 Council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city if they were held in public;

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## ADOPTION OF MINUTES

### 1. Regular Board Meeting – Monday, December 11, 2023

MOVED by Commissioner Digby  
SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair highlighted the participation of Commissioners at Park Board events since the previous Board meeting on December 11, 2023:

- Commissioner Bastyovanszky spoke at the 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Bear Swim on New Years Day at English Bay, and was joined by Commissioners Christensen, Digby, and Jensen.
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky attended a meeting with the Vancouver Skateboard Coalition at the Green Ramp on Granville Island.
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky attended the Pac Rim Cup Bonspiel with the president of the Pacific Rim Curling League.

## COMMUNICATIONS

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

- A Board memo regarding 2024 Commissioner Liaison appointments was circulated to Commissioners. A link to this memo has been provided in the General Manager’s report.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **1. Report of the Board Committee – January 22 and 23, 2024**

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

1. Creating Vancouver’s First Inclusive and Accessible Sensory park for Children
2. Foundation 9.0 – Special Event

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen  
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Board Committee at its meeting of January 22 and 23, 2024, as contained in items 1 and 2.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **STAFF REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. Memorandum – Council Amendment to 2024 Fees and Charges – Parks and Recreation**

MOVED by Commissioner Viridi  
SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT the Vancouver Park Board rescind the previously adopted motion on November 28, 2023, related to the report titled “2024 Fees & Charges – Parks and Recreation”, outlined below:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2024 Fees and Charges, as summarised in the body of 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

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

*Abstained: Commissioner Digby*

Following the vote to rescind, it was

MOVED by Commissioner Virdi

SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2024 Fees and Charges, as summarised in the body of the Report dated November 20, 2023, entitled “2024 Fees & Charges – Parks & Recreation”, and detailed in Appendix A of the same Report;

FURTHER THAT the Board approve changes to Appendix A of the above-noted Report, to approve deferring the proposed 2024 fee increase on ‘Baseball Diamonds Rentals for Minors – Prime Time’.

- 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. General Manager’s Report**

Members of the Park Board Leadership Team presented the General Manager’s Report, highlighting:

- Staff highlighted the steps crews took in responding to the recent snow and ice conditions, including pre-treatments and clearing major park roadways, sidewalks, parking lots and pathways to major facilities
- A public information session for the Sunset Seniors Centre building will be held on January 25, 2024 from 3-5pm at the Sunset Community Centre
- The Vancouver Park Board hosted the 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Polar Bear Swim on New Years Day at English Bay Beach
- Staff were pleased to announce that VanDusen Botanical Garden, Bloedel Conservatory and Festival of Lights had record breaking attendance in 2023.
- The Killarney Society hosted a Tree Lighting event on Saturday, November 25, 2023. The event features a youth orchestra, senior choir, ornament making crafts, and cookie decorating for all to enjoy.

- Upcoming Council business related to or impacting parks and recreation:
  - Report titled "[Jericho Lands Policy Statement](#)" on January 24, 2024
  - Report titled "[2024 Budget Adjustment related to risk mitigation of the Hemlock Looper Moth in Stanley Park](#)" on January 24, 2024
- Board briefing [memos and emails](#) issued from December 11, 2023 to January 22, 2024.

## NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MOTIONS

### 1. Independent Legal Advice for Judicial Review of Mayor's Motion

Commissioner Digby submitted Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of February 5, 2024, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. The Board is authorized to retain independent legal counsel on the following matters to provide advice on:
  - i. The merits and probability of success of quashing via judicial review the [Vancouver City Council's motion of December 13, 2023](#), seeking to abolish this Board;
  - ii. The merits and probability of success of quashing implementation of said motion via judicial review; and
  - iii. The merits and probability of success of quashing via judicial review the historic, ongoing, and notorious encroachment by Vancouver City Council over the past 10 years of this Board's authorized jurisdiction.
- B. Such legal counsel is directed to report directly to this Board through the Chair and to involve Board staff only to the extent necessary for communication purposes.
- C. That this Board allocate the sum of \$20,000 for preliminary review and any relevant urgent actions recommended to the Board by such legal counsel.
- D. That the Chair shall make, on advice of the Board, all decisions on 1) which legal counsel to retain, and 2) which avenues to pursue towards the preservation of the elected Park Board, based on the advice of counsel.
- E. That all privileged legal advice, information or correspondence from external legal counsel, shall not be shared with anyone beyond the elected Park Board, such as the Mayor, Councillors or City staff. Any decision to share any privileged information from external legal counsel beyond the elected Park Board on this matter must be decided by majority vote of the elected Park Board.

## **ENQUIRIES**

A Board member requested information from Park Board staff and their City of Vancouver colleagues on how many empty shelter beds there are in Vancouver, and how the City and Park Board are communicating this information to those who are sheltering in parks.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 8:24 pm.

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Steve Kellock  
Acting General Manager

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Commissioner Scott Jensen  
Vice-Chair