



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 Bastovanszky, 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 Bastovanszky, 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 Bastovanszky
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 Bastovanszky, 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

Commissioner Laura Christensen
Chair



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 Bastyovanszky, 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 104th 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 104th 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

Commissioner Scott Jensen
Vice-Chair