



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2024

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 6:48 pm, in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference.

PRESENT:

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

GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE:

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

** Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.*

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.

IN CAMERA MEETING

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Virdi

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

Absent: Commissioner Christensen

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Regular Board Meeting – February 26, 2024

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of February 26, 2024, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Absent: Commissioner Christensen

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair highlighted the participation of Commissioners at Park Board events since the previous Board meeting on February 26, 2024:

- Stanley Park Mobility Study Stakeholder Meeting – Commissioner Digby participated in the meeting held at VanDusen Gardens on Tuesday, February 27 with Doug Shearer, the Manager of Planning Policy & Environment and planner Emily Dunlop.
- Pink Shirt Day 2024 – In honour of Pink Shirt Day, Commissioners wore pink on February 28 to support a work environment where every person is treated with respect and dignity.
- February Library Board Public Meeting – Commissioner Jensen attended the Library Board Public Meeting held on February 28, alongside members of the VPL Board, where they acknowledged Pink Shirt Day.
- Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre Meeting – Chair Bastyovanszky attended the Roundhouse CCA meeting on February 28, 2024.
- Sleep Out Vancouver – Commissioner Jensen, accompanied by VSB Chair Victoria Jung and VSB Trustee Christopher Richardson, joined 137 other participants in the Sleep Out event held on February 29 at Covenant House Vancouver, demonstrating solidarity with youths experiencing homelessness.
- Connaught Park Fieldhouse – Chair Bastyovanszky and Commissioner Digby inspected the fieldhouse at Connaught Park on March 2.

- International Women's Day Vancouver March – Chair Bastyovanszky, along with Commissioners Christensen, Digby and Jensen attended the International Women’s Day March at Vancouver Art Gallery on March 3, 2024.
- Mini Rugby – Chair Bastyovanszky attended the U12 Mini Rugby Jamboree at Brockton Oval in Stanley Park.

COMMUNICATIONS

No communication related to the meeting agenda was received.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Board Committee – March 11, 2024

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

1. Non-Motorized Watercraft Launch at Select Beaches - By-Law Amendment Update

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Board Committee at its meeting of March 11, 2024, as contained in item 1.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Absent: Commissioner Christensen

STAFF REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

1. General Manager’s Report

The General Manager presented the General Manager’s Report, highlighting:

- East Park Engagement Launch – Round Two – Staff advised that round two of public engagement for East Park, a new park location in the Southeast False Creek neighbourhood, will be running from March 26 to April 16. Feedback from round two engagement will be used to refine the design and develop a concept plan that will be presented to the Board for decision in Q4 20224.
- Alberta Street Blue Green System & Columbia Park Renewal – Staff advised that, following two rounds of public engagement, a concept plan is being shared with the public on the Shape Your City project page starting on April 8 regarding the Alberta Street Blue Green System and Columbia Park Renewal project. The concept plan is targeted for Board decision in Q3 2024.

- Daylighting of Canyon Creek at Spanish Banks – Public information signage has recently been posted onsite at Spanish Banks Park regarding the ongoing work to daylight Canyon Creek. Staff are currently advancing detailed design and tendering, with construction aimed to start in late 2024.

Council Agenda Items:

- Council to receive a report on March 12 titled “[2024 Community Services and Other Social Grants](#)”, which would approve several grants, including 62 Core Support Grants totalling \$2.68M, 11 Neighbourhood Organization Grants totalling \$1.34M, and 27 Building Safe Communities Program (BSCP) Grants totalling \$2.27M.
 - Council to receive a report on March 12 titled “[Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants – Spring 2024 Intake](#)”, which would approve 16 Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants totalling \$89,000.
 - Council to receive a report on March 13 titled “[Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2024-25 Update](#)”, which would direct staff to begin implementation of the 2024-2025 Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2024-25, and also direct staff to report back in 2025 with a five-year update to the Strategy at the same time as an update to the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) is brought forward.
- Board briefing [memos and emails](#) issued from February 26, 2024 to March 11, 2024.

MEMBERS’ MOTIONS

1. Reinstating Beach Volleyball Monday Nights’ Regular Permit at Spanish Banks for Summer 2024

Commissioner Howard withdrew the motion.

NOTICE OF MEMBERS’ MOTIONS

1. Affirmation of Park Board as Living Wage Employer

Commissioner Digby submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of April 8, 2024, as a Member’s Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Board affirms its commitment to have the Vancouver Park Board re-certified as a living wage employer by the Living Wage for Families Campaign.
- B. THAT the Board directs staff to report back by Q3 2024 on the steps necessary to become re-certified as a Living Wage employer in 2025 and anticipated budgetary impacts of such re-certification.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Waiving the 2024 Park Board Fees for the Vaisakhi Parade

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At this point in the proceedings, Commissioner Bastyovanszky relinquished the Chair to Commissioner Jensen, in order to move an item of Urgent Business.

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MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

- A. THAT the Board direct staff to waive the 2024 Park Board Fees in the approximate amount of \$11,000 for the Vaisakhi Parade.
- B. THAT the Board direct staff to report back at a future board meeting in Q4 2024 with information related to Park Board fees for all free public festivals held annually in Vancouver.
- C. THAT the Board direct Park Board staff to draft a letter on behalf of the Chair, to be sent to the Khalsa Diwan Society and the Organizers of the Vaisakhi Parade with notification of this information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Abstained: Commissioners Christensen and Howard

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

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2. Stanley Park Train

Commissioner Virdi introduced a motion as Urgent Business titled “Stanley Park Train” and responded to a question related to the motion.

MOVED by Commissioner Virdi
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct that tickets for the wheelchair-accessible spots on the Stanley Park Train accessible carriage, for the remainder of 2024, be issued free of charge as an interim measure to provide redress in the immediate time frame while longer term accessibility measures, programs, and accommodations are explored by the Board.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT the following be added to the end:

THAT Park Board affirm that inaccessibility should be understood as a reflection of structural and systemic ableism, and that removing existing accessibility should be understood that it may be a violation of the human rights of people with disabilities.

THAT Park Board commit to making all efforts to maintain or improve the previous level of accessibility as a result of any maintenance, construction, renovation, update, or other improvement or alteration of Vancouver's built environment, space, programs, events, attractions, services, or communications;

FURTHER THAT, staff be directed to ensure that all reasonable efforts are made to prevent any loss of existing accessibility in any of the Park Board's programs, services, communications, events, environments, or spaces, including the Stanley Park train.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Abstained: Commissioner Howard

Absent: Commissioner Haer

Question on the Main Motion as Amended

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct that tickets for the wheelchair-accessible spots on the Stanley Park Train accessible carriage, for the remainder of 2024, be issued free of charge as an interim measure to provide redress in the immediate time frame while longer term accessibility measures, programs, and accommodations are explored by the Board.
- B. THAT Park Board affirm that inaccessibility should be understood as a reflection of structural and systemic ableism, and that removing existing accessibility should be understood that it may be a violation of the human rights of people with disabilities.
- C. THAT Park Board commit to making all efforts to maintain or improve the previous level of accessibility as a result of any maintenance, construction, renovation, update, or other improvement or alteration of Vancouver's built environment, space, programs, events, attractions, services, or communications;

FURTHER THAT staff be directed to ensure that all reasonable efforts are made to prevent any loss of existing accessibility in any of the Park Board's programs, services, communications, events, environments, or spaces, including the Stanley Park train.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Abstained: Commissioner Howard
Absent: Commissioner Haer

ENQUIRIES

A Commissioner requested information related to the following topic:

1. Process to include Vaisakhi in Official Celebrations and Observances on the City of Vancouver website.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 7:28 pm.

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Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky
Chair