



PARK BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

— April 8 – 9, 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

Joint Operating Agreement – VanDusen & Bloedel

The Board approved the [Joint Operating Agreement \(JOA\) – VanDusen & Bloedel](#), which renewed the JOA between the Park Board and the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA). VanDusen and Bloedel are owned by the City of Vancouver and operated by the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation in collaboration with its non-profit partner, the VBGA. The new JOA builds on the success of the [Strategic Plan \(2021\)](#) and the spirit of collaboration and compromise fostered through that process. The new JOA is a 10-year commitment, with the opportunity for 1 renewal term of 5 years.

The new Joint Operating Agreement is the next step in achieving the vision for both gardens. With a shared commitment, the guidance of the Strategic Plan and a modernized JOA, the two organizations will work together to offer transformative experiences and botanical discovery.

Temporary Shelters in Parks – By-Law Amendment

The Board approved changes to the [Temporary Shelters in Park By-Law](#) with amendments directing staff to reach out within 24 hours to the provincial government with the request to strike a joint working group on matters specific to encampments in Vancouver Parks, and that invitations for the working group be extended to other groups including City Staff, the Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Fire Rescue Services, and Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh. The amended by-law ensures understanding regarding the intent of the By-law related to temporary sheltering, both to support successful use for these purposes and to reduce conflict.

E-Bikes and E-Scooters of Park Cycling Paths – By-Law Amendment

The Board approved [changes to the Parks Control By-Law](#) to allow for electric motor assisted bicycles and electric kick scooters to use on designated cycling paths. The Board also directed staff to work with the City's Engineering department to establish geofencing to digitally control the speeds of devices from the City's upcoming electric kick scooter-share program. This change brings the Parks Control By-law in alignment with the City's updated [Street & Traffic By-law](#) recently approved by Council on March 12, 2024 and the BC Provincial governments [pilot](#) and legislation.

Spanish Banks Parking

The Board received an update on [considerations to implement paid parking at Spanish Banks](#). The paid parking is intended to help improve the visitor experience and minimize impacts to the surrounding area, and the desire to standardize parking practices within the Park Board beach network. This would also align with parking practices at regional destination beaches. Staff expect to report back to the Board for consideration of paid parking implementation at Spanish Banks in Q2 2024.



Kits Pool Update

The Board received an update on the [ongoing maintenance and repair work occurring and the 2024 operating plan for Kitsilano Outdoor Pool](#), and to identify next steps and considerations to inform future Park Board decision. The update outlined the current state of the pool, including investigations of ongoing water loss, repairs underway, and additional required work. Approximately \$5M has been spent over the past 8 years for capital works on the pool, both planned and unplanned.

Staff will be submitting a funding request for a custom pool liner to reduce annual maintenance, a saltwater treatment to reduce dependency on potable water, and a Feasibility Study for pool renewal.

Park Board Reconciliation Update

The Board received an [update on the Park Board's Reconciliation Strategies](#). The 2018 [Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values](#) statement and the [11 Reconciliation Strategies](#) continue to guide the future growth and evolution of reconciliation within the Park Board.

Achievements since 2018 include a refined consultation process with MST, increased staff training on Indigenous issues and reconciliation, support for emergent Indigenous-led groups, events and projects, and the ongoing Colonial Audit, which will document the ways in which colonialism is woven into the Park Board. By analysis the final audit, the Park Board will be able to decide what it would like to change, and how.

Staff continue with the Reconciliation Strategies as identified in 2016 with ongoing engagement with MST and Urban Indigenous groups. An explicit commitment to the 11 Reconciliation Strategies as well as the Reconciliation Mission, Vision and Values, including an emphasis on nurturing and upholding good relationships enables staff to centre reconciliation principles in all areas of work.

CHAIR'S REPORT

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

- Douglas Park Community Association Meeting – Commissioner Jensen participated in the Douglas Park CCA Meeting and celebrated the 81st birthday of Manuel, a valued long-time board member of Douglas Park.
- CRAB Park Visit – Chair Bastyovanszky, along with Director Gandha, Director Lepps, Ranger Justin and Superintendent Uultsje visited CRAB Park on March 15.
- Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQQIA+ Celebration and Awareness Day – Chair Bastyovanszky joined M.L.A Spencer Chandra Herbert for the Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQQIA+ Celebration and Awareness Day, where the Chair was also photographed with indigenous drag star Landa Lakes.
- Stanley Park - Urban Forestry Site Visit – Commissioners and GM Jackson joined Manager of Urban Forestry, Joe McLeod for a site tour of the recent and ongoing tree work being done in Stanley Park to mitigate the impact of the Hemlock Looper.
- Kitsilano Community Association Meeting – Chair Bastyovanszky attended the Kitsilano Community Association Meeting on March 21.



- Khalsa Diwan Society Gurdwara – Chair Bastyovanszky visited the Khalsa Diwan Society Gurdwara and met with volunteers.
- Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival Reception – Commissioners attended the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival Reception at the Museum of Vancouver with artist Marissa Nahanee.
- Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival – Commissioner Jensen attended the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival with Commissioner Christensen, VSB Chair Victoria Jung and Patricia Wu.
- VTA Opening Weekend – Chair Bastyovanszky attended and participated in the Vancouver Tennis Association Opening Weekend as they played social doubles.
- Stanley Park Drive Cycling – Chair Bastyovanszky rode his bike up Stanley Park Drive for the first ride of the season to experience first-hand the safety conditions without a bike lane.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Ceremonial Fire at CRAB Park – A ceremonial fire was held at CRAB Park on April 4, 2024, with Musqueam Elder, Thelma Stogan and Family. Thelma Stogan wished to relay deep appreciation and gratitude to the Park Board for allowing this sacred work and ceremony to occur. This ceremony will take care of those who are sheltering in the park, and for that, Thelma was deeply grateful. Thelma spoke to how no matter who we are, we are connected and these connections are important to this work. The Park Board would like to thank all the service providers and community support that has contributed to ensuring peoples well-being.
- Council Agenda Items:
 - Council to receive a report on April 10, 2024 titled "[Sites for 2024 Alcohol Consumption in Public Plazas Program](#)", which would approve amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law to designate certain public spaces over which the City has jurisdiction as places where liquor may be consumed.

BY-LAWS

Non-Motorized Watercraft Launch at Select Beaches – By-Law Amendment

The Board enacted the [by-law amendments regarding non motorized watercraft launch at select beaches](#) that were presented to and approved by the Board on March 11, 2024. The by-law amendments permanently allow the launch and recovery of non-motorized watercraft at four designated beach areas.

Temporary Shelters in Parks – By-Law Amendment

The Board enacted the [by-law amendments regarding temporary shelters in parks](#) that were presented to and approved by the Board on April 8, 2024. The by-law amendments ensure understanding regarding the intent of the By-law related to temporary sheltering, both to support successful use for these purposes and to reduce conflict.

E-Bikes and E-Scooters – By Law Amendment

The Board enacted the [by-law amendments regarding e-bikes and e-scooters](#) that were presented to and approved by the Board on April 8, 2024. The By-law amendments allow for electric motor assisted bicycles and electric kick scooters to use designated park cycling paths.



This change brings the Parks Control By-law in alignment with the City's updated [Street & Traffic By-law](#) recently approved by Council on March 12, 2024 and the BC Provincial governments [pilot](#) and legislation.

BOARD MOTIONS

Affirmation of Park Board as a Living Wage Employer

The Board approved the [motion](#) for the Board of Parks and Recreation to be re-certified as a living wage employer by the Living Wage for Families Campaign. Staff were directed 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.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next Committee and Board meetings are scheduled for April 22, 2024.

