



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2024

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, May 6, 2024, at 8:47 pm, in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference.

PRESENT:

Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky, Chair
Commissioner Laura Christensen
Commissioner Tom Digby
Commissioner Scott Jensen, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Jas Viridi

ABSENT:

Commissioner Angela Haer (Sick Leave)
Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard

**GENERAL MANAGER'S
OFFICE:**

Steve Jackson, 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, 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 Jensen

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;

(g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the city;

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

(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 – April 22, 2024

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of April 22, 2024, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair highlighted the participation of Commissioners at Park Board events since the previous Board meeting on April 22, 2024:

- Kayachtn Role Raising – Commissioners Christensen, Digby, and Jensen witnessed the raising of the Coast Salish Welcome Pole at šx^wq^weləwən ct Carving Centre at Britannia Community Services Centre
- Community Engagement – Commissioner Jensen attended Community engagement events at East Park and Columbia Park
- Saint James Music Academy – Commissioner Jensen met with the Executive Director of Saint James Music Academy
- Sponsor-Media Appreciation Invitational – Commissioner Jensen attended the Sponsor-Media Appreciation Invitational
- Earth Fest 2024 – Chair Bastyovanszky attended Earth Fest 2024 at Champlain Heights Community Centre
- Kerrisdale Little League Parade – Chair Bastyovanszky attended the Kerrisdale Little League Parade
- BMO Marathon – Chair Bastyovanszky spoke at the BMO Marathon in Stanley Park
- Art in the City – Chari Bastyovanszky attended Art in the City at the West End Community Centre
- Provincial Rugby Finals – Chair Bastyovanszky attended the provincial rugby finals in Burnaby
- Lapu-Lapu Day – Commissioner Viridi attended the Lapu-Lapu Day celebration.

- Vancouver Lawn Bowling Club Open House – Commissioner Virdi attended the VLBC Open House at Queen Elizabeth Park
- South Vancouver Neighbourhood House – Commissioner Virdi attended a visit to the South Vancouver Neighbourhood House
- Senior Women’s Group at Sunset Community Centre – Commissioner Virdi attended a Senior Women’s Group at Sunset Community Centre
- Wedding Permits in Parks – Chair Bastyovanszky was invited to a wedding in Harbour Green Park to highlight the work of Park Board permitting staff.
- Sikh Heritage Month Proclamation – Commissioner Virdi attended the Sikh Heritage Month proclamation at City Hall.

COMMUNICATIONS

No communication related to the meeting agenda was received.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Board Committee – May 6, 2024

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

1. Alcohol on Beaches – 2024 Re-Pilot
2. Monstercat Compound – Special Event
3. Spanish Banks Parking

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Board Committee at its meeting of May 6, 2024, as contained in items 1 to 3.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

1. Sport Field Maintenance - Update

The Director of Park Operations introduced the item and presented update on [ongoing sport field maintenance](#).

Following the presentation, staff responded to questions related to:

- Ongoing and planned repair work and maintenance

2. General Manager's Report

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

- Park Rangers at CRAB Park – Staff highlighted the ongoing work by Park Rangers to provide messaging to the patrons at CRAB Park regarding the Parks Control Bylaw, as well as the GM Notice.
- In-House Construction Projects – Staff highlighted the newly contracted Capital Playground construction projects with the Structures and Fabrication Shop of the Park Board Building and Structures Department
- China Creek Park South – Skatepark Upgrades – Staff are pleased to announce that the Skatepark Upgrades at China Creek Park are anticipated to initiate in early May 2024, and be completed by fall of 2024
- “Gibby’s Field” Natural Park – Status – Staff advised that construction of this new permanent park will begin this week and is expected to be complete by July 2024.
- Alberta St Blue Green System & Columbia Park – Update – Staff advised that the community engagement for the project has come to a close, and the recommended concept plan is targeted for Board decision on Q3 2024
- East Park Engagement Launch – Round Two Update – Following feedback received from the recently completed Round Two engagement, staff will develop a concept plan, which will be shared with the public and presented to the Board for decision in Q4 2024.
- Outdoor Pool Opening Preparations – Staff have been hard at work preparing outdoor pools for the season, including pressure washing, recoating surfaces, and restoring decals and signs. Fencing, pool deck equipment, lamp and flag poles, and concrete structures are also repaired.
- Outdoor Aquatics Season Launch – Beginning on May 18, staff are preparing to open outdoors pools including New Brighton, Second Beach, Kitsilano, and Maple Grove. Staff are also preparing to lifeguard 10 waterfronts and beaches.
- Council Agenda Items:
 - Council to receive a report on May 7, 2024, titled “[Alcohol on Beaches – 2024 Re-Pilot](#)”, which seeks the approval of a one-time 2024 operating budget increase of \$930,300 to fund the operational and enforcements needs for the Alcohol on Beaches Re-Pilot in the summer of 2024.
 - Council to receive a report on May 7, 2024, titled “[Quarterly Capital Budget Adjustments and Closeouts](#)”, which would approve an increase of \$32.5M to the 2023-2026 Capital Plan, and an increase of \$54.6M to the Multi-year Capital Projects Budget.
 - Council to receive a report on May 8, 2024, titled “[Imagine West End Waterfront Parks, Beaches, and Transportation Vision](#)”, which would approve the West End Waterfront Vision as a guide for renewal and upgrading the West End waterfront over the next 30+ years.
- Board briefing [memos and emails](#) issued from April 22, 2024 to May 6, 2024.

3. Proposed Change to 2024 Board Meeting Schedule

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the start time of the public meeting scheduled on May 27, 2024, be amended to begin at 7:30pm, in replacement of the original approved time of 6:30pm, with the regular Board meeting to immediately follow the Board Committee meeting;

FURTHER THAT the Board reserve the two hours prior for an In Camera meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Proposal for Affordable Parking Solutions for Vancouver Lawn Bowling Club Members at Queen Elizabeth Park Lot 67

MOVED by Commissioner Viridi

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board take urgent and immediate action to address the financial burden placed on members of the Vancouver Lawn Bowling Club by implementing a low-cost annual parking pass program specifically for Lot 67 within Queen Elizabeth Park for the remainder of the year;

FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Park Board and Park Board Staff collaborate closely with representatives from the Vancouver Lawn Bowling Club to establish the criteria for eligibility and the pricing structure of the low-cost parking pass program, ensuring that it effectively addresses the financial concerns of club members while also maintaining the sustainability of parking operations;

AND FURTHER THAT the General Manager be delegated sufficient authority to establish an appropriate price for the annual low-cost parking pass for the 2024 year, in accordance with the Board direction above, with future parking pass price-setting to be aligned with the annual Board Fees and Charges process.

Not having received a seconder, the item was not opened for debate.

2. Vancouver, Let's Talk Trees!

MOVED by Commissioner Digby

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

WHEREAS

1. Recognizing our urban trees face unprecedented challenges through the realities of a changing climate (looper moth infestation, record low snow/rain) and due to densification and urban development;

2. Understanding the [importance to health](#) related to [tree canopies in urban areas](#);
3. Remembering that grassroots volunteer groups such as [Tree Keepers](#), and others, have historically led the public engagement work on strategies and organizing to help share knowledge on tree health and growth and the urban canopy; and
4. Observing that the Park Board [suspended](#) the popular \$10 Spring Tree Sale due to COVID in 2020.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Board re-commits to leadership on developing the urban tree canopy in Vancouver through focusing on urban trees within the Park Board jurisdiction, including street trees and trees-in-parks, and believes the time is right to update commitments made by this Board in the [Urban Forest Strategy: 2018 Update](#);
- B. THAT the Board calls on both Vancouver City Council and the Vancouver School Board to update their commitments to Vancouver's tree canopy and urban forest strategies;
- C. THAT as one part of the update process, the Board hereby endorses Commissioner Digby's public engagement process entitled "Vancouver, Let's Talk Trees!" which may be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/427295686383346>;
- D. THAT the Commissioners will work together to identify groups and individuals prepared to re-establish, through donations of energy, time and money, popular historical urban forestry program such as [\\$10 trees on line](#)
[Tree Keepers](#)
- E. THAT Commissioners will bring proposals from the public to staff for evaluation and implementation in approximately Q2/2025

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT B, C, D, and E be struck and replaced as follows:

- B. THAT the Board directed the chair to send a letter to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council and the Vancouver School Board recommending that all jurisdictions to update our commitments to Vancouver's tree canopy and urban forest strategies by Q4/2025;
- C. THAT as one part of the update process, the Board hereby recognizes Commissioner Digby's public engagement process entitled "Vancouver, Let's Talk Trees!" which may be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/427295686383346>;

- D. THAT the Board directs staff to report back with options to re-establish historical urban forestry programs such as
- a. [\\$10 trees on line](#); and
 - b. [Tree Keepers](#)
- And to propose options to identify groups and individuals prepared to donate energy, time and money towards such programs; and
- E. THAT Commissioners will bring proposals for enhanced urban forestry from the public to staff for evaluation and prioritization in approximately Q2/2025.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Commissioner Viridi

Amendment to the Amendment

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT E be struck.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, and Jensen

Opposed: Commissioners Digby and Viridi

Question on the Main Motion as Amended

- A. THAT the Board re-commits to leadership on developing the urban tree canopy in Vancouver through focusing on urban trees within the Park Board jurisdiction, including street trees and trees-in-parks, and believes the time is right to update commitments made by this Board in the [Urban Forest Strategy: 2018 Update](#).
- B. THAT the Board directed the chair to send a letter to the Mayor, Vancouver City Council and the Vancouver School Board recommending that all jurisdictions to update our commitments to Vancouver's tree canopy and urban forest strategies by Q4/2025.
- C. THAT as one part of the update process, the Board hereby recognizes Commissioner Digby's public engagement process entitled "Vancouver, Let's Talk Trees!" which may be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/427295686383346>.
- D. THAT the Board directs staff to report back with options to re-establish historical urban forestry programs such as:
- [\\$10 trees on line](#)
 - [Tree Keepers](#)

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Commissioner Viridi

3. Removal of Cyclist Barriers and Implementation of Signage for Seawall Safety

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

WHEREAS

1. The Seawall at Lumberman's Arch and Third Beach is a cherished recreational area for pedestrians, cyclists, and other visitors alike;
2. The current cyclist barriers along the Seawall pose accessibility concerns and inhibit the smooth flow of pedestrian and cyclist traffic; and
3. Alternative measures such as signage and pavement markings can effectively communicate guidelines for safe cycling behavior.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board directs staff to

- A. Take immediate action to remove the cyclist barriers along the Seawall at Lumberman's Arch and Third Beach.
- B. Walking speed in crowded or high-traffic section.
- C. Engage with stakeholders, including cyclists and local community members, to ensure that the new measures effectively balance the needs of all Seawall user.
- D. Report back on the effectiveness of these measures six months following implementation and recommend any necessary adjustments to further improve safety and usability along the Seawall.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT A and B be amended to the following, and C, D, and E struck.

- A. THAT the Board directs staff to report back by Q1/2024 on options for enhanced accessibility on the Seawall cycling path at Stanley Park, including consideration of:
 - a. Options for removal of the three barriers which are inaccessible to certain types of active transport (such as hand-cyclists, bikes with trailers, etc.) along the Seawall cycling path at Lumberman's Arch, Prospect Point, and Third Beach;
 - b. The impact of the recently approved e-scooter and e-bike access on speeds and congestion on the cycling path;
 - c. Potential measures to reduce risks in crowded or high-traffic sections;

- d. Proposals to engage with Seawall users, including pedestrians, active transport users, seniors and people with disabilities and mobility challenges to ensure that the new measures effectively balance the needs of all Seawall users; and
 - e. The cost and timeline for implementation of the various options.
- B. THAT the Board further directs that all options proposed in A shall be consistent with safety and reduction of Park Board liability.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Commissioner Viridi

Question on the Main Motion as Amended

- A. THAT the Board directs staff to report back by Q1/2024 on options for enhanced accessibility on the Seawall cycling path at Stanley Park, including consideration of:
- a. Options for removal of the three barriers which are inaccessible to certain types of active transport (such as hand-cyclists, bikes with trailers, etc.) along the Seawall cycling path at Lumberman's Arch, Prospect Point, and Third Beach;
 - b. The impact of the recently approved e-scooter and e-bike access on speeds and congestion on the cycling path;
 - c. Potential measures to reduce risks in crowded or high-traffic sections;
 - d. Proposals to engage with Seawall users, including pedestrians, active transport users, seniors and people with disabilities and mobility challenges to ensure that the new measures effectively balance the needs of all Seawall users; and
 - e. The cost and timeline for implementation of the various options.
- B. THAT the Board further directs that all options proposed in A shall be consistent with safety and reduction of Park Board liability.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Revitalizing the Park Board

Commissioner Bastyovanszky submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of May 27, 2024, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Park Board adopts the following principles for its future:

1. The Park Board remains a democratically elected board, directly accountable to the people of Vancouver for a future vision for parks and recreation that is sustainable and inclusive;
2. The Park Board will develop a governance model in partnership with First Nations for the stewardship and future preservation of Vancouver's green space, parks and recreation facilities. Such governance model will be mutually agreed to and enacted through amendments to the Vancouver Charter;
3. The Park Board will work in partnership with the City of Vancouver to secure a new funding formula to ensure the financial and operational independence of the elected Park Board, including Vancouver Charter amendments as required, informed by the Auditor General; and
4. The Park board will work with First Nations, the City of Vancouver, Community Centre Associations, park partners, the Province and the public to achieve a modernized mandate based on transparency, accountability and a commitment for excellent parks and recreation for the future;

FURTHER THAT the Park Board directs staff to develop a collaborative process for broad public consultation with the aim to design and implement a revitalized mandate for an elected Park Board by October 2026.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ENQUIRIES

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 9:52 pm.

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Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky
Chair