



## PARK BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

— July 22, 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

#### **Attire for Swimming in Public Aquatic Facilities - Policy Update**

The Board [approved the Attire for Swimming in Public Aquatic Facilities Policy Update](#), which involved a permanent adoption of the pilot policy that was approved by the Board in April 2023. This policy was developed with the goal of supporting staff to determine acceptable attire for swimming in public facilities, including whether certain attire would present a risk to patrons, impeding their ability to remain safe in the water and whether it would present a safety risk to lifeguards if a rescue was required.

#### **Real Estate and Facilities Management - Update**

The Board received an update from Real Estate and Facilities Management (REFM) regarding the [partnership between REFM and the Park Board](#) to manage assets. The update highlighted the current state of service delivery, key project status, and common challenges impacting facilities and service delivery, including limited resources and budget, aging building needs while meeting climate, resilience, and energy efficient requirements, and the rise of inflation impacting project delivery costs.

### CHAIR'S REPORT

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

- Out for Kicks Out for Kicks Summer Tournament – Chair Bastyovanszky attended the Out for Kicks summer tournament at Trillium Park.
- Vancouver Open 2024 – Commissioners and City Councillors attended the Vancouver Open, Volleyball BC's premier destination beach volleyball event.
- Opening Night of Theater Under the Stars – Commissioners and VSB Trustee Jung attended the opening night of Theater Under the Stars
- 2024 Stanley Park Open – Chair Bastyovanszky attended the Stanley Park Open tennis tournament.
- 2024 Honda Celebration of Light Press Conference – Commissioner Christensen attended the 2024 Honda Celebration of Light pre-event press conference and delivered remarks.
- Liaison Appointments – Commissioner Jensen attended the Urban Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee, the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, and the Food Policy Advisory Committee in his community liaison roles.
- Vancouver Folk Music Festival – Commissioners attended the Vancouver Folk Music Festival at Jericho Beach Park.
- Honda Celebration of Light – Commissioners, along with VSB Chair Jung and Councillor Kirby-Yung attended the Honda Celebration of Light.
- Bike-riding on Beach Avenue – Chair Bastyovanszky and Commissioner Jensen rode their bikes along Beach Avenue to gain perspective on a pedestrianized West End



- Brock House Summer Fair – Commissioner Digby attended the Brock House Summer Fair, alongside City Councillors, MP Joyce Murray, Premier David Eby, and Brock House Society staff.

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- 2024 Meadows Program – In 2024, 4.6 hectares of new meadows were developed, increasing the total amount of meadows to 42.6 hectares across the city.. In 2025, staff aim to expand the meadows by 1-3 hectares and will continue to find opportunities to collaborate interdepartmentally.
- Riley Park South Playground Renewal – The south playground at Riley Park was recently upgraded. The new playground focuses on play provision for 5-12-year-olds and includes an accessible poured-in-place rubber path, engineered fiber surfacing, and a number of other amenities.
- Coopers' Park Dog Off-leash Area Renewal – The renewal of the dog off-leash area at Coopers' Park is almost complete and will be open to the public in early August. Updates include a network of accessible footpaths and seating, play surfaces, and drinking water access.
- “Gibby’s Field” New Natural Park – The new park at Gibby’s Field is scheduled to open the week of July 22, with a launch event to follow in September 2024.
- Kitsilano Beach Park Seaside Greenway – This September, construction will begin on a separated cycling path through Kitsilano Beach Park, connecting Balsam Street to McNicoll Avenue.
- VanDusen Learning Garden – The new Learning Garden at VanDusen Botanical Garden is now complete. This unique space provides an area to deliver hands-on educational programs to learn about ethnobotany, food security, biodiversity, and conservation.
- Stanley Park Water Supply Tunnel – Update – Metro Vancouver is preparing to begin construction on a 1.4km tunnel and new water main under Stanley Park, ensuring reliable delivery of drinking water to Vancouver and Richmond.
- Coastal Adaptation Planning – Update – Coastal adaptation planning is currently underway, with the RFP for the initial Coastal Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment expected to be issued this summer or early fall.
- Tatlow and Volunteer Park Stream Restoration – The stream daylighting project at Tatlow and Volunteer Park was opened to the public on July 3. This project worked to restore “First Creek”, which was buried and lost to history due to colonial practices and urban development.
- Alcohol on Beaches – Summer 2024 Re-Pilot – The Alcohol on Beaches re-pilot launched on July 1. Data collection is underway, and an on-site intercept survey will be launching soon.
- Summer Event Season – Staff highlighted that the peak event season for the Park Board's Filming and Special Events Office runs from July 1 to September 3, with 150 special events hosted across 62 parks. During this peak season, over 500,000 guests and event goers will enjoy park spaces, adding vibrancy to public spaces, provide opportunities for Vancouverites



to build social connectivity, support local artists, and enable economic benefits like fundraising for non-profit organizations.

- Symphony at Sunset – In addition to hosting events over the Summer, the Park Board also produces the beloved Symphony at Sunset in collaboration with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (VSO). This year, concert goers were treated to music from famous movie scores alongside a selection of classical favorites.
- Honda Celebration of Light – The 32<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Honda Celebration of Light kicked off on Saturday, July 20. This year's event will feature performances from Portugal, Malaysia and the United Kingdom, and it is expected to draw approximately 150,000 to 250,000 spectators nightly.
- Home + Away at Empire Fields – Empire Fields at Hastings Park is now home to a towering new public art installation called Home + Away, designed by Seattle artists Lead Pencil Studio.
- New Temporary Public Artwork at Oppenheimer Park – Park Board staff are working with Vancouver Nisei Baseball to install a temporary public art sign on the Baseball Backstop at Oppenheimer Park, which is planned on being unveiled in mid-September 2024. This artwork will commemorate the resilience, perseverance, and teamwork of the Vancouver Nisei Baseball team as they overcame the challenges of racism, inequities, and post-war injustices.
- Council Agenda Items
  - Council to receive a report on July 23, 2024, titled "[2023-2026 Capital Plan Mid-Term Update](#)", which would approve adjustments to the 2023-2026 Capital Plan, including an adjustment of \$19.4M to the Parks and Public Open Spaces budget.
  - Council to receive a report on July 23, 2024, titled "[2024 Community Services and Other Social Grants](#)", which would approve a number of funding initiatives, including program enhancements and infrastructure improvements at childcare facilities.

## BOARD MOTIONS

### **Governance of Facilities Asset Management and Capital Maintenance**

The Board referred the [motion](#) to the September 9, 2024, Committee meeting to hear from the public. This motion would direct staff to report back in Q2 2025 with a performance review of the services provided by Real Estate and Facilities Management (REFM) towards planning of renewal and maintenance for Park Board facilities. The report back would also include recommendations on potential changes to the operating protocol between Park board and REFM that would enhance planning and maintenance of Park Board facilities.

## NEXT MEETINGS

The next Committee and Board meetings are scheduled for September 9, 2024.

