



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 8, 2024

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, July 8, 2024, at 10:22 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 Viridi

GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE: Steve Jackson, General Manager
Denise Swanston, 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 Christensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

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:

(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 Howard

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Regular Board Meeting – June 25, 2024

MOVED by Commissioner Digby

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of June 25, 2024, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Absent: Commissioner Howard

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair highlighted the participation of Commissioners at Park Board events since the previous Board meeting on June 25, 2024:

- Hillcrest Summer Festival 2024 – Commissioner Haer participated in the Hillcrest Summer Festival, where she had the opportunity to meet and interact with community leaders.
- International Day of Yoga – Commissioner Haer attended the International Day of Yoga hosted by the new Consul General of India, Honorable Masakui Rungsung.
- Fleurs de Villes ARTISTE 2024 – Commissioner Haer attended the opening of the Fleurs de Villes ARTISTE at VanDusen Botanical Garden.
- Puglia Tourism & Design – Commissioner Haer attended the 'PUGLIA Tourism and Design' event at the Italian Cultural Centre.
- Tatlow Creek Restoration Opening Ceremony – Chair Bastyovanszky and Commissioners attended the opening ceremony of the Tatlow Park stream restoration.
- Symphony at Sunset – Chair Bastyovanszky and Commissioner Digby attended Symphony at Sunset performance at Sunset Beach, with Maestro Otto Tausk of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.
- Canada Day at Sunset Community Centre – Chair Bastyovanszky and Commissioner Jensen attended the Canada Day celebration at Sunset Community Centre, along with MP Harjit Sajjan, MLAs Michael Lee and George Chow, VSB Chair Jung, and City Councillors.
- Kitsilano Showboat – Chair Bastyovanszky attended the Kitsilano Showboat which featured Capoeira performers and Bollywood dancers.
- 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee Liaison Meeting – Chair Bastyovanszky attended the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee Liaison meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

No communication related to the meeting agenda was received.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Board Committee – July 8, 2024

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

1. Park Board 2023-2026 Capital Plan Mid-term Update
2. Imagine West End Waterfront Vision: Phase 1 - Report Back

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 July 8, 2024, as contained in items 1 to 2.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Haer, Jensen and Viridi
Abstained: Commissioner Howard

DEFERRED ITEMS

At the Board meeting on June 25, 2024, the following Staff Report was deferred to the Board meeting on July 8, 2024, as the legal representation for Commissioner Viridi was unavailable.

1. Integrity Commissioner Investigation Report Decision

Commissioners Christensen and Viridi, as the respective Complainant and the Respondent of the Investigation Report, declared conflicts of interest on the matter and excused themselves from the meeting for the duration of the item.

On June 25, 2024, the matter was moved with an amendment by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Digby, to extend the time beyond the 30 days and for the Respondent to write a letter of apology, as stated in the following recommendation:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board resolve to review the Investigation Report issued by the Integrity Commissioner on May 24, 2024, (the "Investigation Report") attached as Appendix "A" to this report dated June 14, 2024, entitled "Integrity Commissioner Investigation Report Decision".
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board endorse the recommendation on sanctions made by the Integrity Commissioner in the Investigation Report or, alternatively, impose those sanctions which the Board determines appropriate.

- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board endorse the recommendation for Commissioner Virdi to issue a letter of apology to Commissioner Christensen.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT B and C be struck and replaced with the following:

“THAT the Vancouver Park Board request Commissioner Virdi issue a letter of apology to Commissioner Christensen.”

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Digby and Jensen

Opposed: Commissioners Haer and Howard

Subsequently, Commissioner Virdi’s lawyer, Dirk Laudan, provided a statement on Commissioner Virdi’s behalf.

Question on the Main Motion as Amended

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board resolve to review the Investigation Report issued by the Integrity Commissioner on May 24, 2024, (the “Investigation Report”) attached as Appendix “A” to this report dated June 14, 2024, entitled “Integrity Commissioner Investigation Report Decision”.
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board request Commissioner Virdi issue a letter of apology to Commissioner Christensen.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Digby and Jensen

Opposed: Commissioners Haer and Howard

Following conclusion of Item 1, Commissioners Christensen and Virdi re-joined the meeting.

Motion to Suspend the Rules

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the Board suspend the rule to permit a Member’s Motion, before proceeding with the remainder of the agenda.

CARRIED AND BY THE
REQUIRED MAJORITY

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby and Jensen

Opposed: Commissioners Howard and Virdi

Absent: Commissioner Haer

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Adopting the UNDRIP Action Plan

Commissioner Jensen introduced a motion titled “Adopting the UNDRIP Action Plan”.

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

WHEREAS

1. On June 11, 2016, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (“Board”) adopted 11 Reconciliation Strategies in response to the Calls to Action provided by the Truth and Reconciliation of Commission of Canada (TRC). This strategy set the Park Board on a new trajectory toward Reconciliation;
2. In 2018 the Board endorsed the Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values statement, which has guided the future growth and evolution of reconciliation within the Board;
3. In 2018 the Board began a Colonial Audit to document the ways in which colonialism is woven into the Board from strategic decision levels through to day-to-day operations. The most recent update was adopted by the Board in July 2022;
4. In November 2019 the provincial government passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act into law;
5. VanPlay Framework, a reference guide to Vancouver’s Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan (consisting of 4 comprehensive reports). VanPlay Goal 9 directs the Board to “seek truth as a foundation for Reconciliation”. The VanPlay Playbook directs Park Board to “focus reconciliation efforts on decolonizing the Park Board and relationship building with the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations”;
6. On June 25, 2024, Vancouver City Council endorsed the UNDRIP Action Plan and directed City staff to begin implementation of the UNDRIP Action Plan deliverables over the next five years;
7. On July 3, 2024, the Park Board General Manager received a letter from the City Clerk notifying them of the City Council approval of the UNDRIP Action Plan;

AND WHEREAS for many years the Board has been at the forefront of intergovernmental approaches to reconciliation with First Nations, including the work of the Stanley Park Intergovernmental Committee and Working Group on the Stanley Park Comprehensive Plan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Board reaffirms its commitment to reconciliation and the 2018 Board endorsed Reconciliation Mission, Vision, and Values.
- B. THAT the Board adopts the City of Vancouver UNDRIP Action Plan in the form approved by Council on June 25, 2024.
- C. THAT the Board directs staff to collaborate as necessary on the implementation within Board jurisdiction of relevant Actions of the UNDRIP Action Plan.
- D. THAT the Board directs staff to report back on financial and resource requirements for the implementation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Jensen and Viridi
Absent: Commissioners Haer and Howard

STAFF REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

1. General Manager's Report

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

- Council Agenda Items:
 - Report titled "[Update on Accessibility Strategy and Multi-Year Action Plan Implementation](#)" on July 9, 2024.
 - Report titled "[Equity Lens Review of City By-Law](#)" on July 9, 2024.
 - Report titled "[Equity Framework Implementation Update](#)" on July 9, 2024.
 - Report titled "[Auditor General Committee Recommendations Transmittal Report](#)" on July 9, 2024.
 - Report titled "[Update on Accessibility Strategy and Multi-Year Action Plan Implementation](#)" on July 9, 2024.
 - Report titled "[Citywide Development Guidelines Early Actions – Public Views, Solar Access, and Residential Tower Floorplates](#)" on July 10, 2024.
- Board briefing [memos and emails](#) issued from June 24, 2024 to July 8, 2024.

MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Review of Trusts, Bequests and Leases Pertaining to Vancouver Parks

MOVED by Commissioner Digby

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

WHEREAS

1. Parks and recreation facilities in Vancouver are in many cases subject to obligations under underlying trusts, bequests and leases;
2. It is unknown which of these trusts, bequests and leases may have been premised on the existence of a duly elected Park Board to oversee such parks and recreation facilities; and
3. It is currently unknown what is the level of risk and exposure under such trusts, bequests and leases should the Mayor's motion to abolish the elected Park Board proceed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board directs staff to conduct a review of any and all trusts, bequests and leases pertaining to parks and recreation facilities in Vancouver to identify risks and potential exposure should the elected Park Board be abolished;

FURTHER THAT all 240+ parks and 40+ recreation facilities be included in such review, especially including Stanley Park;

AND FURTHER THAT such review shall be delivered to Commissioners in camera by Q2/2025; Issues of urgent concern may be raised in advance if and when they are identified.

- B. THAT should staff need an exemption from this Board's December 11, 2023 motion to not allocate any resources towards a transition working group, it should be considered granted for the purposes of this motion.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Digby

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT A be substituted with the following:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board directs staff, including legal services, to conduct a review of any and all trusts, bequests, donations and leases pertaining to parks, both permanent and non-permanent, and recreation facilities in Vancouver to identify risks and potential exposure, including donor churn/drop out, should the elected Park Board be abolished;

FURTHER THAT all 240+ parks and 40+ recreation facilities be included in such review, especially including Stanley Park which lease, being based on the August 31, 1906 Order-in-Council, of the Canadian Government, as amended by the August 31, 1908 Order-in-Council, requires the lease to be similar to the one the Crown had with Point Pleasant Park in Halifax, Nova Scotia, which also had (at the time) a park board that was independent of City Council;

AND FURTHER THAT such review shall be delivered to Commissioners by Q2/2025; Issues of urgent concern may be raised in advance if and when they are identified.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby and Jensen

Opposed: Commissioner Viridi

Absent: Commissioners Haer and Howard

Question on the Main Motion as Amended

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board directs staff, including legal services, to conduct a review of any and all trusts, bequests, donations and leases pertaining to parks, both permanent and non-permanent, and recreation facilities in Vancouver to identify risks and potential exposure, including donor churn/drop out, should the elected Park Board be abolished;

FURTHER THAT all 240+ parks and 40+ recreation facilities be included in such review, especially including Stanley Park which lease, being based on the August 31, 1906 Order-in-Council, of the Canadian Government, as amended by the August 31, 1908 Order-in-Council, requires the lease to be similar to the one the Crown had with Point Pleasant Park in Halifax, Nova Scotia, which also had (at the time) a park board that was independent of City Council;

AND FURTHER THAT such review shall be delivered to Commissioners by Q2/2025; Issues of urgent concern may be raised in advance if and when they are identified.

- B. THAT should staff need an exemption from this Board's December 11, 2023 motion to not allocate any resources towards a transition working group, it should be considered granted for the purposes of this motion.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby and Jensen

Opposed: Commissioner Viridi

Absent: Commissioners Haer and Howard

NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Governance of Facilities Asset Management & Capital Maintenance

Commissioner Bastyovanszky submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of July 22, 2024, as a Member's Motion.

- A. THAT The Vancouver Park Board 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 of Park Board facilities, including a historical comparison to before REFM took over in approximately 2009, and how the Park Board used to do capital planning and maintenance before that.
- B. THAT the Board direct staff to provide an interim report on the foregoing subject matter at the beginning on the fall 2024 session.
- C. THAT the Board direct staff to have a regular cadence of public reporting on the performance of REFM against its agreed service levels, including service of requests made via 3-1-1.
- D. THAT the report back shall include any recommendations on potential changes to the operating protocol between Park Board and REFM that would enhance planning and maintenance of Park Board facilities.

ENQUIRIES

Commissioners requested information related to the following topic:

1. Dredger activity in Beaver Lake.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 11:06 pm.

* * * * *

Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky
Chair