



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JULY 22, 2024

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, July 22, 2024, at 7:02 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 Kellock, Acting General Manager  
Denise Swanston, Manager, Board Relations & Meeting Clerk  
Jessica Kulchyski, Board Support and Meeting Assistant  
Victoria Tyers, Board Support and Meeting Assistant & Meeting Clerk

*\* 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 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:

- (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;

(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

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **1. Regular Board Meeting – July 8, 2024**

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of July 8, 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 July 8, 2024:

- 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.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications related to the Board meeting agenda were received via email or the [Contact Park Board Commissioners](#) web form:

- two pieces of correspondence in support of the Member’s Motion titled “Governance of Facilities and Asset Management and Capital Maintenance”.

## BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

### 1. Report of the Board Committee – July 22, 2024

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

#### 1. Attire for Swimming in Public Aquatic Facilities – Policy Update

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 22, 2024, as contained in item 1.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## STAFF REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

### 1. Real Estate and Facilities Management - Update

The Acting General Manager introduced the item, and the Deputy City Manager, along with the Director of Facilities Management and Operational Excellence, the Director of Long-Term Financial Strategy and Planning, and the Associate Director of Facilities Planning presented an update on the management of Park Board facilities.

Following the presentation, staff responded to questions related to:

- Operating level agreements and key performance indicators
- Facility management and preventative maintenance
- Asset renewal priorities
- Amenity funding and investment

- Past model of Park Board led asset management

## **2. General Manager's Report**

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

- 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:
  - Report titled “[2023-2026 Capital Plan Mid-Term Update](#)” on July 23, 2024.
  - Report titled “[2024 Community Services and Other Social Grants](#)” on July 23, 2024
- Board briefing [memos and emails](#) issued from July 8, 2024, to July 22, 2024.

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*At this point in the proceedings, Commissioner Bastyovanszky relinquished the Chair to Commissioner Jensen, in order to move a motion.*

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## **MEMBERS’ MOTIONS**

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

REFERRAL MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky  
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the following motion titled “Governance of Facilities Asset Management and Capital Maintenance” be referred to the Committee Meeting on September 9, 2024 in order to hear from speakers, followed by debate and discussion.

WHEREAS

1. In accordance with the Vancouver Charter, the Park Board has exclusive jurisdiction and control over park land use in the City of Vancouver, including any events, activities, programs, fees, structures, and improvements that occur within designated parks;
2. Real Estate and Facilities Management completed a Partnership Agreement with the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, dated from October 2014;
3. The agreement provided service descriptions and service levels in this Partnership Agreement, which are measurable by the performance metrics jointly agreed upon and discussed;
4. These included Facilities Asset Management led by the REFM Facilities Planning Team, and Capital Maintenance will be prioritized and validated by REFM;
5. REFM Owned – Routine Maintenance Activities;
  - a. Buildings\*
    - i. Community Centres
    - ii. Arenas
    - iii. Pools
    - iv. Fieldhouses
    - v. Washrooms
    - vi. Concessions
    - vii. Golf Course Buildings of Service Yards
  - b. Marinas – Burrard and Heather
  - c. Utilities
6. REFM is responsible for all Base Building equipment and systems, Building interiors fall within the scope of work;
7. REFM acknowledges that Park Board Facilities are public-facing buildings that are highly utilized by the public and as such will be prioritized and maintained accordingly;
8. There is not a reporting requirement to the Board as part of the agreement, so would be a potential change in protocol between REFM and Park Board; and
9. From a governance perspective, the board would benefit from regular reporting on REFM and Capital maintenance and Capital funding for renewal and repair.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- 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.

**CARRIED**

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

*Opposed: Commissioners Howard and Viridi*

*Absent: Commissioner Haer*

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

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**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 September 9, 2024, as a Member's Motion.

- A. THAT 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.
- B. THAT the Park Board will work in partnership with the City of Vancouver to secure a new funding formula, improved facilities maintenance and operations management structure, and to reclassify the parks currently listed as "Temporary" to be redesignated as "Permanent" parks, to ensure the financial and operational independence of the elected Park board and to secure the parks and recreation system for the future.
- C. THAT the Park Board will work with First Nations, the City of Vancouver, Community Centre Associations, park partners, the Province, the Federal Government, and the public to achieve a modernized mandate based on

transparency, accountability and a commitment for excellent parks and recreation for the future.

- D. THAT the Park Board will continue the strong commitment to reconciliation and decolonization by working with First Nations for the stewardship and future preservation of Vancouver's green space, parks and recreation facilities;

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 9:28 pm.

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Steve Kellock  
Acting General Manager

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Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky  
Chair