



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, September 9, 2024, at 8:17 pm, in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office.

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Brennan Bastovanszky, Chair  
Commissioner Laura Christensen  
Commissioner Tom Digby  
Commissioner Angela Haer  
Commissioner Scott Jensen, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Jas Viridi

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard

**GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE:** Steve Jackson, General Manager  
Denise Swanston, Manager, Board Relations and Meeting Clerk  
Connie Law, Board Support and Meeting Assistant  
Victoria Tyers, Board Support and 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 Haer

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:

(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;

FURTHER 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(2) of the Vancouver Charter, to discuss matters related to paragraph:

(b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations between the city and a provincial government or the federal government or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government or both and a third party.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

### **1. Regular Board Meeting – July 22, 2024**

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of July 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 July 22, 2024:

- Chair Bastyovanszky and Commissioner Jensen attended the launch of the Vancouver Open tournament at Langara Golf Course
- Commissioner Jensen attended the Vancouver Open Fundraising Pro-Am at Fraserview Golf Course
- Commissioner Digby attended the media event to launch the Adopt-A-Tree Program
- Chair Bastyovanszky attended the Behind-the-Scenes Barge Tour for the Honda Celebration of Light
- Chair Bastyovanszky attended the Vancouver Pride Parade with Commissioners Christensen, Digby, and Jensen
- Chair Bastyovanszky participated in the Vancouver International Pride Tennis Tournament
- Chair Bastyovanszky attended the Vancouver Canadians Pride Baseball Game.

- Chair Bastyovanszky met with volunteers from the Stanley Park Ecological Society to learn about the Stanley Park Community Garden
- Chair Bastyovanszky and Commissioner Jensen attended KitsFest 2024
- Chair Bastyovanszky and Commissioner Digby attended the opening event for the Kitsilano Pool
- Chair Bastyovanszky attended the staff-led tour of the newly opened Off Leash Area at Coopers' Park with Commissioners Christensen and Jensen
- Commissioner Digby attended the Thunderbird Community Centre Association monthly meeting on July 23
- Commissioner Digby attended the Closing Night Ceremony of the Kitsilano Showboat
- Commissioner Digby visited Jericho Beach Park and observed the progress in the removal of invasive plants
- Commissioner Digby attended a Poetry in the Park workshop at Emery Barnes Park
- Commissioner Digby joined members of the Kerrisdale Community Centre Society board in the tabling event
- Commissioner Digby gained a new perspective on the precarious health of Lost Lagoon
- Chair Bastyovanszky and Commissioner Digby attended the Car Fee Day event.
- Chair Bastyovanszky and Commissioner Christensen attended the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Renfrew Park Community Centre with City Councillors and CCA members
- Chair Bastyovanszky attended the Battle of Britain Ceremonial Parade in Stanley Park
- Chair Bastyovanszky attended Kerrisdale Days hosted by the Kerrisdale Community Centre Association

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

No communication related to the meeting agenda was received.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **1. Report of the Board Committee – September 9, 2024**

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

1. Governance of Facilities Asset Management and Capital Maintenance

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 September 9, 2024, as contained in item 1.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **STAFF REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. “Think Big” Revenue Strategy – Year 1 Update**

The Director of Strategic Operations and Board Relations introduced the item, and the Project Manager presented / provided an update on the status of the first year of the “Think Big” Revenue Strategy.

Following the presentation, staff responded to questions related to:

- Revenue analysis
- Public feedback
- Budget and funding
- Sponsorship and naming rights

### **2. General Manager’s Report**

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

- Hastings Community Association 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – On July 7, Hastings Community Association celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The event hosted over 200 community members and features performances, program demonstrations, food trucks, carnival games, and more.
- Youth Services – Camp Sasamat – Community Youth Workers and support staff from various community centres took over 60 youth to Camp Sasamat for an overnight camp experience. Youth participated in various activities, including kayaking, canoeing, a high ropes course, art, games, and a talent show.
- Board briefing [memos and emails](#) issued from July 22, 2024, to September 9, 2024.

## MEMBERS' MOTIONS

### 1. Revitalizing the Park Board

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

#### WHEREAS

1. The residents of Vancouver have had a democratically elected Park Board for 134 years since 1890;
2. The decision to create an elected Park Board recognizes the special value placed on parks by Vancouver residents;
3. The elected Park Board is a unique public institution that provides Vancouver residents with a degree of public access and input in the future direction of park and recreational services, while providing protection for greenspaces against the pressures of development put on the City Council;
4. The Park Board looks after 250 public parks and beaches, VanDusen Botanical Garden, Bloedel Conservatory and a large public recreation system of community centres, pools, rinks, fitness centres, golf courses, street trees, marinas, sports fields, and playgrounds;
5. The Park Board mission is to provide, preserve, and advocate for parks and recreation services to benefit all people, communities, and the environment;
6. Situated on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish Nation, the *xʷməθkʷəy̓əm* (Musqueam), *sk̓wx̓wú7mesh* (Squamish) and *səlilwətał* (Tsleil-Waututh), the Park Board recognize the institution's colonial history and upholds a strong commitment to reconciliation and decolonization through greenspaces;
7. The Park Board budget is subject to approval by Council, and since 2009 the Park Board budget was drastically reduced without subsequent adequate adjustments for increasing costs for operations and capital improvements;
8. The City removed the Park Board's specialized, efficient, and effective maintenance operations and merged the facilities management in 2011-2012 with the City's Real Estate & Facilities Management Department (REFM) that has resulted in major deferred maintenance deficit of Park Board facilities;
9. A majority of the present City Council is proposing to abolish the elected Park Board without explaining to residents of Vancouver why this is necessary or what will replace it;
10. The majority of Park Board has voted in opposition to the City Council request to the Province of British Columbia to amend the Vancouver Charter to eliminate the Park Board; and

11. The Park Board recognizes the need to revitalize its public mandate to address the growing and evolving needs of the community it serves; and is committed to working with its park partners, Community Centre Associations, Indigenous peoples and the public to modernize current governance structures, finances, and services to meet the recreational needs and expectations of the community and create resilience in the face of future challenges such as climate change.

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

- A. 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. 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. 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; and
- D. 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;
- E. 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.

**Motion to Refer**

REFERRAL MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky  
SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT the motion entitled "Revitalizing the Park Board" be referred to the Committee meeting on September 23, 2024, to hear from speakers, followed by debate and decision.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

### **1. Code of Conduct Policy Amendments**

Commissioner Christensen submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of October 7, 2024, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to report back by the end of 2024 with proposed Code of Conduct Policy amendments that address the recommendations made by the Integrity Commissioner, including, but not limited to:

- i. Reporting in the annual report when a Park Board Commissioner fails to attend Integrity Commissioner orientation training or education sessions;
- ii. Part 1 to state the Standards and Values are principles intended to inform the interpretation of the provisions in the Code of Conduct By-law and the role of Park Board Commissioners and Advisory Committee Members;
- iii. Allow for notices of outcome to be provided to those whose complaints have been rejected due to the operation of section 5.8 of the Code of Conduct Policy (which states that the Integrity Commissioner must not accept multiple complaints of the same matter); and
- iv. Additional sanction provisions for reduction in remuneration and/or restriction from holding roles that enhance remuneration when a breach of Code of Conduct Policy is found.

### **2. Preservation and Protection of the Green Space at the Corner of Gore and Union**

Commissioner Digby submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of September 23, 2024, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Board hereby declares interest and intent to preserve the green space at the northeast corner of Gore/Union, initially under care and custody of the Park Board, and eventually as a permanent park.
- B. THAT the Board directs staff to report back by Q2 2025 on costs and options for the Park Board to acquire care and custody of the green space at the corner of Gore/Union to maintain it as public green space; and
- C. THAT a copy of this motion shall be sent promptly to the Mayor and Council for them to arrange ways and mean to give effect to this interest and intent.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. Independent Legal Advice regarding proposed Park Board Governance Transition**

Elliot Holzman of Martland Saulnier, the lawyer retained by the Board pursuant to the February 5, 2024 motion titled "[Independent Legal Advice for Judicial Review of Mayor's Motion](#)", presented their legal opinion regarding potential constitutional challenges that could arise from a decision by the Province to abolish the elected Park Board prior to the 2026 municipal election. Subsequently, Elliot responded to questions from the Board.

## **ENQUIRIES**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 9:48 pm.

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Steve Jackson  
General Manager

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Commissioner Brennan Bastovanszky  
Chair