



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**FEBRUARY 25, 2025**

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 9:03 pm, in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference.

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Angela Haer  
Commissioner Scott Jensen,  
Commissioner Jas Virdi

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Laura Christensen, Chair (leave of absence)  
Commissioner Tom Digby  
Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard

**GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE:** Steve Jackson, General Manager  
Jessica Kulchyski, Manager, Board Relations  
Carol Lee, Meeting Clerk  
Victoria Tyers, 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 Jensen  
SECONDED by Commissioner Virdi

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;

- (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 – February 3, 2025**

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen  
SECONDED by Commissioner Viridi

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of February 3, 2025, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair highlighted the participation of Commissioners at Park Board events since the previous Board meeting on February 3, 2025:

- Commissioner Bastyovanszky attended meetings with the Vancouver Skateboard Coalition, False Creek Community Centre Association (CCA) Vancouver Field Sports Federation and 2SLGBT+ Advisory Committee in his role as liaison
- Commissioner Digby attended meetings of the Britannia Community Services Society, Dunbar CCA, Mount Pleasant CCA and West Point Grey CCA and Annual General Meeting (AGM) in his role as liaison
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky visited the Vancouver Aquatic Centre and met with the local community about the proposed facility changes
- Commissioners attended the Opening Ceremony for the Invictus Games
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky attended the cauldron lighting for the Invictus Games
- Commissioners Bastyovanszky and Jensen attended the Invictus Games wheelchair rugby final
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky met Rick Hansen, who expressed appreciation for making Vancouver parks inclusive and accessible
- Commissioners Bastyovanszky and Digby attended the Vancouver Rugby SVNS game at BC Place.

## COMMUNICATIONS

There were 11 pieces of correspondence in support of the Members Motion titled “Support for Sustainable Transportation” received via email or the [Contact Park Board Commissioners](#) web form.

## BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

### 1. Report of the Board Committee – February 24, 2025

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

1. Memorial West Park – Statutory Right of Way
2. Vancouver Aquatic Centre Renewal – Recommended Program for Approval
3. Unsolicited Proposal Process – Report Back.

MOVED by Commissioner Viridi  
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Board Committee at its meeting of February 24, 2025, as contained in items 1 to 3.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## STAFF REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

### 1. VanPlay Update

The Director of Planning and Park Development and the Associate Director of Planning Policy and Environment introduced the item, and Planner III, Planning Policy and Environment presented an update on VanPlay.

### 2. General Manager’s Report

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

- Council Agenda Items:
  - Report for information titled “[Uplifting the Downtown Eastside and Building Inclusive Communities that Work for All Residents Motion: Progress Update](#)” on February 25, 2025
  - Report titled “[Contract Award for Construction Services for Permanent Plazas](#)” on February 26, 2025
- Board briefing [memos and emails](#) issued from February 3, 2025 to February 24, 2025.

## **Motion to Extend**

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen  
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT the meeting be extended until the business of the meeting is concluded.

CARRIED

*In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Haer, and Jensen*

*Opposed: Commissioner Viridi*

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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. Support for Sustainable Transportation**

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky  
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

WHEREAS:

1. Harbour Green Dock is next to Harbour Green Park at the foot of Bute Street. It's a floating walkway comprised of eight precast concrete floats anchored with steel mooring brackets around steel piles. Access to the floats is by two, 30-metre-long aluminium gangways. The dock was designed for boats shorter than 10.7-metres (35-feet) in length and weighing less than 6,800 kilograms.
2. The Harbour Green Dock was closed in February 2018 due to safety concerns. Boats that were too big and heavy for the dock's design had damaged it since opening to the public in 2003.
3. The dock's closure put an end to the commuter service between Bowen Island and Coal Harbour provided by Bowen Land and Sea Taxi since 2010.
4. The original plan for the waterfront neighbourhood always included small commuter ferries, supported by the Coal Harbour Residents Association, as outlined in the 1992 Coal Harbour Official Development Plan (ODP).
5. The [City of Vancouver's Transportation 2040 Plan](#) adopted by Council in 2012 recommends support to increase water-based transit on False Creek, Burrard Inlet and/or the Fraser River.

6. In a [2019 Report from Park Board Staff](#), it was expected that “revenues generated from limited commuter ferry services could be used to subsidize ongoing recreational usage. With regular ferry operations on-site, there is also an opportunity for recreational usage (that) could be regulated without much additional overhead.”
7. The [2020 report back](#) recommended that a new dock and amenities would need to be built to accommodate commercial vessels.
8. [The Mayor’s Council of BC has been working to](#) reduce congestion across the Metro Vancouver area for many years, exploring ways to get cars off the road with financially sustainable transportation options.
9. [City of Vancouver identified](#) that nearly 40% of carbon pollution in Vancouver comes from burning gas and diesel in our vehicles. Reducing our emissions means:
  - i. Making transit and active transportation the easiest and safest choice
  - ii. Using zero emission vehicles when we do need to drive
10. The [Canadian government](#) will invest up to \$903 million in B.C. for Green Infrastructure funding for community projects that reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
11. A collaborative regional approach is needed to address traffic congestion and transportation resilience in the Sea to Sky region, West Vancouver, North Vancouver, and City of Vancouver.
12. The area surrounding Harbour Green Dock is not ideal for swimming, due to its proximity sandwiched between the marina and the active airport.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to report back on the next steps for a change of use at the Harbour Green Dock, from the [2019 Motion Harbour Green Dock - Proposed Change of Use](#).
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board directs staff to collaborate with regional municipal governments, including the City of Vancouver, the Province, and commercial partners to evaluate potential opportunities for sustainable transportation options that may leverage Park Board assets, that is mutually beneficial to the parks and recreation community.
- C. THAT staff be open to potential partners for funding the required facility upgrades at Harbour Green to facilitate commercial operations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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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. "Think Local": Prioritizing Canadian Goods for Park Board Facilities**

Commissioner Virdi submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of March 10, 2025, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation directs staff to review current procurement procedures, contracts, vendors, capital projects, and trade agreement implications, and to report back as soon as possible on the potential benefits and opportunities of purchasing and utilizing Canadian-made goods in all Park Board operations. This should be done whenever feasible and cost-effective, including areas such as infrastructure materials, equipment, and maintenance supplies, with the aim of supporting the Canadian economy.
- B. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation directs staff to review current practices and provide recommendations on enhancing sourcing from Canadian producers, with an emphasis on Canadian alcohol and locally sourced food for all food and beverage products sold or served at Park Board facilities, including concessions, community centres, restaurants, and event spaces.
- C. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation directs staff to work with the City of Vancouver, and where applicable, provincial and federal governments, to review and update policies, where feasible, in alignment with the City's focus on prioritizing Canadian-made goods and the team Canada approach, ensuring alignment with local, provincial, and national priorities to enhance Canada's resilience, which may include coordinating with the City and reviewing existing contracts as needed.
- D. THAT staff collaborate and engage with local suppliers and businesses to support the shift to Canadian-made goods and create opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises to take part in the procurement process.

### **2. HI Hostel Group at Jericho Beach**

Commissioner Jensen submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of March 10, 2025, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT staff be directed to work with the HI Hostel Group to finalize the terms of the Operating Agreement and any necessary agreements related to the proposed capital improvements;
- B. THAT a report back to the Board be provided in-camera by April 2025 on the progress of the lease renewal and capital investment in the facility.

## **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 Bastyovanszky  
Vice-Chair