



## BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 24 AND 25, 2025

A Committee meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 6:37 pm, in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference. Subsequently, the meeting recessed and reconvened on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 6:37 pm.

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Commissioner Scott Jensen, Chair Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky Commissioner Tom Digby, Vice-Chair* Commissioner Angela Haer* Commissioner Jas Viridi
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Commissioner Laura Christensen (leave of absence) Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard
<b>GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE:</b>	Steve Jackson, General Manager Jessica Kulchyski, Board Support and Meeting Assistant 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 territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

### Point of Order

Commissioner Digby raised three Points of Order:

1. Staff be requested to engage separately with Commissioner Digby, in the absence of the six impugned Commissioners, to discuss the substantial breach of Open Government rules, described by CI as an "organized voting bloc" to identify any remedies and procedures that may be recommended to the Board for past conduct or for future decisions;
2. Staff will not be requested to investigate any public law issues regarding the validity of decisions made by this Board regarding the removal of the Stanley Park Bike Lane and the approval of elimination of the Moberly Park grass field in favour of a synthetic turf field hockey facility; and
3. Requests the Clerk to ask the Commissioners present, individually, to indicate if they have any reason to believe that their upcoming vote today on the Vancouver Aquatic Centre has been coerced, or decided in advance, or if they face any threats or inducement by any backroom political force regarding the vote they will be making later tonight, and if so, to demand such Commissioner be removed from that part of the meeting.

Following discussion, Commissioner Digby withdrew his objections.

### **Motion to Suspend the Rules**

MOVED by Commissioner Haer  
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the Vancouver Park Board suspend the rules to reduce the length of time permitted for speakers from five minutes to three minutes.

CARRIED

*In Favour: Commissioners Digby, Haer, and Jensen*

*Opposed: Commissioner Viridi*

*Abstained: Commissioner Bastyovanszky*

### **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

#### **1. Board Committee Meeting – February 3, 2025**

MOVED by Commissioner Haer  
SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Bastyovanszky noted that February 26, 2025, is Pink Shirt Day, also known as Anti-Bullying Day.

Commissioner Digby reported that TransLink is conducting an online survey regarding a potential bus loop in Stanley Park.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

The following communications related to the Vancouver Aquatic Centre Renewal – Recommended Program were received via email or the [Contact Park Board Commissioners](#) web form:

- Two in support
- 135 opposed
- Three provided other comments
- [Change.org petition](#) with 11,383 signatures in opposition to the staff recommendation

## **MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT**

### **1. Item 1 – Memorial Park West – Statutory Right-of-Way**

MOVED by Commissioner Bastovanszky  
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT Item 1 be approved on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **1. Memorial Park West – Statutory Right of Way**

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Board approves the new sub-surface sewerage infrastructure in Memorial Park, as described in the report titled “Memorial West Park – Statutory Right of Way Change”, dated February 13, 2025; and
- B. FURTHER THAT the Board authorize the modification or replacement of the existing right of way agreement, as required for the development and operations of the new sewerage infrastructure in form and content satisfactory to the Park Board General Manager, City Engineer and Director of Legal Services.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

### **Motion to Extend**

MOVED by Commissioner Digby  
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the meeting be extended until 11:00 pm to hear from as many speakers as possible.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **2. Vancouver Aquatic Centre Renewal – Recommended Program for Approval**

The General Manager and Director of Strategic Operations and Board Relations introduced the item and the Planner III, Strategic Initiatives, along with the Director of Facilities Planning and Development and the Director of Recreation Services presented an update on the Vancouver Aquatic Center (VAC) renewal.

Following the presentation, consultants and staff responded to questions related to:

- The seismic risk and safety concerns associated with the current VAC
- Funding

- Site support of a 50-meter lap pool
- Zoning limitations
- Park Board rezoning applications
- Facility requirements to host swim competitions.

### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 8:06 pm and reconvened at 8:18 pm.

The Committee heard from 40 speakers who were in opposition to the recommendations and one who spoke in support of the recommendation if the VAC is reconstructed on the current site.

### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 10:57 pm and reconvened on February 25, 2025 at 6:07 pm.

The Committee heard from three speakers in support of the recommendations, 10 speakers in opposition to the recommendations and one who spoke to other aspects of the recommendations.

Subsequently it was,

### **Main Moton**

MOVED by Commissioner Bastovanszky  
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the recommended Vancouver Aquatic Centre (VAC) renewal program, as described in the report which includes a 25-metre lap pool, leisure pool, large hot pool, dive towers and other aquatic and recreation amenities.
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to proceed with detailed design work of the VAC Renewal, in collaboration with City staff.
- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve a Capital Plan reallocation of \$9,000,000 from the West End Waterfront Parks Phase 1 Implementation Project to fund the VAC renewal project.

### **Amendment to the Main Motion**

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

SECONDED by Commissioner Viridi

THAT Items B and C be deleted and Item A be amended as follows:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the recommended Vancouver Aquatic Centre (VAC) renewal program as described in this report, except includes a 50-meter training pool, large hot pool, dive towers, and other aquatic and recreation amenities, and for the leisure pool expansion to remain as part of Phase 2 of the renewal program, consistent with VanSplash, for the Capital Plan 2026-2030, and report back with related program details for Vancouver Park Board approval.

### **Amendment to the Amendment**

MOVED by Commissioner Viridi

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT Item A be amended as follows:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the recommended Vancouver Aquatic Centre (VAC) renewal program as described in this report, except includes a 50-meter training pool to ensure compliance with the BC and Federal Accessibility Acts and the Rick Hansen Gold Standard, large hot pool, dive towers, and other aquatic and recreation amenities, and for the leisure pool expansion to remain as part of Phase 2 of the renewal program, consistent with VanSplash, for the Capital Plan 2026-2030, and report back with related program details for Vancouver Park Board approval.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Amendment to the Amendment**

MOVED by Commissioner Viridi

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT Item A be amended as follows:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the recommended Vancouver Aquatic Centre (VAC) renewal program as described in this report, except includes a 50-meter training pool to ensure compliance with the BC and Federal Accessibility Acts and the Rick Hansen Gold Standard, large hot pool, dive towers, and other aquatic and recreation amenities, and for the leisure pool expansion to remain as part of Phase 2 of the renewal program, consistent with VanSplash, for the Capital

Plan 2026-2030, and report back within one month with related program details for Vancouver Park Board approval.

CARRIED

*In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Digby, Haer, and Viridi*

*Opposed: Commissioner Jensen*

**Question on the Amendment, as Amended**

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the recommended Vancouver Aquatic Centre (VAC) renewal program as described in this report, except includes a 50 meter training pool to ensure compliance with the BC and Federal Accessibility Acts and the Rick Hansen Gold Standard, large hot pool, dive towers, and other aquatic and recreation amenities, and for the leisure pool expansion to remain as part of Phase 2 of the renewal program, consistent with VanSplash, for the Capital Plan 2026-2030, and report back within one month with related program details for Vancouver Park Board approval.

CARRIED / DEFEATED

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

*Opposed: Commissioners Digby and Jensen*

**Question on the Main Motion, as Amended**

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the recommended Vancouver Aquatic Centre (VAC) renewal program as described in this report, except includes a 50 meter training pool to ensure compliance with the BC and Federal Accessibility Acts and the Rick Hansen Gold Standard, large hot pool, dive towers, and other aquatic and recreation amenities, and for the leisure pool expansion to remain as part of Phase 2 of the renewal program, consistent with VanSplash, for the Capital Plan 2026-2030, and report back within one month with related program details for Vancouver Park Board approval.

CARRIED

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

*Opposed: Commissioners Digby and Jensen*

**Recess**

The meeting recessed at 8:20 pm and reconvened at 8:33 pm.

**3. Unsolicited Proposal Process – Report Back**

The Director of Strategic Operations and Board Relations introduced the item, and the Project Manager II presented an update on the unsolicited proposal process.

Subsequently it was,

MOVED by Commissioner Viridi  
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the extension of the Unsolicited Proposal Process pilot, attached in Appendix A of the report titled "Unsolicited Proposal Process – Report Back", dated February 12, 2025, until the end of Q1 2026, with enhancements of the process detailed in Appendix B of the report.
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to implement the process enhancements detailed in Appendix B of the report.
- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to continue monitoring the Unsolicited Proposal Process and report back to the Board on its performance through the Service Plan report. Additionally, the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to recommend next steps in Q2 2026.
- D. THAT the General Manager, Parks and Recreation be authorized to make administrative amendments and modifications of the Unsolicited Proposal Process as are considered appropriate from time to time.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

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Steve Jackson  
General Manager

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Commissioner Scott Jensen  
Chair