



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.

PRESENT:	Commissioner Scott Jensen, Chair Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky Commissioner Tom Digby, Vice-Chair* Commissioner Angela Haer* Commissioner Jas Viridi
ABSENT:	Commissioner Laura Christensen (leave of absence) Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard
GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE:	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 Bastyovanszky
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

Commissioner Scott Jensen
Chair



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

Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky
Vice-Chair