



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 10, 2025

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 7:59 pm, in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference.

PRESENT: Commissioner Laura Christensen, Chair
Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Tom Digby
Commissioner Angela Haer
Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard
Commissioner Scott Jensen
Commissioner Jas Virdi

GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE: Steve Jackson, General Manager
Jessica Kulchyski, Manager, Executive Office and 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 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;

- (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 25, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of February 25, 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 25, 2025:

- Commissioner Jensen attended the Vancouver Food Policy Council meeting in his role as liaison
- Commissioner Jensen visited the Off Leash Dog Area at Cooper's Park
- Chair Christensen attended the Association President's Group (APG) meeting in her role as liaison.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications of note related to the Regular Board meeting agenda items.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Board Committee – March 10, 2025

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

1. Enhanced Accessibility on Seawall Cycling Path – Report Back
2. Park Board Flag and Illumination Policy.

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Board Committee at its meeting of March 10, 2025, as contained in items 1 and 2.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Leisure Access Program Expansion Pilot – Interim Update

The Director of Recreation introduced the item and the Supervisor, Recreation Services, presented an update on the Leisure Access Program expansion pilot project.

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

- The eligibility of newcomers to Canada to participate in the Leisure Access Program
- Whether the Park Board is, or would consider, partnering with agencies that represent under-privileged youth or who would provide financial assistance

2. General Manager’s Report

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

- On March 5, 2025, nine Park Board employees were recognized at the 25 Years of Service Award Ceremony
- Council agenda items related to, or impacting, parks and recreation:
 - Report titled “[2025 Community Services and Other Social Grants](#)” on March 11, 2025
 - Report titled “[Annual Federation of Canadian Municipalities \(FCM\), Union of British Columbia Municipalities \(UBCM\), and Lower Mainland Local Government Association \(LMLGA\) Membership Fees for 2025-2026](#)” on March 11, 2025
 - Report titled “[2024 Q4 Quarterly Capital Budget Adjustments and Closeouts](#)” on March 12, 2025
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from February 25 to March 10, 2025.

MEMBERS’ MOTIONS

1. “Think Local” Prioritizing Canadian Goods for Vancouver Park Board Facilities

Commissioner Virdi introduced the motion and responded to questions from the Board.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Viridi
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

WHEREAS:

1. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is dedicated to fostering local economic growth while upholding sustainable and ethical procurement practices;
2. The U.S. government, led by President Donald Trump, has threatened to implement tariffs on Canadian goods, adversely affecting Canadian industries, workers, and businesses;
3. The City of Vancouver is taking steps to align its procurement policies to prioritize Canadian goods in response to these potential tariffs;
4. Supporting Canadian-made products and locally sourced food and beverages strengthens the local economy, supports job creation, and ensures greater economic resilience;
5. Park Board facilities, including concessions, restaurants, community centres and event spaces, serve a high volume of food and beverages. This is an opportunity for us to showcase and support Canadian producers. Let's "think local".

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 and report back within three months.
- 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.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT Item C be amended to read:

- 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 policies, 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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

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 and report back within three months.
- 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 policies, 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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. HI Hostel Group at Jericho Beach

Commissioner Jensen introduced the motion and responded to questions from the Board.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

WHEREAS:

1. The HI Hostel Group has been a valued partner of the Vancouver Park Board since 1971, providing quality accommodation for travelers and contributing to Vancouver's vibrant tourism sector;
2. The Jericho Beach location is a unique and important asset, offering affordable lodging options to visitors from around the world and providing a positive economic impact on the local community and the broader region;
3. The HI Hostel Group has expressed a commitment to reinvesting in the facility to maintain its quality standards and improve visitor experience, including an investment of up to \$250,000 toward cafe upgrades; and
4. The renewal of the lease agreement will ensure the continuation of this long-standing partnership.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. 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. 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.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Virdi
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT Item A be amended to read:

- A. Staff be directed to work with the HI Hostel Group to discuss the terms of the Operating Agreement and any necessary agreements related to the proposed capital improvements.

CARRIED

In Favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Haer, Jensen, Virdi
Abstained: Commissioner Howard

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. Staff be directed to work with the HI Hostel Group to discuss the terms of the Operating Agreement and any necessary agreements related to the proposed capital improvements.
- B. 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.

CARRIED

In Favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Haer, Jensen, Virdi
Abstained: Commissioner Howard

NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Synthetic Turf Field and Lighting at Kitsilano Secondary School

Commissioner Bastyovanszky submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of March 31, 2025, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. The Vancouver Park Board directs staff to assume responsibility for the maintenance and renewal of the Kitsilano Secondary School synthetic turf field, in line with existing Joint Use Agreements with VSB for both school and community use, with renewal funding prioritized in the 2027-2031 Capital Plan;
- B. THAT Park Board staff finalize the Joint Use Agreement with VSB with the commitment from the Park Board for maintenance and renewal; and

- C. THAT the installation of field lighting at the Kitsilano Secondary School synthetic turf field be completed by November 2025.

ENQUIRIES

Commissioner Jensen requested that staff present a revised plan for the detoured route between Creekside Community Centre and Science World that redirects pedestrian and cycling traffic off Quebec Street and onto the park space immediately west of Terminal Avenue.

Commissioner Jensen questioned whether an alternative location been found for the summer 2025 False Creek Farmers Market.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 9:06 pm.

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Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Laura Christensen
Chair