



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**MARCH 31, 2025**

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, March 31, 2025, at 10:12 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

### 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 Bastyovanszky

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 – March 10, 2025**

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of March 10, 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 March 10, 2025:

- Commissioner Jensen attended the Children Youth and Family Advisory Committee meeting in his role as liaison
- Commissioner Jensen renewed his OneCard at Creekside Community Centre
- Commissioner Digby attended meetings with various Community Centre Associations (CCAs) and Advisory Committees in his role as liaison
- Commissioner Jensen visited the soon to be completed park at Main Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which is expected to be open to the public in fall 2025
- Chair Christensen attended meetings with Killarney CCA, Renfrew CCA and Trout Lake CCA in her role as liaison
- Commissioner Jensen visited and played at Langara Golf Course with lacrosse Hall-of-Famer Russ Heard
- Commissioner Bastiovanszky attended the TREK presentation by Dr. David Suzuki, who presented on the Human Impact on the Environment and Interconnectedness with Nature
- Chair Christensen and Commissioners Bastiovanszky and Jensen spent the afternoon at Batch, exploring the new food and beverage being offered through one of our community partners
- Commissioners Bastiovanszky and Jensen attended a memorial reception to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen's passing
- Commissioners Bastiovanszky and Jensen attended the Slocan Park Youth Hub Renewal Pop-Up
- Commissioners Bastiovanszky and Jensen visited Trout Lake to see the diamond and rugby field renewal projects
- Chair Christensen spoke at the Big Picnic at David Lam Park.

## **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 31, 2025**

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

1. Vancouver Aquatic Centre Renewal – Report Back.

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Board Committee at its meeting of March 31, 2025, as contained in item 1.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **1. General Manager's Report**

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

- Launch of second round of engagement on the Burrard Slopes Park
- March 6, 2025 Indigenous Info Night at Sunrise Hall
- Reconciliation training for the Leadership Team and staff
- Council agenda items related to, or impacting, parks and recreation:
  - Presentation on April 2, 2025, titled "Vancouver Fire Rescue Wildlife Risk Report"
  - Council to enact a By-law Amendment on April 9, 2025, titled "[A By-law to amend the Code of Conduct By-law No. 12886 regarding independent reviews](#)"
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from March 10 to 31, 2025.

During discussion, the Board requested the opportunity to receive in the reconciliation training,

## **MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

### **1. Synthetic Turf Field and Lighting at Kitsilano Secondary School**

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

MOVED by Commissioner Bastiovanszky  
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

WHEREAS:

1. The [Sport Field Strategy](#) approved on June 10, 2024 highlights that installing field lights for community use of the synthetic turf field at Kitsilano Secondary School, would increase the system's capacity, by over 1800 prime time hours, creating an opportunity of generating \$100K of Park Board revenue each year that can offset the ongoing cost of maintenance and renewal;
2. The Vancouver Park Board and the Vancouver School Board (VSB) have established joint-use agreements; in July 2002, the Board approved the Playing Field Renewal Plan that initiated the development of new and renewed synthetic turf fields at Vancouver Technical Secondary School, Eric Hamber Secondary School/Oak Meadows Park, Point Grey Secondary School/Kerrisdale Park which has been [managed under such an agreement since 2006](#);
3. The synthetic turf field at Kitsilano Secondary School was constructed in 2016 by the VSB for school use and conversations have been underway since then about [joint use agreements](#) with Park Board for community use of the turf field at Kitsilano Secondary School;
4. On April 9, 2019, the [Board approved the installation of outdoor lighting](#) at Kitsilano Secondary School's synthetic turf field, contingent upon securing a shared-use agreement with the VSB;
5. In [December 2022, as part of the 2023 Service Plan, Operating, and Capital Budgets](#), the Board prioritized the installation of sports field lights at Kitsilano Secondary School allocating \$1.2 million for the project with an initial completion target of November 2023;
6. In April 2024, the [Park Board initiated detailed designs](#) for the lighting projects at Kitsilano Secondary School targeting construction completion in the third quarter of 2024. A Joint Use License with the VSB was expected to be finalized by spring 2024;
7. A memo to the Board dated February 28, 2025, indicated that staff require a commitment from Park Board for the future replacement of the synthetic turf field at Kitsilano Secondary School in order to proceed with finalizing the Joint Use Agreement with the VSB; and the field's anticipated replacement timeline within the next three to five years;
8. The Park Board has received significant community interest in increasing prime-time, lit multi-sport turf field capacity, aligning with the Board's recent investments in sports field permitting and safe sports initiatives; and
9. Ensuring the ongoing maintenance of the synthetic turf field and guaranteeing its accessibility for permitted community use remains in the best interest of the community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The Board approves the Park Board negotiating and entering into an agreement with the Vancouver School Board with respect to the joint use and operation of the synthetic turf field at the Kitsilano Secondary School:
  - i. With provisions regarding the maintenance of the synthetic turf field by the Park Board;
  - ii. The installation of lighting equipment by the Park Board (with a target date of November, 2025); and
  - iii. The replacement of the current synthetic turf field, with a new synthetic turf field, by the Park Board,all in a form of agreement satisfactory to the City's Director of Legal Services and the General Manager of Parks and Recreation, subject to the following occurring prior to the execution of such agreement;
- B. FURTHER THAT the final agreement be subject to approval by the City's Director of Legal Services and the General Manager of Parks and Recreation, and contingent upon:
  - i. City Council, under Section 488(3) of the Vancouver Charter, confirming that the licensed lands will be under the Park Board's jurisdiction for the duration of the agreement; and
  - ii. City Council approving, under Section 492 and/or Section 493 of the Vancouver Charter, any necessary expenditures associated with the agreement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

**1. Think Aquatics**

Commissioner Virdi submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of April 14, 2025, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation initiate a comprehensive public engagement process to assess community interest, gather feedback, and explore the feasibility of installing an indoor or outdoor pool at the Sunset Community Centre;
- B. THAT this public engagement process include:
  - i. A review of the historical context regarding the removal of the original outdoor pool and any past commitments made concerning its replacement;

- ii. Consideration of the current and future aquatic needs of the Sunset neighbourhood, especially in light of the Langara Family YMCA redevelopment plans that do not include a replacement aquatic centre;
  - iii. Collaboration with local residents, community groups, Sunset Community Centre, Langara College and other stakeholders to ensure diverse perspectives are considered in the planning process;
  - iv. Consideration of the broader aquatics community and the existing gaps in the park board's facility inventory, with particular attention to the implications of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre renewal decision. This engagement should assess the need for a 50-meter competition pool versus a leisure pool and other aquatic amenities, ensuring that public input helps balance community preferences with the city's requirements to meet both competitive swimming and broader recreational needs.
  - v. Exploration of potential federal funding opportunities, in light of Minister Taleeb Noormohamed's commitment to support this initiative;
- C. THAT the findings from this public engagement process be compiled into a report and presented to the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation for consideration and potential action regarding the installation of a pool at the Sunset Community Centre.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### 1. Travel Approval for BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) 2025 Symposium

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen  
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Vancouver Park Board approve the attendance of Commissioners Christensen, Haer and Jensen at the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) 2025 Symposium in Whistler from May 6 to 8, 2025, for the total estimated cost of \$7,428.65.

CARRIED

*In Favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky*

*Opposed: Commissioners Digby, Howard, Virdi*

*Abstained: Commissioners Christensen, Haer, Jensen*

### 2. Request for Leave of Absence

MOVED by Commissioner Digby  
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT Commissioner Digby be granted a leave of absence from the meeting on April 28, 2025.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **3. Waiving 2025 Park Board Fees for Vaisakhi Parade**

MOVED by Commissioner Haer

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

#### **WHEREAS**

1. The Vaisakhi Parade is a significant cultural and community event for Vancouver's residents and visitors;
2. The Vaisakhi Parade is a non-profit event organized by the Khalsa Diwan Society, with limited funds; and
3. The Park Board has historically supported the Vaisakhi Parade by waiving fees for the event.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Vancouver Park Board:

- A. Direct staff to waive the 2025 Park Board Fees, for the Vaisakhi Parade;
- B. Instruct Park Board staff to prepare and send a letter, on behalf of the Chair, to the Khalsa Diwan Society and the Vaisakhi Parade organizers, notifying them of this decision.

#### **DEFEATED**

*In Favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Haer, Viridi,*

*Opposed: Commissioners Christensen, Digby, Jensen, Howard*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 10:59 pm.

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Steve Jackson  
General Manager

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Commissioner Laura Christensen  
Chair