



BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 31, 2025

A Committee meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, March 31, 2025, at 6:49 pm, in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference.

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

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 territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

Motion to Suspend the Rules

MOVED by Commissioner Haer
SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Board Committee Meeting – March 10, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Minutes of the Board Committee meeting on March 10, 2025, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Bastovovanszky advised that today is the annual International Transgender Day of Visibility and congratulated Commissioner Tom Digby who is a candidate in the April 28, 2025 general federal election.

Commissioner Digby reported that he has sent the report of the City of Vancouver Integrity Commissioner regarding a breach of the Code of Conduct to the BC Privacy Commissioner, requesting an investigation into the use of the Signal app which does not enable the retention of records in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA) by all municipal elected officials in BC.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

- One in support
- 34 opposed.

STAFF REPORTS

1. Vancouver Aquatic Centre Renewal – Report Back

The General Manager introduced the item. The Planner III, Strategic Initiatives, along with Ted Watson, Consultant, provided a presentation on the Vancouver Aquatic Center (VAC) renewal.

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

- The process to be followed to expand the existing footprint of the VAC
- Alternate swim facilities to be utilized during the construction of the VAC renewal
- Arrangements will be made for sports clubs who require the use of a 50 metre pool to utilize Hillcrest Community Centre
- The risks of keeping the VAC open in its current state.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 7:59 pm and reconvened at 8:01 pm.

The Committee heard from 17 speakers, of which two spoke in support of the recommendation and 15 spoke in opposition to the recommendation.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 9:04 pm and reconvened at 9:14 pm.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to proceed with the February 24 ,2025 recommended program, as presented in the report titled, [Vancouver Aquatic Centre Renewal – Recommended Program](#); and
- B. FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve a Capital Plan reallocation of \$7,600,000 from the West End Waterfront Parks Phase 1 Implementation Project.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

That Item A be replaced with Items A and B, as follows, and subsequent items be renumbered:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to submit a request to the Province to expand the footprint to accommodate a 50-metre pool;
- B. FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Park Board request to City Council for additional funding be secured to deliver an aquatic centre with a 50-metre training pool.

DEFEATED

In Favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Haer, Viridi

Opposed: Commissioners Christensen, Digby, Howard, Jensen

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

That Items C to E be added as follows:

- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board affirm its commitment to providing a 50 metre aquatic facility within Vancouver;
- D. THAT, as the 2019 VanSplash recommendations do not reflect current state, the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to update the “Recommendations for Service Delivery” section of VanSplash, including a 25-year vision, to reflect the current state of the Park Board aquatic inventory, studies to-date, and alignment with other strategies/plans, including the Community Centre Strategy renewal prioritization update; and

- E. FURTHER THAT this update shall include provision for a 50 metre pool within the next 10 years.

Amendment to the Amendment

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT Item E be replaced, as follows:

- E. FURTHER THAT should the Kitsilano Pool not require a capital plebiscite question, that Park Board request to Council that another aquatic center be on the ballot in its place.

DEFEATED

In Favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Haer

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

Amendment to the Amendment

MOVED by Commissioner Virdi
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT Item F be added, as follows:

- F. That the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to report back on the feasibility of adding a temporary pool basin to the VAC to accommodate swimmers displaced from the VAC during its renewal.

CARRIED

In Favour: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Virdi

Opposed: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Jensen

Abstained: Commissioners Christensen, Digby

Motion to Extend

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT the meeting be extended to the conclusion of the March 31, 2025 Board meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on the Amendment, as Amended

THAT Items C to F be added, as follows:

- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board affirm its commitment to providing a 50 metre aquatic facility within Vancouver;

- D. THAT, as the 2019 VanSplash recommendations do not reflect current state, the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to update the “Recommendations for Service Delivery” section of VanSplash, including a 25-year vision, to reflect the current state of the Park Board aquatic inventory, studies to-date, and alignment with other strategies/plans, including the Community Centre Strategy renewal prioritization update; and
- E. FURTHER THAT this update shall include provision for a 50 metre pool within the next 10 years.
- F. That the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to report back on the feasibility of adding a temporary pool basin to the VAC to accommodate swimmers displaced from the VAC during its renewal.

CARRIED

In Favour: Commissioners Christensen, Digby, Jensen, Viridi

Abstained: Commissioners Bastovanszky, Haer, Howard

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Digby

THAT Item D be replaced, as follows, and subsequent items be renumbered:

- D. That the foregoing be approved subject to City Council’s final decision on whether additional funds, to be quantified but estimated at between \$50 to \$100 million, can be made available to expand the facility footprint to include a 50 metre competition size pool, and to complete necessary archeological investigations, soil remediation, and provincial re-zoning requirements without putting at risk the target date to begin construction in Q4/2026.

The Chair ruled that the amendment was out of order.

Challenge to the Chair

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT the ruling of the Chair be sustained.

CARRIED

In Favour: Commissioners Bastovanszky, Christensen, Haer, Jensen, Viridi

Opposed: Commissioner Digby

Abstained: Commissioner Howard

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to proceed with the February 24 ,2025 recommended program, as presented in the report titled, [Vancouver Aquatic Centre Renewal – Recommended Program](#);
- B. FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve a Capital Plan reallocation of \$7,600,000 from the West End Waterfront Parks Phase 1 Implementation Project;
- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board affirm its commitment to providing a 50 metre aquatic facility within Vancouver;
- D. THAT, as the 2019 VanSplash recommendations do not reflect current state, the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to update the “Recommendations for Service Delivery” section of VanSplash, including a 25-year vision, to reflect the current state of the Park Board aquatic inventory, studies to-date, and alignment with other strategies/plans, including the Community Centre Strategy renewal prioritization update;
- E. FURTHER THAT this update shall include provision for a 50 metre pool within the next 10 years; and
- F. That the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to report back on the feasibility of adding a temporary pool basin to the VAC to accommodate swimmers displaced from the Vancouver Aquatic Centre during its renewal.

CARRIED

In Favour: Commissioners Christensen, Digby, Howard, Jensen, Virdi

Abstained: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Haer

The Committee meeting adjourned at 10:03 pm.

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Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Scott Jensen
Chair



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 Viridi

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 Tseil-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 7th 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 Bastyovanszky 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 Bastyovanszky and Jensen spent the afternoon at Batch, exploring the new food and beverage being offered through one of our community partners
- Commissioners Bastyovanszky and Jensen attended a memorial reception to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen's passing
- Commissioners Bastyovanszky and Jensen attended the Slovan Park Youth Hub Renewal Pop-Up
- Commissioners Bastyovanszky 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 Bastyovanszky
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 Bastovanszky, 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

Commissioner Laura Christensen
Chair