



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**APRIL 14, 2025**

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, April 14, 2025, at 10:29 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 Digby

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 31, 2025**

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of March 31, 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 31, 2025:

- Commissioner Jensen participated in the Medicine Game lacrosse tournament at Rogers Arena
- Commissioner Jensen visited Batch at Kitsilano to celebrate the start of Spring
- Commissioner Jensen visited the newly daylit First Creek at Tatlow and Volunteer Parks
- Chair Christensen and Commissioner Jensen attended the Childcare Council of Vancouver meeting
- Commissioner Jensen attended the Vancouver Food Policy Council meeting in his role as liaison
- Commissioner Digby attended meetings with Britannia Community Services Society and Dunbar Community Centre Association (CCA) in his role as liaison
- Commissioner Digby spoke at the Squamish Nation tree planting ceremony
- Chair Christensen and Commissioners Haer and Jensen and attended the Sakura Days Japan Fair at VanDusen Botanical Garden.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

One piece of correspondence with respect to the Member's Motion titled "Think Aquatics" was received via email or the [Contact Park Board Commissioners](#) web form between April 7, 2025 and 3:00 pm on April 14, 2025.

## **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **1. Report of the Board Committee – April 14, 2025**

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

1. Auditor General – Update and Comprehensive Fee Setting Framework
2. Park Board Parking Strategy
3. FIFA World Cup 26 Vancouver – Killarney Park Venue Specific Training Site – Site Works Contract Amendment Award.

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Board Committee at its meeting of April 14, 2025, as contained in items 1 through 3.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **STAFF REPORTS**

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

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

- Planned improvements to CRAB Park with completion of construction targeted in fall 2025
- Council agenda items related to, or impacting, parks and recreation:
  - Council to receive a report on April 15, 2025, titled "[Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants – Spring 2025 Intake](#)"
  - Council to receive a report on April 15, 2025, titled "[2025 Cultural Grants](#)"
  - Council to receive a report on April 15, 2025, titled "[Mobile Pump-out Service Provision and Aquatic Environments Action Plan Progress Update](#)"
  - Council to receive a report on April 15, 2025, titled "[2025 Local By-election Results](#)"
  - Council to receive a report on April 15, 2025, titled "[Jericho Lands Official Development Plan](#)"
  - Council to receive a report on April 16, 2025, titled "[Annual Procurement Report 2024](#)"
  - Council to receive a report on April 16, 2025, titled "[Effective Water Use in the City of Vancouver](#)"
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from March 31 to April 14, 2025.

## **MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

### **1. Think Aquatics**

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

#### **Main Motion**

MOVED by Commissioner Virdi

SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

#### **WHEREAS:**

1. The original Sunset Community Centre, established in 1950 at East 51st Avenue and Prince Edward Street, included an outdoor pool that served the community for several decades;
2. In October 2005, the Vancouver Park Board approved the construction of a new Community Centre on Main Street to replace the existing Community Centre on 51st Avenue and Prince Edward Street, leading to the decommissioning of the original community centre and its outdoor pool in 2007, with the new Sunset Community Centre opening at 6810 Main Street on December 17, 2007, without an aquatic facility;
3. The Langara Family YMCA, which closed in early 2021 for renovations, is undergoing redevelopment that will include a new community facility with residential towers, but the new plan does not include a replacement aquatic center;
4. The Vancouver Park Board's VanSplash Aquatics Strategy, approved on October 28, 2019, emphasizes a city-wide approach to planning future aquatic facilities to ensure equitable access for all residents, with a key recommendation to supplement existing facilities with smaller, new outdoor aquatic experiences co-located with new aquatic and community centres to increase geographic density of outdoor aquatic amenities;
5. The VanSplash strategy identifies the need for a mix of pool sizes and experiences, ensuring that qualitative experiences of pool users are reflected in the design of all future pools, regardless of their size;
6. The VanSplash Aquatics Strategy emphasizes the importance of balancing aquatic facilities across the city, while the redevelopment of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre highlighted the need to support both competitive swimming and diving, along with recreational pools, to maintain broad community access to all forms of swimming;
7. The Sunset neighbourhood has been historically underserved in terms of aquatic facilities, especially after the removal of the original outdoor pool, highlighting the need for improved aquatic amenities in this equity zone;
8. Member of Parliament Taleeb Noormohamed has committed to seeking federal funding to support the installation of a pool at the Sunset Community Centre.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 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; and
  - v. Exploration of potential federal funding opportunities, in light of Minister Taleeb Noormohamed's commitment to support this initiative; and
- 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.

**Motion to Refer**

MOVED by Commissioner Viridi  
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT the motion be referred to the Board Committee to hear from Speakers.

**DEFEATED**

*In favour: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Viridi*

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

**Point of Order**

Commissioner Viridi expressed the opinion that the requirement to take a vote on referring a motion to the Board Committee is discriminatory as a vote has not been required in the past.

The Chair noted the Commissioner's opinion and confirmed that it is necessary to vote on a motion to refer a matter to Committee to hear from speakers.

### **Question on the Main Motion**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 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; and
  - v. Exploration of potential federal funding opportunities, in light of Minister Taleeb Noormohamed's commitment to support this initiative; and
- 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.

**DEFEATED**

*In favour: Commissioner Haer*

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

*Absent: Commissioners Howard, Virdi*

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen  
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT the April 28, 2025 Board and Committee be cancelled to allow staff and Commissioners time to vote in the general federal election.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
*Absent: Commissioners Howard, Viridi*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 11:08 pm.

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Steve Jackson  
General Manager

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Commissioner Laura Christensen  
Chair