



BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MAY 12, 2025

A Committee meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, May 12, 2025, at 6:34 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 Jas Viridi *

ABSENT:

Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard

**GENERAL MANAGER'S
OFFICE:**

Steve Jackson, General Manager
Jessica Kulchyski, Manager, Executive Office and Board Relations
Carol Lee, Meeting Clerk
Donna Becker, 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.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Board Committee Meeting – April 14, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Digby

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Minutes of the Board Committee meeting on April 14, 2025, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Bastyovanszky noted:

- May 17th is the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOTB)
- Trout Lake Little League baseball diamonds have been opened for use.

Commissioner Virdi acknowledged the City of Vancouver's official apology for its role in the Komagata Maru incident, formally recognizing the discrimination faced by the passengers of the Guru Nanak Jahaz (formerly Komagata Maru) in 1914.

Commissioner Virdi requested the observance of a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the mass casualty event that occurred at the Lapu Lapu Festival.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

STAFF REPORTS

1. Urban Forestry Strategy – 2025 Update

The Director, Park Services, introduced the item. The Project Manager II, Urban Forestry, along with Planner I, Urban Forestry, provided an update on the Urban Forestry Strategy.

Following the presentation, staff responded to questions related to:

- Plans to address the inequity in canopy cover in specific areas of the City
- Whether Stanley Park should be designated a National Urban Park
- Proposed amendments to the Protection of Trees By-Law will include provisions to encourage or identify opportunities to plant trees on private land
- Opportunities to expedite the program of planting and stewarding trees by involving residents
- Collaboration between the City's Engineering Department and the Park Board's Urban Forestry staff:
 - Includes joint annual reporting on the status of urban forestry issues
 - The City's Street Tree By-Law designates responsibility for the siting and maintenance of street trees
- Challenges with addressing invasive species
- Targets have been established for the urban forest canopy for each Metro Vancouver municipality.

The Board heard from five speakers, of which one spoke in support of the recommendation, one who spoke in opposition to the recommendation, and three who expressed concern with the removal of trees from Stanley Park. The speakers responded to questions from the Commissioners.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board adopt the Urban Forest Strategy 2025 Update as outlined in this report and shown in Appendix A and direct staff to advance the three short-term high priority actions to: maintain and protect, plan and expand canopy and work cross departmentally to establish an associated budget allocation; and
- B. THAT staff report back in mid-2026 with long-term canopy cover targets by land-use and neighbourhood with a supplementary 4-year action plan.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT Items C, D, E and F be added to the motion, as follows:

- C. THAT, regardless of Part 5.0 Action Plan or other sections of the Urban Forest Strategy 2025, the Park Board retain full decision-making authority and operational control over all urban forestry activities within its jurisdiction (i.e. for all parks, and other areas of the City of Vancouver ("City") assigned to Park Board management, including trees on green-ways, green spaces, streets, rights-of-way, REFM properties, etc.), including but not limited to tree planting, maintenance, and urban greening projects, ensuring that all decisions align with Park Board approved strategies and policies;
- D. THAT the Park Board shall retain full control over the planning, design, implementation, public engagement and management of urban forestry initiatives, and shall not delegate these responsibilities to other City departments without explicit Park Board approval;
- E. THAT the Park Board will retain oversight and approval authority over the allocation of funding for urban forestry projects, and that any budget transfers between Park Board and City related to urban forestry must be expressly approved by the Park Board; and
- F. THAT staff shall provide an annual report, and additional updates as required, detailing all urban forestry activities within Park Board-managed areas, including any collaborations or initiatives with REFM or City Engineering, to ensure transparency and continued accountability.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioner(s) Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Haer, Jensen

Opposed: Commissioner Viridi

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board adopt the Urban Forest Strategy 2025 Update as outlined in this report and shown in Appendix A and direct staff to advance the three short-term high priority actions to: maintain and protect, plan and expand canopy and work cross departmentally to establish an associated budget allocation;
- B. THAT staff report back in mid-2026 with long-term canopy cover targets by land-use and neighbourhood with a supplementary 4-year action plan;
- C. THAT, regardless of Part 5.0 Action Plan or other sections of the Urban Forest Strategy 2025, the Park Board retain full decision-making authority and operational control over all urban forestry activities within its jurisdiction (i.e. for all parks, and other areas of the City of Vancouver ("City") assigned to Park Board management, including trees on green-ways, green spaces, streets, rights-of-way, REFM properties, etc.), including but not limited to tree planting, maintenance, and urban greening projects, ensuring that all decisions align with Park Board approved strategies and policies;
- D. THAT the Park Board shall retain full control over the planning, design, implementation, public engagement and management of urban forestry initiatives, and shall not delegate these responsibilities to other City departments without explicit Park Board approval;
- E. THAT the Park Board will retain oversight and approval authority over the allocation of funding for urban forestry projects, and that any budget transfers between Park Board and City related to urban forestry must be expressly approved by the Park Board; and
- F. THAT staff shall provide an annual report, and additional updates as required, detailing all urban forestry activities within Park Board-managed areas, including any collaborations or initiatives with REFM or City Engineering, to ensure transparency and continued accountability.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

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Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Scott Jensen
Chair



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 12, 2025

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, May 12, 2025, at 8:32 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 Scott Jensen
Commissioner Jas Virdi

ABSENT:

Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard

**GENERAL MANAGER'S
OFFICE:**

Steve Jackson, General Manager
Jessica Kulchyski, Manager, Executive Office and Board Relations
Carol Lee, Meeting Clerk
Donna Becker, 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 Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

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:

- (c) labour relations or other employee relations;
- (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 – April 14, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of April 14, 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 April 14, 2025:

- Commissioners Haer and Jensen spoke at the Sakura Days Japan Fair at VanDusen Botanical Gardens
- Commissioner Bastiovanszky and Jensen attended the Kerrisdale Days Parade to launch the 2025 Little League season
- Commissioner Bastiovanszky provided the opening remarks for the Kerrisdale Little League opening ceremonies
- Commissioners Bastiovanszky and Jensen attended the opening ceremonies for Trout Lake Little League, celebrating the renewal of the John Hendry baseball diamonds
- Commissioners Christensen and Haer attended the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) Symposium with staff
- Commissioner Bastiovanszky attended a Vancouver Canadians game and viewed the facility upgrades
- Commissioner Bastiovanszky attended the season opening at the new Trout Lake rugby field
- Commissioner Bastiovanszky visited the Burrard Slopes Park construction site
- Commissioner Bastiovanszky visited Second Beach Pool that is being prepared for the May 17, 2025 season opener
- Commissioner Bastiovanszky attended the Downtown East Side memorial for Trey
- Commissioner Bastiovanszky visited the Stanley Park Community Gardens

- Commissioner Digby paid respects at the scene of the April 26, 2025 mass casualty event, on behalf of all Park Board Commissioners
- Commissioner Digby attended the launch of the “all Canadian” Honda Celebration of Light
- Commissioners Digby and Jensen attended the Seeding Stewardship Fair at Clark Park
- Commissioners Digby and Jensen attended the “Binding Memories, Enduring Threads and Sound Reflections” exhibition at the Roundhouse Community Centre
- Commissioners Digby and Jensen attended “Binding Memories, Enduring Threads and Sound Reflections” events at multiple community centres
- Commissioner Digby threw the ceremonial first bowl at the Point Grey Lawn Bowling and Croquet Club
- Commissioner Jensen participated in the PGA of BC’s 2025 sponsor-media appreciation invitational
- Commissioner Haer attended the 2025 Vaisakhi Parade
- Commissioners Christensen and Haer attended the unveiling of the Vancouver’s official FIFA World Cup 26™ host city poster
- Commissioner Haer attended a memorial gathering for the victims of the Lapu Lapu Festival tragedy at Memorial Park
- Commissioner Jensen attended the Vancouver Food Policy Council in his role as liaison
- Commissioner Digby attended the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee and the Mt. Pleasant CCA in his role as liaison.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Board Committee – May 12, 2025

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

1. Urban Forestry Strategy – 2025 Update.

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 May 12, 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:

- Two Community Centre Association (CCA) Directors received the King Charles III Coronation Medal recognizing outstanding individuals who have made a lasting difference in their communities through a lifetime of work
- Passing of Bonnie Mackenzie, q former member of the West End Community Centre Board of Directors, on April 16, 2025
- Events that occurred in Park Board facilities during BC Youth Week 2025 (May 1 to 7, 2025)
- Public engagement for the W.C. Shelley Park expansion will occur between June 3 and 22, 2025
- There are no Council business relating to, or impacting, Parks and Recreation:
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from April 14 to May 12, 2025
- The Tatlow and Volunteer Park creek restoration project is the recipient a 2025 Award of Excellence from the Canadian Association of Landscape Architects.

Discussion ensued on:

- A Dr. Kaka Singh, Vice-President of the Sunset CCA was also awarded a King Charles III Coronation Medal
- Request for information on the opening date of the Kitsilano Pool.

NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MOTIONS

2. Think 50 Metres

Commissioner Virdi submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of June 2, 2025, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation reaffirm its commitment to ensuring equitable access to aquatic services across all regions of the city by prioritizing the development of a new 50-metre aquatic facility preferably in South Vancouver;
- B. THAT the Board direct staff to engage with MP Taleeb Noormohammed, the provincial government and the City of Vancouver to identify and secure funding sources to support the planning, design, and construction of this facility;
- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board staff be directed to ensure that the growing aquatic needs of South Vancouver are meaningfully incorporated into the update

underway to the “Recommendations for Service Delivery” section of VanSplash, including an overview of service gaps, population data and preliminary siting considerations for a 50-metre pool in South Vancouver;

- D. THAT the Vancouver Park Board staff be directed to produce, at minimum, a preliminary report on the state of Vancouver’s aquatic infrastructure by Q1 2026, including an overview of service gaps and preliminary siting considerations for a 50-metre pool in South Vancouver; and
- E. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation urge Vancouver City Council to include this project in the forthcoming Capital Plan, in recognition of long-standing community demand, regional need, and the opportunity to create a legacy public amenity for generations to come.

1. Lacrosse Box Covered Facility

Commissioner Jensen submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of June 2, 2025, as a Member’s Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT staff be directed to report back to the Park Board with a comprehensive plan that includes:
 - 1. A list of potential locations in Vancouver for the construction of a covered lacrosse box, taking into consideration Indigenous community consultations and involvement;
 - 2. An estimated costing for the construction and maintenance of the facility;
 - 3. Potential funding opportunities through the S.A.N.D. policy, including partnerships, grants, or other avenues of support; and
 - 4. A proposed timeline for the design, consultation, approval, and construction of the facility;
- B. THAT staff ensure that the plan includes a consultation process with the host First Nations communities to understand their needs and involvement in the design and programming of the facility, recognizing lacrosse's cultural significance to First Nations peoples;
- C. THAT staff engage with the Vancouver Minor Lacrosse Association and the British Columbia Lacrosse Association to ensure that the project reflects the interests and needs of the wider Vancouver community, including Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents;
- D. THAT staff explore opportunities to incorporate host First Nations cultural elements into the design of the lacrosse box, recognizing the importance of cultural sensitivity and respect for the land and traditions of host First Nations peoples; and
- E. THAT staff return to the Board with a report or status update by Q4 in 2025 with the requested information and recommendations.

ENQUIRIES

Commissioner Digby questioned whether the Stanley Park (Intergovernmental) Working Group would be willing to engage a discussion about Stanley Park being considered as a candidate for designation as a National Urban Park.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 8:52 pm.

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Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Laura Christensen
Chair