



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