



BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 2, 2025

A Committee meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, June 2, 2025, at 6:31 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 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
Victoria Tyers, Board Support and Meeting Assistant

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 – May 12, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT the Minutes of the Board Committee meeting on May 12, 2025, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Jensen noted that June is National Indigenous History Month.

Commissioner Bastyovanszky advised that June is both Pride Month and Filipino Heritage Month.

Commissioner Digby recognized the City's announcement regarding the pause in its efforts to eliminate the independent Park Board.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were received via email or the [Contact Park Board Commissioners](#) web form regarding the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Access Policy – VanDusen and Bloedel agenda item:

- One in support
- One opposed.

STAFF REPORTS

1. First Nations, Inuit and Métis Access Policy – VanDusen and Bloedel

The Chair referenced the draft policy provided with the agenda material.

Discussion ensued on:

- Request to track and report usage of the policy if it is approved
- Expectation that the proposed policy will not have significant financial impacts.

The Board heard from four speakers, of which two spoke in support of the recommendation and two who expressed their sentiments regarding the proposed policy.

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Virdi

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory First Nations, Métis, Inuit Access Policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

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Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Scott Jensen
Chair



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 2, 2025

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, June 2, 2025, at 7:00 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
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 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:

- (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the city or another position appointed by the city;
- (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 – May 12, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of May 12, 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 May 12, 2025:

- Commissioner Jensen attended meetings with Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee, Childcare Council of Vancouver, Child Youth and Families Advisory Committee and Douglas Park CCA in his role as liaison
- Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Digby and Jensen attended the newly opened off-leash area at Heather Park
- Commissioners Bastyovanszky and Haer attended the Fleurs de Villes awards ceremony, celebrating the various flower displays
- Commissioners Bastyovanszky and Digby attended the Spring Strings at VanDusen Gardens
- Chair Christensen stopped by the willow fence weaving workshop for the new Strathcona Park Micro Forest, hosted by the EarthHand Gleaners Society
- Commissioners Bastyovanszky and Digby attended the JSCA 50th anniversary open house
- Commissioners Bastyovanszky and Digby inspected the nearly complete Jericho Pier renewal
- Commissioners Bastyovanszky and Digby attended the VBGA Annual General Meeting
- Commissioner Digby attended meetings with the Champlain Heights CCA, Thunderbird CCA and Mount Pleasant CCA in his role as liaison

- Commissioner Jensen watched the Vessi 500 Championship at Olympic Village
- Commissioner Jensen visited the off-leash area at Emery Barnes Park to observe the improvements
- Commissioner Jensen attended the KidSport Pizza Pig Out fundraising event
- Chair Christensen attended the Arts and Health Gala at Roundhouse Community Arts Centre.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were received via email or the [Contact Park Board Commissioners](#) web form regarding the Board agenda items:

- Think 50 Metres:
 - 192 in support
 - One opposed
 - Three provided other comments
- 100 in support of Lacross Box Covered Facility.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Board Committee – June 2, 2025

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

1. First Nations, Inuit and Métis Access Policy – VanDusen and Bloedel.

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 June 2, 2025, as contained in item 1.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS

1. Recreation 2SLGBTQIA+ Programming – Highlights and Impacts

The Director, Recreation Services, introduced the matter and the Supervisor, Recreation Services, presented information on 2SLGBTQIA+ recreation programming. Staff responded to questions and comments regarding the programming.

2. Water Priority Action Plan – Decorative Water Features – Repair Update

The Director, Planning and Park Development, introduced the item, and the Civil Engineer I, Archeology, Infrastructure and Environment, presented an update on the repair of the 11 water features prioritized by the Board.

Following the presentation, staff confirmed:

- The algae bloom in Lost Lagoon is not the result of the fountain being inoperable
- The cost of water consumed by the water features is the responsibility of the City.

3. General Manager's Report

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

- Earth Day celebrations during the week of April 27, 2025
- BC Seniors Week celebratory events from June 2 to 6, 2025
- Sunset Community Centre Association (CCA) Vice-President Dr. Kala Singh has received the King Charles III Coronation Medal
- Update on rainwater integration projects
- Expectation that the Stanley Park overpass bridge repairs will be completed by the end of 2025
- The West End Waterfront Vision Plan is the recipient a 2025 Planning Excellence Awards from the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP)
- Council agenda items related to, or impacting, parks and recreation:
 - Council to receive a report on June 3, 2025, titled "[City of Vancouver UNDRIP Task Force Annual Report](#)"
 - Council to receive a report on June 3, 2025, titled "[Vancouver Technical Secondary School Synthetic Turf Field – Construction License Agreement and Custody, Care, and Management of Land](#)"
 - Council to receive a report on June 4, 2025, titled "[2025 Cultural Grants \(Projects, Capacity, Cultural Spaces\)](#)"
 - Council to receive a report on June 4, 2025 titled "[Contract Award for Digital Infrastructure and Innovation for FIFA World Cup 26 \("FWC26"\) in Vancouver](#)"
 - Council to enact a By-law Amendment on June 12, 2025, recessed from 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 May 12 to June 2, 2025

Discussion ensued on whether increased water flows would mitigate algae blooms in Lost Lagoon.

MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Think 50 Metres

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

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Virdi

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

WHEREAS:

1. Access to well-distributed, high-capacity public aquatic facilities is vital for fostering community health, supporting youth development, enabling lifelong fitness, and meeting the recreational and competitive needs of a growing and diverse population;
2. The City of Vancouver has experienced a significant decline in aquatic capacity over the past two decades, marked by the closure or decommissioning of pools in Sunset, Mount Pleasant, and the Langara YMCA, and with the Vancouver Park Board's VanSplash report identifying five additional indoor facilities: the Vancouver Aquatic Centre, Kerrisdale, Britannia, Lord Byng, and Templeton as being at the end of their functional lifespan, resulting in widespread service gaps across multiple neighbourhoods;
3. The recent decision regarding the replacement of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre (VAC) opts for a 25-metre pool, falling short of a 50-metre facility long advocated for by athletes, swim clubs, and aquatic organizations, and limiting the city's ability to support high-performance training, competitions, and broad community programming;
4. 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;
5. South Vancouver remains notably underserved in terms of aquatic infrastructure, with increasing demand from families, seniors, newcomers, and recreational users who lack access to a full-service aquatic facility within reasonable proximity; and
6. Member of Parliament Taleeb Noormohammed has publicly recognized the importance of a 50-metre pool in Southeast Vancouver and has committed to seeking federal funding to support its development as part of broader community investment priorities.

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 Chair of the Park Board write to Member of Parliament Taleeb Noormohammed and the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Gregor Robertson, to request support in identifying and pursuing funding opportunities to enable the planning, design, and construction of the facility; and that Park Board staff engage with City of Vancouver staff to collaboratively identify and pursue such funding opportunities;
- 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.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Haer

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT Items A and C be amended as follows:

- 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 indoor 50-metre aquatic facility, preferably in South Vancouver.
- 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 an indoor 50-metre pool in South Vancouver.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the Main Motion be replaced with the following:

- 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;
- B. THAT the Chair of the Park Board write to appropriate Members of Parliament and Provincial Ministers to request support in identifying and pursuing funding opportunities for planning, design, and future construction of a 50-metre aquatic facility;
- C. THAT Park Board staff work with City of Vancouver staff, including Intergovernmental Relations, Finance and Real Estate and Facilities Management, to align the updated VanSplash with future capital planning and grant opportunities; and
- D. THAT the Vancouver Park Board staff be directed to ensure that the growing aquatic needs of South Vancouver are incorporated into the update underway to VanSplash.

Amendment to the Amendment

MOVED by Commissioner Haer

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT Item B be amended as follows:

- B. THAT the Chair of the Park Board write to appropriate Members of Parliament and Provincial Ministers to request support in identifying and pursuing funding opportunities for planning, design, and future construction of an indoor 50-metre aquatic facility.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on the Amendment, as Amended

- 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;
- B. THAT the Chair of the Park Board write to appropriate Members of Parliament and Provincial Ministers to request support in identifying and pursuing funding opportunities for planning, design, and future construction of an indoor 50-metre aquatic facility;

- C. THAT Park Board staff work with City of Vancouver staff, including Intergovernmental Relations, Finance and Real Estate and Facilities Management, to align the updated VanSplash with future capital planning and grant opportunities; and
- D. THAT the Vancouver Park Board staff be directed to ensure that the growing aquatic needs of South Vancouver are incorporated into the update underway to VanSplash.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

- 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;
- B. THAT the Chair of the Park Board write to appropriate Members of Parliament and Provincial Ministers to request support in identifying and pursuing funding opportunities for planning, design, and future construction of an indoor 50-metre aquatic facility;
- C. THAT Park Board staff work with City of Vancouver staff, including Intergovernmental Relations, Finance and Real Estate and Facilities Management, to align the updated VanSplash with future capital planning and grant opportunities; and
- D. THAT the Vancouver Park Board staff be directed to ensure that the growing aquatic needs of South Vancouver are incorporated into the update underway to VanSplash.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recess

The meeting recessed at 8:28 pm and resumed at 8:34 pm.

2. Lacrosse Box Covered Facility

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

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

WHEREAS:

1. Lacrosse, recognized as the traditional Indigenous game of the Haudenosaunee and many other Indigenous nations, holds cultural and historical significance to the First Nations peoples of the region and is recognized as Canada's national summer sport;

2. Vancouver's diverse communities, including the host First Nations communities, benefit from the growth of lacrosse as a recreational and competitive sport in the city, contributing to community health, engagement, and cultural preservation;
3. Currently, there is a lack of covered, all-season, dedicated lacrosse facilities in Vancouver, limiting access to the sport for youth and other residents, especially in inclement weather; and
4. Covered lacrosse boxes provide enhanced safety, accessibility, and year-round playability, offering a dedicated space for the growing interest in lacrosse across Vancouver's communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to include a covered multi-sport court facility, incorporating dry-floor uses such as lacrosse, in the scope of the forthcoming Sport Court Strategy, with specific attention to alignment with VanPlay priorities and equity of access across sport user groups;
- B. THAT staff ensure that work 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; and
- D. THAT staff provide the Board with a status update of the Sport Court Strategy by Q4 in 2025 including resource requirements.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Viridi
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT Item D be amended as follows:

- D. THAT staff provide the Board with a status update of the Sport Court Strategy by Q4 in 2025 including resource requirements, possible locations and costing.

Amendment to the Amendment

MOVED by Commissioner Virdi

SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT Item D be amended as follows:

- D. THAT staff provide the Board with a status update of the Sport Court Strategy by Q4 in 2025 including resource requirements, possible locations and costing of the multi-sport court facility.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioner(s) Digby, Haer, Jensen, Virdi

Opposed: Commissioner(s) Bastyovanszky, Christensen

Question on the Amendment, as Amended

THAT Item D be amended as follows:

- D. THAT staff provide the Board with a status update of the Sport Court Strategy by Q4 in 2025 including resource requirements, possible locations and costing of the multi-sport court facility.

DEFEATED

In favour: Commissioner(s) Haer, Jensen, Virdi

Opposed: Commissioner(s) Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby

Question on the Main Motion

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to include a covered multi-sport court facility, incorporating dry-floor uses such as lacrosse, in the scope of the forthcoming Sport Court Strategy, with specific attention to alignment with VanPlay priorities and equity of access across sport user groups;
- B. THAT staff ensure that work 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; and
- D. THAT staff provide the Board with a status update of the Sport Court Strategy by Q4 in 2025 including resource requirements.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ENQUIRIES

Commissioner Digby requested a status update on the addition of a fence between Crosstown Elementary School and Andy Livingstone Park.

Commissioner Bastiovanszky requested that staff provide a status update on the motion passed at the September 2024 Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 9:01 pm.

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Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Laura Christensen
Chair