



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**JULY 7, 2025**

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, July 7, 2025, at 6:43 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, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Jas Virdi

**GENERAL MANAGER'S  
OFFICE:**

Steve Jackson, General Manager  
Jessica Kulchyski, Manager, Board Relations  
Victoria Tyers, Board Support and Meeting Assistant & Meeting Clerk

### 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 Haer

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;

(j) information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 [disclosure harmful to business interests of a third party] of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act;

(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 – June 16, 2025**

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of June 16, 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 June 16, 2025:

- Commissioner Jensen attended the Childcare Council of Vancouver
- Commissioner Jensen attended the Raise the Roof event at the PNE
- Commissioner Jensen attended the Concord Pacific Dragonboat Festival
- Commissioner Jensen attended the open studio gathering for the International Artist Residency Program
- Commissioner Jensen attended the Douglas Park Fun Fair
- Commissioner Jensen attended the Hastings Community Association meeting
- Commissioner Jensen visited Bloedel Conservatory and VanDusen Botanical Garden to highlight the Access Policy
- Commissioners attended the Bard on the Beach opening night
- Commissioners attended the Theater Under The Stars performances of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Legally Blonde
- Commissioners and GM Jackson attended Symphony at Sunset
- Commissioners attended a demo sailing of the Greenline Ferry
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky attended the VPL Board meeting
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky swam at Kitsilano Pool on opening day
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky attended the Stanley Park Open
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky attended the WESA Pageant 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## COMMUNICATIONS

No communication related to the meeting agenda was received.

## STAFF REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

### 1. Budget Outlook and Approach

Park Board General Manager Jackson introduced the item, and General Manager Knight of Supply Chain Management, along with Director Froehlich of Financial Planning and Analysis, presented an update on the budget outlook and approach.

Following the presentation, staff responded to questions related to:

- Tax rates in other municipalities
- Employee salary
- New revenue
- Budget targets
- Revenue from FIFA World Cup 26
- Fees and charges
- Impact on Community Centre Associations

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*At this point in the proceedings, Commissioner Jensen assumed the role of Chair.*

\* \* \* \* \*

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen  
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff with regard to the preparation of the 2026 Parks & Recreation Services Plan, Operating & Capital Budgets;

- A. Clearly articulate any cuts to current level and Board priorities, including specific reference to impacts to user experience;
- B. In light of the VanPlay Goal #8, to provide safe and welcoming spaces for all, provide an estimated budget, for reference purposes, on what operational spending would be required to improve operational levels such that all parks and recreation spaces would be regularly maintained in good condition or better, and other existing funding gaps are met
- C. In prioritizing the 2026 Operating Budget, consider the following items as the highest priority:

- i. Park Operations, including maintenance of public spaces and urban forestry;
- ii. The Leisure Access Program;
- iii. Recreational & cultural programming targeting children, seniors, persons with disabilities and equity-deserving groups;
- iv. Park Planning for priorities identified by the Board since 2023.

### **Amendment to the Main Motion**

MOVED by Commissioner Digby  
SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT items D and E be added to the motion, as follows:

- D. Review with the Vancouver Police Department the amounts paid to them by the Park Board to monitor beaches and parks where alcohol is allowed, and costs of clearing those areas after closing, with a view to reducing unnecessary police costs where compatible with public safety
- E. Identify the revenue impact of revenue enhancement activities taken by the Park Board under the Think Big strategy, and projected parking fee increases, on the 2026 budget by comparison to budgets since 2022.

CARRIED

*In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Haer, Jensen*  
*Opposed: Commissioners Howard, Virdi*

### **Question on the Main Motion as Amended**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff with regard to the preparation of the 2026 Parks & Recreation Services Plan, Operating & Capital Budgets;

- A. Clearly articulate any cuts to current level and Board priorities, including specific reference to impacts to user experience;
- B. In light of the VanPlay Goal #8, to provide safe and welcoming spaces for all, provide an estimated budget, for reference purposes, on what operational spending would be required to improve operational levels such that all parks and recreation spaces would be regularly maintained in good condition or better, and other existing funding gaps are met
- C. In prioritizing the 2026 Operating Budget, consider the following items as the highest priority:
  - i. Park Operations, including maintenance of public spaces and urban forestry;

- ii. The Leisure Access Program;
  - iii. Recreational & cultural programming targeting children, seniors, persons with disabilities and equity-deserving groups;
  - iv. Park Planning for priorities identified by the Board since 2023.
- D. Review with the Vancouver Police Department the amounts paid to them by the Park Board to monitor beaches and parks where alcohol is allowed, and costs of clearing those areas after closing, with a view to reducing unnecessary police costs where compatible with public safety
- E. Identify the revenue impact of revenue enhancement activities taken by the Park Board under the Think Big strategy, and projected parking fee increases, on the 2026 budget by comparison to budgets since 2022.

**CARRIED**

*In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Haer, Jensen*

*Opposed: Commissioners Howard, Viridi*

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*At this point in the proceedings, Commissioner Christensen resumed the role of Chair*

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## **2. Stanley Park Train – Report Back**

The Director Brodie of Business Services introduced the item and presented an update on the Stanley Park Train.

Following the presentation, staff responded to questions related to:

- Impact on attendance
- Intended use of space
- Donations and sponsorships
- Accessibility
- Ticket prices
- Public engagement
- Impact on environment
- Request for Expression of Interest (RFEOI) process
- Additional event capacity
- Pertinent policies
- Staff capacity

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

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

- Disc Golf Plan Launch – Staff announced that work on the Disc Golf Plan began in late June 2025, with public engagement expected to take place in Summer 2025
- MacLean Park Spray Park and Fieldhouse Renewal – Design work is underway for the renewal of MacLean Park's spray park and fieldhouse washrooms, with a finalized concept plan expected in Fall 2025.
- Kitsilano Community Centre 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Kitsilano Community Centre Association will be celebrating it's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on July 12, 2025.
- Symphony at Sunset – Symphony at Sunset took place on July 5, 2025, and achieved another record year with an estimated attendance of 15,000 people. The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra played music from Harry Potter, Star Wars, alongside other classical favourites.
- Council Agenda Items:
  - Report titled "[Rupert and Renfrew Station Area Plan](#)" on July 8, 2025.
  - Report titled "[2025 Community Services, Childcare and Other Grants](#)" on July 8, 2025
  - Report titled "[Contract Award for Operator \(Lease\) for VanDusen Botanical Garden Restaurant](#)" on July 9, 2025
  - Report titled "[Contract Award for Operator \(Lease\) for Kitsilano Beach Restaurant](#)" on July 9, 2025
  - Report titled "[Downtown Eastside \(DTES\) Plan Implementation Grant Program Allocation 2025](#)" on July 9, 2025
  - Motion titled "[Unlocking the Creative and Economic Potential of Vancouver's Railtown District](#)" on July 9, 2025
- Board briefing [memos and emails](#) issued from June 16, 2025, to July 7, 2025.

### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 8:24 pm and reconvened at 8:35 pm.

### **MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

#### **1. Accelerating the Turf Field Upgrade at Beaconsfield Park for Inclusion in the 2027-2030 Capital Plan**

MOVED by Commissioner Haer

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

WHEREAS:

1. Beaconsfield Park, located at 3215 Slocan Street in the Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood, is a 4.43-hectare green space that includes a gravel soccer field situated behind the Italian Cultural Centre and adjacent to Vancouver Technical Secondary School;
2. The gravel field at Beaconsfield Park is currently programmed for high use by community sports organizations, and the site is already equipped with field lighting, making it suitable for extended hours of play, including evenings;
3. The Italian Canadian sports Federation Columbus FC that primarily uses Beaconsfield Park has experienced substantial growth in recent years in line with citywide trends. Club registration has increased significantly, reflecting Vancouver's growing, diverse population and heightened interest in accessible and inclusive team sports;
4. Vancouver is a host city for FIFA World Cup 2026, with global attention and community engagement in the sport expected to surge further in the years immediately preceding and following the tournament;
5. Soccer in Vancouver has one of the longest playing seasons of any sport, as noted in the City's own programming materials, yet the supply of high-quality, all-season fields has not kept pace with demand;
6. The gravel field at Beaconsfield is currently scheduled for conversion to a turf field in the City's 2030–2034 Capital Plan, despite clear evidence of unmet demand and strong community interest in accelerating that timeline;
7. Synthetic turf fields can accommodate [approximately 3.5 times more usage annually](#) than natural grass fields, making them a more efficient investment for high-demand sports like soccer;
8. Beaconsfield Park's central location, multi-field layout, and existing lighting infrastructure make it a highly cost-effective and strategic site for an accelerated turf conversion;
9. An accelerated synthetic turf field at Beaconsfield Park would exist in close proximity to the turf field at Vancouver Technical Secondary School, creating opportunities for new synergies and the hosting of tournaments and competitions;
10. The City of Vancouver is currently entering the planning phase for the 2027–2030 Capital Plan, to be finalized in July 2026, providing a timely opportunity to prioritize and align a Beaconsfield Park turf field upgrade with upcoming capital investment decisions;
11. The Italian Canadian sports Federation Columbus FC is actively exploring ways to contribute private or partnership funding toward project enhancements, such as viewing stands or auxiliary features, further reducing the financial burden on the City; and

12. Given that Beaconsfield Park already has field lighting and is situated in a central, high-demand area, the conversion to synthetic turf is both strategic and cost-effective. With the upcoming FIFA 2026 World Cup and the growing popularity of soccer in Vancouver, accelerating this project also aligns with city-wide objectives to enhance sports infrastructure.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to prioritize the Beaconsfield Park gravel field turf upgrade for inclusion in the 2027–2030 Capital Plan, recognizing the strategic opportunity presented by community demand, existing site readiness, and the global momentum of FIFA 2026.
- B. THAT staff be directed to work with the local Italian Canadian sports Federation Columbus FC and community stakeholders to (but not limited to):
  - i. Determine the project scope and cost estimates for the turf field upgrade.
  - ii. Assess the potential for cost-sharing or private contributions, including the club's expressed interest in funding viewing stands.
  - iii. Review and incorporate the club's submitted proposal and related communications.
- C. THAT staff report back to the Board no later than Q1 2026 with a detailed feasibility and funding framework to inform Capital Plan finalization and potential partnerships.
- D. THAT the Park Board affirm its commitment to expanding access to safe, equitable, and high-quality soccer infrastructure across Vancouver as the city prepares to welcome global attention and increased participation during the FIFA 2026 host cycle.

**Amendment to the Main Motion**

MOVED by Commissioner Bastiovanszky  
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT the motion be struck and replaced with the following:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to include funding for the Sport Field Strategy Big Moves 1 and 2 for inclusion in the 2027-2030 Capital Plan, ideally, with an allocation of \$35 Million:
  - i. \$15 million toward the renewal and safety upgrade of turf fields, as per Big Move 1, such as:
    1. South Memorial
    2. Empire



3. Trillium
  4. Jericho; and
  5. Kitsilano Secondary
- ii. Up to \$20 million toward the conversion of gravel fields to lit artificial turf fields, with long pile and shock pad for multisport use, including soccer, in alignment with Big Move 2:
  1. Beaconsfield Park; and
  2. Oak Park
- B. THAT staff engage with key community partners and VFSF, including but not limited to Columbus FC and the Italian Canadian Sports Federation, to:
  - i. Inform project scope and site-specific feasibility
  - ii. Explore partnership opportunities, including private funding contributions for ancillary amenities such as viewing stands, fieldhouse, bathrooms and score boards;
  - iii. Integrate existing community proposals

**FAILED**

*In favour: Commissioners Bastovanszky, Digby, Jensen*

*Opposed: Commissioners Christensen, Haer, Howard, Viridi*

**Question on the Main Motion**

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to prioritize the Beaconsfield Park gravel field turf upgrade for inclusion in the 2027–2030 Capital Plan, recognizing the strategic opportunity presented by community demand, existing site readiness, and the global momentum of FIFA 2026.
- B. THAT staff be directed to work with the local Italian Canadian sports Federation Columbus FC and community stakeholders to (but not limited to):
  - i. Determine the project scope and cost estimates for the turf field upgrade.
  - ii. Assess the potential for cost-sharing or private contributions, including the club's expressed interest in funding viewing stands.
  - iii. Review and incorporate the club's submitted proposal and related communications.
- C. THAT staff report back to the Board no later than Q1 2026 with a detailed feasibility and funding framework to inform Capital Plan finalization and potential partnerships.

- D. THAT the Park Board affirm its commitment to expanding access to safe, equitable, and high-quality soccer infrastructure across Vancouver as the city prepares to welcome global attention and increased participation during the FIFA 2026 host cycle.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

### **1. Think Home Run**

Commissioner Virdi submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of July 21, 2025, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

THAT The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to work collaboratively with Jericho Little League to explore the feasibility of constructing and operating an enclosed community baseball training facility at Carnarvon Park, including but not limited to:

- i. Assessing site suitability and potential design or environmental considerations;
- ii. Evaluating operational logistics, including access, scheduling, and community use;
- iii. Identifying and analyzing potential community benefits, especially for equity-seeking and underserved youth populations;
- iv. Investigating the financial structure, including the potential for a revenue-sharing arrangement with JLL to ensure long-term sustainability and potential Park Board benefit;
- v. Engagement with existing user groups and key stakeholders, including but not limited to soccer leagues, multi-sport organizations, residents, and other park users, to ensure transparency, collaboration, and effective shared use of the park space;

AND FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to report back to the Board by Q1 of 2026, with findings, recommendations, and proposed next steps, including community engagement opportunities, a review of comparable facility models, and guidance to support an informed decision on advancing the proposed partnership.

### **2. Waiver of Land-Use Fee for S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Event**

Commissioner Haer submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of July 21, 2025, as a Member's Motion.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

- A. THAT The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation waive the \$2,550 land use fee for S.U.C.C.E.S.S.'s upcoming charity event in Stanley Park, recognizing its deep-rooted impact and current funding limitations;
- B. THAT Park Board staff are directed to evaluate future requests from registered charities or community foundations on a case by case basis, applying discretionary fee reductions or waivers when organizations demonstrate financial need, equitable access, and clear community benefit;
- C. THAT This direction aims to create a flexible, fair framework for supporting community led, charitable use of Park Board lands in the future.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Digby advised that he had received a petition with 238 signatures opposed to paid parking at Kerrisdale Community Centre.

**ENQUIRIES**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 9:27 pm.

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Steve Jackson  
General Manager

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Commissioner Laura Christensen  
Chair