



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 6:36 pm, in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference.

PRESENT:

Commissioner Laura Christensen, Chair
Commissioner Brennan Bastovanszky, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Tom Digby
Commissioner Angela Haer
Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard
Commissioner Scott Jensen
Commissioner Jas Viridi

**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

Point of Order

Commissioner Digby raised a point of order, stating that he does not consent with the attendance of Commissioner Howard at the September 16, 2025 Board meeting if she is found to be disqualified from attending, in accordance with the Member's Motion titled "Potential Disqualification of Commissioner Howard".

Commissioner Haer raised a point of order, stating that Commissioner Digby's comments were bullying and harassment towards Commissioner Howard, as no decisions have been made yet on the Member's Motion titled "Potential Disqualification of Commissioner Howard". The Chair ruled that Commissioner Digby's comments were not considered bullying or harassment as they were conditional upon a ruling.

Commissioner Viridi raised a point of order, stating that Commissioner Digby's comments were not above the Vancouver Charter, and that they should be considered bullying and harassment. The Chair ruled that Commissioner Digby's comments were not related to the Vancouver Charter, nor were they considered bullying or harassment as they were conditional upon a ruling.

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 Bastyovanszky

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;
- (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Council consider that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city;
- (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 – July 21, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of July 21, 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 July 21, 2025:

- Commissioner Jensen visited the False Creek Farmers Market at their temporary home in Olympic Village
- Commissioner Jensen met with Buckets & Borders at their newly designed and resurfaced basketball and tennis courts at Britannia
- Commissioners Digby and Jensen participated in the 2025 Vancouver Pride Parade

- Commissioner Bastyovanszky participated in the Vancouver International Pride Tennis Tournament
- Commissioner Christensen spoke at the WNBC Line “Em Up event
- Commissioners Bastyovanszky attended KitsFest
- Commissioner Jensen attended the KitsFest Wrap-up event to celebrate the success of the festival
- Commissioners Bastyovanszky and Jensen attended the Astro Arts Festival
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky attended the SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee meeting in his role as liaison
- Commissioners attended the Great Outdoors Comedy Festival in Stanley Park
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky attended Bike the Night with HUB Cycling
- Commissioner Digby documented the algae growth on Lost Lagoon in late July 2025, and again on September 12, 2025
- Commissioner Digby attended Community Centre Association (CCA) meetings at Dunbar, Kerrisdale, Britannia, Thunderbird, Champlain Heights and Mount Pleasant Community Centres, as well as the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Council, in his role as liaison
- Commissioners attended the reopening of the Dancing Waters fountain at Queen Elizabeth Park
- Commissioner Jensen visited the Vancouver Lawn Bowling Club at Queen Elizabeth Park
- Chair Christensen attended the PNE Fair with her family
- Commissioner Digby attended the Coal Harbour 25th Anniversary celebration
- Commissioner Digby attended the HCMS Discovery Change of Command ceremony at Deadman’s Island
- Chair Christensen and her family enjoyed visiting many different Vancouver parks, playgrounds, splash parks, wading pools and community celebrations this summer.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Board Committee – September 15, 2025

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

1. Auditor General – Report Back
2. Park board Code of Conduct Policy Amendments – Report Back
3. Stanley Park Mobility Study.

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 September 15, 2025, as contained in items 1 through 3.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS

1. Park Board's 2025 Indigenous Peoples' Month and Day Activities

Rena Soutar, Manager, Arts, Reconciliation and Culture, introduced the item. Marie Lopes, Community Recreation Coordinator, reviewed a presentation showcasing Park Board initiatives to mark National Indigenous History Month in June 2025.

2. General Manager's Report

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

- The successful 2025 Summer Day Camp season
- 2025 Inner-City Youth Golf Program was conducted from August 25 to 29, 2025 at McCleery Golf Course
- Tatlow Park playground renewal was completed and reopened to the community in August 2025
- Construction of Collingwood Park improvements were completed in July 2025
- Improvement work at the Prince Edward playground and spray park was completed in May 2025
- The new off leash dog area (OLA) at Heather Park opened in spring 2025
- The new OLA at Grandville Park opened in summer 2025
- The new OLA at Emery Barnes Park was completed in early July 2025
- CRAB Park improvements, with financial contributions from Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) and DP World, were completed in early August 2025
- Construction of a new temporary fence along the northern edge of the playground used by Crosstown Elementary at Andy Livingstone Park, as a pilot project
- Queen Elizabeth Park upgrades
- United Way Chili Cook-off Best Booth award went to the Park Board's Structures and Fabrication and Coating and Graphic teams from Evans Yard
- Council agenda items related to, or impacting, parks and recreation:

- Council to receive a report on September 16, 2025, titled “[Public Realm Advertising Framework](#)”, which if approved would guide the City’s approach to third-party advertising in the public realm.
- Council to receive a report on September 17, 2025, titled “[Contract Award for Operator \(Lease\) for VanDusen Botanical Garden Restaurant](#)”, which would authorize staff to negotiate an agreement for Operator of VanDusen Botanical Garden Restaurant.
- Council to consider a motion on September 17, 2025, titled “[Prioritizing the Completion and Delivery of Community Facilities and Infrastructure in the 2027-2030 Capital Plan](#)”, which would direct staff to prioritize the renewal and delivery of core community facilities and essential infrastructure, with a focus on aging and end-of-life assets
- Council to consider a motion on September 17, 2025, titled “[Accelerating the Turf Field Upgrade at Beaconsfield Park for Inclusion in the 2027-2030 Capital Plan](#)”, which would direct staff to prioritize the Beaconsfield Park gravel field turf upgrade for inclusion in the 2027–2030 Capital Plan
- Council to consider a motion on September 17, 2025, titled “[Greening the City – Enhancing Livability and the Tree Canopy Through Healthy Afforestation](#)”, which direct staff to report back on actions to support afforestation and micro-forest initiatives across the city
- Council to receive a report on September 18, 2025, titled “[Audit of Recreation Facility Asset Management](#)”, which would outline the Recreation Facility Asset Management performance audit carried out by the Auditor General and recommendations for improvement
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from July 30 to September 11, 2025.

During discussion, concern was expressed that the installation of the fence to delineate Crosstown Elementary School from Andy Livingstone Park would create a precedent.

MEMBERS’ MOTIONS

1. Potential Disqualification of Commissioner Howard

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

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

WHEREAS:

1. Section 144 of the Vancouver Charter provides that a Commissioner who is absent from meetings of the Board for a period of 60 consecutive days or 4 regularly scheduled meetings, whichever is the longer time period, without leave of the Board ceases to hold office;

2. Commissioner Howard has missed three consecutive Board meetings on three separate occasions, placing her one meeting short of the threshold for disqualification under Section 144 of the Vancouver Charter;
3. Commissioner Howard has been absent without leave from 60% of Board meetings in 2025 missing 6 of 10 meetings, her recorded absences for 2025 are:
 - January 20, 2025 – Absent
 - February 3, 2025 – Absent
 - February 24, 2025 – Absent
 - May 12, 2025 – Absent
 - June 2, 2025 – Absent
 - June 16, 2025 - Absent
4. Commissioner Howard was absent from the following consecutive regular meetings of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation without leave in 2025;
 - January 20, 2025 – Absent
 - June 2, 2025
 - June 16, 2025
5. Commissioner Howard was recorded as absent for a portion of the meeting on April 14, 2025, which may constitute a fourth consecutive absence and requires a legal opinion; and
6. Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard has demonstrated a consistent pattern of absenteeism, lack of transparency, and disregard for obligations under the Vancouver Charter, raising serious questions about her capacity to serve in public office.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation refers the matter to legal counsel for review and confirmation of the applicability of Section 144 of the Vancouver Charter to Commissioner Howard's attendance record, and requests that legal counsel provide a recommendation to the Board on appropriate next steps.

Motion to Refer

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the motion be referred to the October 6, 2025 Board Committee meeting.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Digby, Jensen, Bastyovanszky, Christensen

Opposed: Commissioners Viridi, Haer, Howard

2. Fence at Crosstown Elementary

Commissioner Digby withdrew the motion as staff had taken the action that is the subject of the motion.

NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Affirming the Park Board's Commitment to Transgender Lives and Rights

Commissioner Digby submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of the October 6, 2025, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The Vancouver Park Board reiterates that it unequivocally supports the lives and rights of Two-Spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse people, and it will continue to celebrate and honour their communities, and to support the specific needs and opportunities of these communities;
- B. The Vancouver Park Board recognizes that transphobia sets a precedent to the reduction in human rights that affects all of us;
- C. The Vancouver Park Board directs staff to report back on actions the Park Board can take, including financial actions and public statements, to address the harms caused to Two-Spirit, transgender, and gender-diverse people by hosting the Harry Potter™ event;
- D. The Vancouver Park Board directs staff to separately report back on contract options to ensure that the Harry Potter™ event runs for one season only;
- E. The Vancouver Park Board acknowledges that it failed in its policy commitment to consult with the 2SLGBTQ+ Committee in advance of hosting the Harry Potter™ event, a failure which would likely have identified the reputational concerns of hosting the event; and
- F. The Vancouver Park Board directs staff in the business services group to, in the future, conduct deeper investigations into the reputational aspects of potential hosted events, and to present a fulsome account of such risks to Commissioners at the time approval is requested. Requests for confidential approval by potential suppliers shall be viewed with extreme skepticism going forward.

2. Enjoy the Sunset in Vancouver

Commissioner Digby submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of the October 6, 2025, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board hereby directs staff to prepare a bylaw amendment for approval by Commissioners extending the public hours on ocean beaches facing English Bay to 11:00 pm from Victoria Day long weekend to BC Day, each year, inclusive

3. Think Free Play: Expanding Sports Access in Vancouver Through Self-Service Equipment Stations

Commissioner Virdi submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of the October 6, 2025, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to work with Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities and Equip Sport to pilot a free sports equipment lending program in Vancouver parks and facilities, modeled after the Surrey initiative, with a report back to the Board following the first year of implementation; and

FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation affirm and direct that accessibility, equity, and inclusion be prioritized in this initiative, ensuring that residents of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds can participate in sport without financial or logistical barriers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 7:26 pm.

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Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Laura Christensen
Chair