



BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 3, 2025

A Committee meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, November 3, 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 Marie-Claire Howard
Commissioner Jas Virdi

**GENERAL MANAGER'S
OFFICE**

Steve Jackson, General Manager
Jessica Kulchyski, Manager, Executive Office and Board Relations
Debbie Reimer, Meeting Clerk

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

Suspension of Rules

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Vancouver Park Board suspends the rules to reduce the length of time permitted for speakers from five minutes to three minutes.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Commissioner Virdi

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

1. Item 1 – Bard on the Beach Pilot – Report Back

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT Item 1 be approved on consent

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Item 2 – Vancouver Technical School Synthetic Turf Field – Joint Use Agreement

MOVED by Commissioner Virdi

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT Item 2 be approved on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Board Committee Meeting – October 20, 2025

Commissioner Haer raised a point of order regarding the rules regarding abstentions. The General Manager clarified that the Vancouver Park Board follows the Park Procedural By-law which states abstentions are considered affirmative votes.

MOVED by Commissioner Digby

SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT the Minutes of the Board Committee meeting on October 20, 2025, be approved.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Howard, Jensen, Virdi

Opposed: Commissioner Haer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Bastyovanszky expressed appreciation for Minister Christine Boyle who provided guidance to cancel the legislation on the referendum on the Vancouver Park Board.

Commissioner Christensen noted that Remembrance Day occurs on November 11, 2025, and acknowledged those who have served and sacrificed for the country and appreciate Commissioners for volunteering to place wreaths at events.

COMMUNICATIONS

There was no correspondence to note related to the November 3, 2025 Board Committee Meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

1. Bard on the Beach Pilot – Report Back

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board receive for information the report back on the Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival Pilot Program as outlined in this report; and
- B. THAT the Board approve the continuation of the program enabling the Festival's mainstage arches to remain onsite at Señákw/Vanier Park during the event's off-season between November 2025 and March 2026, and conditionally in future years.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

2. Vancouver Technical School Synthetic Turf Field – Joint Use Agreement

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

THAT the Vancouver Park Board authorize staff to negotiate and enter into a Joint Use Agreement with The Board of Education of School District No. 39 (Vancouver) for the joint use and operation of the synthetic turf field at the Vancouver Technical Secondary School, with provisions regarding the maintenance of the synthetic turf field by the Park Board, all in a form of an agreement satisfactory to the City's Director of Legal Services and the General Manager of Parks and Recreation, subject to approval by Vancouver City Council.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3. Stanley Park Hemlock Looper Response and Mitigation Plan Phase 3 – Contract Award

The Director, Park Operations, introduced the report and referred to the staff recommendation.

Staff responded to questions related to:

- The scope of the work provided by Blackwell Consulting Ltd. and responsibilities of staff
- Concern regarding the life cycle and outbreak cycle of the hemlock looper moth
- Replacement trees and their resilience for future outbreaks
- Concern regarding the safety of visitors and workers

The Board heard from six speakers, all of whom spoke in opposition to the staff recommendation. The Speakers responded to questions from Commissioners.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation ("Park Board") authorize staff to negotiate to the satisfaction of the Park Board's General Manager, the City of Vancouver's (the "City") Director of Legal Services, and the City's Chief Purchasing Official and enter into a contract with Blackwell Consulting Ltd., for the continued forest mitigation and restoration works in Stanley Park to address risks associated with the hemlock looper outbreak, with an estimated contract value of \$4,504,221, plus applicable taxes, for a term lasting until services are complete, and funded through previously approved budgets;
- B. THAT the City's Director of Legal Services, Chief Purchasing Official and Park Board's General Manager be authorized to execute on behalf of the Park Board the contract contemplated by Recommendation A above; and
- C. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by the Park Board's adoption of Recommendations A and B above unless and until such contract is executed by the authorized signatories of the City as set out in these Recommendations.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Digby

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

That Item D be added to the motion, as follows:

- D. THAT, at an appropriate time in the future, staff and willing Commissioners begin a public listening and discussion process to discuss concerns from the public on the matters involved in long term care and management of Stanley Park for future generations.

DEFEATED

In favour: Commissioners Digby, Jensen

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

Question on the Main Motion

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation ("Park Board") authorize staff to negotiate to the satisfaction of the Park Board's General Manager, the City of Vancouver's (the "City") Director of Legal Services, and the City's Chief Purchasing Official and enter into a contract with Blackwell Consulting Ltd., for the continued forest mitigation and restoration works in Stanley Park to address risks associated with the hemlock looper outbreak, with an estimated contract value of \$4,504,221,

plus applicable taxes, for a term lasting until services are complete, and funded through previously approved budgets;

- B. THAT the City's Director of Legal Services, Chief Purchasing Official and Park Board's General Manager be authorized to execute on behalf of the Park Board the contract contemplated by Recommendation A above; and
- C. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by the Park Board's adoption of Recommendations A and B above unless and until such contract is executed by the authorized signatories of the City as set out in these Recommendations.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Jensen

Opposed: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Virdi

Abstained: Commissioner Digby

The Committee meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

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Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Scott Jensen
Chair