



## 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

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Commissioner Scott Jensen  
Chair



## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 3, 2025

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 8:05 pm, in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference.

**PRESENT:**

Commissioner Laura Christensen, Chair  
Commissioner Brennan Bastiovanszky, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Tom Digby  
Commissioner Angela Haer  
Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard  
Commissioner Scott Jensen  
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, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. We meet on this land respectfully and with knowledge that there must be continued acknowledgement of the history of injustices towards 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 and 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) 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 – October 20, 2025**

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen  
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of October 20, 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 October 20, 2025:

- Commissioner Digby attended the Thunderbird Neighbourhood Association Board meetings
- Commissioners Digby and Jensen attended the celebration dinner for retiree Mike Cotter, General Manager of Jericho Sailing Centre.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT**

**1. Report of the Board Committee – November 3, 2025**

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

1. Bard on the Beach Pilot – Report Back
2. Vancouver Technical School Synthetic Turf Field – Joint Use Agreement
3. Stanley Park Hemlock Looper Response and Mitigation Plan Phase 3 – Contract Award.

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 November 3, 2025, as contained in items 1 through 3.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## STAFF REPORTS

### 1. Park Board Meeting Dates – Proposed 2026 Schedule Adjustment

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen  
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2026 meeting dates as outlined below, with the meetings open to the public commencing at 6:30pm and with Regular Board meetings to immediately follow Board Committee meetings (when scheduled):

January 19	February 02 February 23	March 09 March 30
April 13 April 27	May 04 May 25	June 01
July 13 July 27	August break	September <i>No meetings per Procedure By-law</i>
October 26	November 02 ( <i>inaugural</i> ) November 16 ( <i>Special Budget</i> ) November 30	December 14

FURTHER THAT the Board reserve the hour prior to each public meeting for an In-Camera meeting, should it be required;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board reserve every Tuesday evening following the above-noted meeting dates, commencing at 5:30 pm, should any meetings need to be reconvened or rescheduled.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



## 2. General Manager's Report

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

- Sustenance Festival 2025 is occurring through November 24 and is a food-focused celebration of food inspired workshop and events.
- George Wainborn Park Temporary Fencing will be installed due to safety concerns regarding unsanctioned dog off-leash activity
- Villages Planning Program engagement on Emerging Directions commences November 5, 2025 focusing on enabling missing middle housing and strengthening commercial areas
- Council agenda items related to, or impacting, parks and recreation:
  - Council to receive a report on November 4, 2025, titled "[Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants – Fall 2025 Intake](#)".
  - Council to receive a report on November 4, 2025, titled "[Auditor General Committee Recommendations Transmittal Record](#)".
  - Council to receive a report on November 5 2025, titled "[Contract Award for Construction Services – Arbutus Greenway and West 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue Intersection Improvements](#)".
  - Council to consider a motion on November 5, 2025 titled "[Ensuring Continuity of the Women's Equity Strategy Following the Closure of the Equity Office](#)".
  - Council to consider a motion on November 5, 2025 titled "[Advancing a Gender Based Violence Prevention Strategy](#)".
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from October 20 to November 3, 2025.

## NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MOTIONS

### 3. Creating a Vancouver Racquet Centre for Tennis and Pickleball

Commissioner Jensen submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of December 8, 2025 as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to engage with the Vancouver Tennis Society (VTS) and Vancouver Pickleball Association (VPA) to review the *Vancouver Racquet Centre* proposal and identify a suitable location; and
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to Report back to the Board with findings, recommendations, and next-step options upon completion of the site due diligence process.

#### **4. Think Inclusivity**

Commissioner Virdi submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of December 8, 2025 as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. That the renewed playground include, at a minimum:
  - i. A wheelchair accessible swing;
  - ii. A wheelchair accessible merry-go-round;
  - iii. Comprehensive sensory play features designed for neurodiverse and neurotypical children;
  - iv. Universal accessibility to ensure usability to children, families and caregivers of all abilities;
  - v. Firm, stable surfacing and universally accessible pathways; and
  - vi. Quiet spaces to support children who need reduced stimulation;
- B. That staff consult and collaborate with the Pacific Autism Family Network, Rick Hansen Foundation and other relevant experts in accessibility and inclusive design to ensure the project meets the highest standards of universal play and best practices from the Inclusive Playgrounds Playbook; and
- C. That a donation envelope be established for this project to enable community partners, philanthropic organizations and individuals to contribute to the funding of this renewal alongside dedicated capital resources.

#### **ENQUIRIES**

Commissioner Haer requested a public briefing on Indigenous Land Claims on Park Board management lands following the Cowichan land title case court decision.

Commissioner Haer requested a legal review of voting procedures and interpretation of abstentions.

Commissioner Haer requested a legal briefing on the implications of the Cowichan land title decision for Park Board lands, acknowledgements and practices.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 8:17 pm.

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Steve Jackson  
General Manager

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Commissioner Lauren Christensen  
Chair