



## **SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 24, 2025**

A Special meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, November 24, 2025, at 6:31 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 Virdi

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE:**

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

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The following communications were received via email or the [Contact Park Board Commissioners](#) web form between November 17, 2025, and 3:00 pm on November 24, 2025 regarding the 2026 Operation and Capital Budgets – Zero Percent Tax Increase:

- One piece of correspondence speaking to other aspects of the recommendation

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **1. 2026 Fees and Charges – Parks and Recreation**

The General Manager introduced the item. The Director of Financial Planning and Analysis reviewed the presentation on the 2026 Fees and Charges – Parks and Recreation

Following the presentation, staff responded to questions related to:

- The ongoing progress of implementing the Auditor General's recommendations
- Expectation that fee increases will result in decreased utilization of some facilities
- Continuing trend of decreasing film activity in parks
- Comparison of user fees between Vancouver and other municipalities.

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

### **Main Motion**

MOVED by Commissioner Virdi

SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2026 Fees and Charges, as summarized in the body of this report and detailed in Appendix A.
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board delegate authority to the General Manager of Parks and Recreation to temporarily adjust fees within the 2026 fiscal year to respond to market conditions, and to not exceed the maximum allowable fee as approved in Appendix A.

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

MOVED by Commissioner Bastiovanszky

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

That item C be added to the Main Motion as follows:

- C. THAT the Board request Council to provide additional operating funding, in the amount of \$800,000, representing the revenue associated solely with the proposed 2026 recreation fee increases, in order to hold Community Centre recreation Admission and Passes, Lessons, Programs and permit fees at a 0% increase for 2026, consistent with the Mayor's "Zero means Zero" commitment to protect community centres and their programming.

CARRIED

*In favour: Commissioners Bastiovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Jensen*

*Opposed: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Virdi*

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

Commissioner Virdi requested that the motion be considered as distinct propositions.

### **Question on Item A**

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2026 Fees and Charges, as summarized in the body of this report and detailed in Appendix A.

CARRIED

*In favour: Commissioners Christensen, Haer, Howard, Virdi*

*Opposed: Commissioners: Bastyovanszky, Digby, Jensen*

#### **Question on Item B**

- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board delegate authority to the General Manager of Parks and Recreation to temporarily adjust fees within the 2026 fiscal year to respond to market conditions, and to not exceed the maximum allowable fee as approved in Appendix A.

CARRIED

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

*Abstained: Commissioner Bastyovanszky*

#### **Question on Item C**

- C. THAT the Board request Council to provide additional operating funding, in the amount of \$800,000, representing the revenue associated solely with the proposed 2026 recreation fee increases, in order to hold Community Centre recreation Admission and Passes, Lessons, Programs and permit fees at a 0% increase for 2026, consistent with the Mayor's "Zero means Zero" commitment to protect community centres and their programming.

CARRIED

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

*Opposed: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Virdi*

## **2. 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets – Parks and Recreation – Zero Percent Tax Increase**

The General Manager reviewed the presentation titled 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets – Parks and Recreation – Zero Percent Tax Increase.

Following the presentation, staff responded to questions related to:

- A fee funded model of operations
- The challenges of meet the \$11 million savings target with a "Zero means Zero" mandate and the need to minimize the impact to the user base
- Concern regarding additional funding required for the upcoming FIFA World Cup event
- Concern regarding Urban Forestry needs
- Concerns that costs are outpacing funding sources.

The Board heard from five speakers, of whom four spoke in opposition to the staff recommendation and one spoke on another subject. The speakers responded to questions from Commissioners.

## **Main Motion**

MOVED by Commissioner Haer

SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the proposed 2026 Parks and Recreation Operating Budget of \$191,957,410 in expenditures and transfers, funded by \$96,998,508 in revenues and \$94,958,902 of tax-based operating funds, as outlined in this report;
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2026 Parks and Recreation Multi-year Capital Project Budget in the amount of \$202,316,500 which consists of 46,833,000 in the Parks and Open Spaces service category, and \$115,483,500 in the Recreation Facilities and Service Yards service categories as outlined in this report;
- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2026 Parks and Recreation Annual Capital Expenditure Budget in the amount of \$126,361,215 which consists of \$56,562,864 in the Parks and Open Spaces service category, and \$69,798,351 in the Recreation Facilities and Service Yards service categories as outlined in this report; and
- D. THAT, subject to the approval of recommendations A, B, and C above, the Parks and Recreation 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets be submitted to Vancouver City Council for consideration in the approval of the City of Vancouver's 2026 Operating and 2026 Capital Budget.

## **Amendment to the Main Motion**

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

That Item E be added to the Main Motion, as follows:

- E. THAT the Park Board request that Vancouver City Council provide additional funding to ensure essential park and recreation services are not eroded under the Zero Means Zero budget specifically:
  - i. \$1.1 million in additional one-time operating funding for Urban Forestry for stump removal and to continue restoration of the urban tree canopy; and
  - ii. \$1.5 million in additional Park Operations funding to improve maintenance standards at parks and outdoor sports fields during the 2026 FIFA hosting year, ensuring park presentation, turf quality, washroom service levels, and field readiness reflect Vancouver's global profile.

**CARRIED**

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

*Opposed: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Viridi*

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

MOVED by Commissioner Digby

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

That Item F be added to the Main Motion, as follows:

- F. THAT the Board directs staff to report back to the Board in 2026 on a quarterly basis, changes made to staffing levels, compared to 2025.

CARRIED

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

*Opposed: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Virdi*

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

Commissioner Jensen requested that the motion be considered as distinct propositions.

### **Question on Item A**

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the proposed 2026 Parks and Recreation Operating Budget of \$191,957,410 in expenditures and transfers, funded by \$96,998,508 in revenues and \$94,958,902 of tax-based operating funds, as outlined in this report.

CARRIED

*In favour: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Virdi*

*Opposed: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Digby, Jensen*

*Abstained: Commissioner Christensen*

### **Question on Item B**

- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2026 Parks and Recreation Multi-year Capital Project Budget in the amount of \$202,316,500 which consists of 46,833,000 in the Parks and Open Spaces service category, and \$115,483,500 in the Recreation Facilities and Service Yards service categories as outlined in this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Question on Item C**

- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the 2026 Parks and Recreation Annual Capital Expenditure Budget in the amount of \$126,361,215 which consists of \$56,562,864 in the Parks and Open Spaces service category, and \$69,798,351 in the Recreation Facilities and Service Yards service categories as outlined in tis report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### Question on Item D

- D. THAT, subject to the approval of recommendations A, B, and C above, the Parks and Recreation 2026 Operating and Capital Budgets be submitted to Vancouver City Council for consideration in the approval of the City of Vancouver's 2026 Operating and 2026 Capital Budget.

### CARRIED

*In favour: Commissioners Christensen, Digby, Jensen, Haer, Howard, Viridi*

*Opposed: Commissioner Bastyovanszky*

### Question on Item E

- E. THAT the Park Board request that Vancouver City Council provide additional funding to ensure essential park and recreation services are not eroded under the Zero Means Zero budget specifically:
- i. \$1.1 million in additional one-time operating funding for Urban Forestry for stump removal and to continue restoration of the urban tree canopy; and
  - ii. \$1.5 million in additional Park Operations funding to improve maintenance standards at parks and outdoor sports fields during the 2026 FIFA hosting year, ensuring park presentation, turf quality, washroom service levels, and field readiness reflect Vancouver's global profile.

### CARRIED

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

*Opposed: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Viridi*

### Question on Item F

- F. THAT the Board directs staff to report back to the Board in 2026 on a quarterly basis, changes made to staffing levels, compared to 2025.

### CARRIED

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

*Opposed: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Viridi*

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 9:31 pm.

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Steve Jackson  
General Manager

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Laura Christensen  
Chair