



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 8, 2025

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, December 8, 2025, at 6:49 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
Commissioner Jas Virdi

**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

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:

(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 – Monday, November 3, 2025**
- 2. Special Board Meeting – Tuesday, November 4, 2025**
- 3. Special Board Meeting – Monday, November 24, 2025**

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Minutes of the following meeting be approved:

- A. Regular Board Meeting – Monday, November 3, 2025
- B. Special Board Meeting – Tuesday, November 4, 2025
- C. Special Board Meeting – Monday, November 24, 2025

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair highlighted the participation of Commissioners at Park Board events since the previous Board meeting on November 3, 2025:

- Commissioner Jensen attended the Annual General Meetings (AGMs) for the Burrardview Park Residents Association, Jericho Arts Centre, and Hastings Community Centre Association(CCA), in addition to the Childcare Council of Vancouver and the Marpole CCA meetings
- Commissioner Digby joined the Indigenous Species Fall Planting event
- Commissioner Digby presented a wreath at the National Indigenous Veterans Day ceremony at Victory Square Park
- Chair Christensen and Commissioner Jensen attended the Pacific Women's Hockey League announcement for the unveiling of the name and logo for the Vancouver Goldeneyes
- Commissioner Jensen attended the fall opening for Batch Kitsilano
- Chair Christensen and Commissioners Digby and Jensen attended the Goldeneyes Home opener
- Commissioner Jensen visited the Canyon Lights at the Capilano Suspension Bridge
- Commissioner Jensen met with Clint Wright at the Vancouver Aquarium to acknowledge the Marine Mammal Rescue team being awarded the Defender Service Award

- Commissioner Digby attended meetings with the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee, Mount Pleasant CCA, and Britannia Community Services Centre Association in his role as liaison
- Commissioner Digby attended the Brock House Winter Fair
- Commissioner Digby attended the Dunbar Holiday Craft Fair
- Commissioner Digby attended the Hastings Park Conservancy 25th Anniversary event
- Commissioner Jensen attended the Harry Potter: A Forbidden Forest Experience in Stanley Park
- Commissioners Haer and Jensen attended the Dragonboat Festival Year End Celebration
- Commissioner Jensen attended the FIFA Final Draw event
- Commissioners Bastyovanszky and Jensen attended the tree lighting ceremony with the West End Business Improvement Area.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were received via email or the [Contact Park Board Commissioners](#) web form between December 1, 2025, and 12:00 pm on December 8, 2025 regarding the Member's Motion titled "Think Inclusivity":

- Three in support.

STAFF REPORTS

1. General Manager's Report

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

- Council agenda items related to, or impacting, parks and recreation:
 - Council to receive a report on December 9, 2025, titled "[Change to Council Advisory Committee Term Dates](#)", which would change the term of all Council Advisory Committees, except for the Urban Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Committee, to end on January 30, 2026
 - Council to receive a report on December 9, 2025, titled "[Amendments to Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Bylaw No. 11451](#)", which would approve a new non-refundable application fee for non-personal information requests
 - Council to receive a report on December 10, 2025, titled "[2025 Cultural Grants \(Equity, Indigenous, Redress, Spaces, Public Art\)](#)", which would approve a total of 41 Cultural Grants funded from the 2025 Cultural Grants Operating Budget and 2025 Arts and Culture Operating Budget
 - Council to receive a report on December 10, 2025, titled "[Cultural Tourism and Community Sport Hosting Grants 2025 Year End](#)", which would approve eight grants funded from the 2025 Cultural Grant Operating Budget and 2025 Vancouver Community Sport Hosting Program Budget

- Council to consider a motion on December 10, 2025, titled "[Cementing the City of Vancouver's Support for Pride Weekend](#)", which would reaffirm support for the Vancouver Pride Society, including the annual Pride Parade related community programming, and directing staff to continue providing cultural grants, special event support, and public safety cost offsets in accordance with established policies
 - Council to consider a motion on December 10, 2025, titled "[Breaking up with the X: Equitable Access to Real-time Council Agenda and Speaker Updates](#)", which directs staff to explore microblogging alternatives as the source of council agenda and speaker updates
 - Council to consider a motion on December 10, 2025, titled "[Affirming Vancouver's Commitment as a Sanctuary City](#)", which would declare the City's commitment to being a Sanctuary City consistent with existing policies and principles
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from November 3 to December 8, 2025.

NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Creating a Vancouver Racquet Centre for Tennis and Pickleball

The Vice-Chair reported that the motion was withdrawn by the Mover.

2. Think Inclusivity

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

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Virdi

SECONDED by Commissioner Howard

WHEREAS

1. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is committed to creating equitable, inclusive, and accessible public spaces for all residents;
2. The renewal of the South Memorial Park Playground presents a timely opportunity to establish a city-leading model of universal and inclusive design; while the Board has already approved the inclusive and accessible playground and design work is underway, this motion reinforces the Board's priorities and provides clear direction to staff as they advance the project's design and implementation;
3. Current playground infrastructure in Vancouver does not fully meet the needs of children with disabilities, children who are neurodiverse, or their families and caregivers, limiting opportunities for social connection and equal participation;
4. Inclusive play elements such as wheelchair-accessible swings, wheelchair-accessible merry-go-rounds, and sensory play equipment are essential to ensuring that children of all abilities can play and grow together;

5. This renewal would introduce Vancouver's first wheelchair-accessible swing, and would establish South Memorial Park Playground as the most accessible, inclusive, and all-abilities park in the city;
5. The Pacific Autism Family Network and the Rick Hansen Foundation are recognized leaders in accessibility and neurodiversity inclusion and can provide critical expertise to guide the design and implementation;
7. Regional examples such as Unwin Park in Surrey and the Whistler Olympic Plaza Playground highlight the success and positive community impact of fully accessible, sensory-rich play spaces developed with input from the Rick Hansen Foundation.
8. Capital investment from the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation can be complemented by philanthropic and community contributions if a donation envelope is established for this project; and
9. That this motion be deemed supplementary and is intended to build upon and give further effect to the report dated September 12, 2025, entitled "Inclusive and Accessible Sensory Park."

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.

Amendment to the Main Motion

Point of Order

In response to a point of order raised by Commissioner Virdi, the Vice-Chair ruled that Item D of the proposed amendment is redundant and is out of order.

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT Items A to C be amended, as follows:

- A. THAT staff include in their consideration of the Inclusive Destination Playground and Splash Pad at Memorial South Park, if within the existing budget:
 - 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 by 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, including those recommended in the Inclusive Playgrounds Playbook; and
- C. THAT Commissioners be reminded that a donation envelope has been established for this project to enable community partners, philanthropic organizations, and individuals to contribute to the funding of this renewal alongside dedicated capital resources.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Jensen

Opposed: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Virdi

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT staff include in their consideration of the Inclusive Destination Playground and Splash Pad at Memorial South Park, if within the existing budget:
 - 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 by 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, including those recommended in the Inclusive Playgrounds Playbook; and
- C. THAT Commissioners be reminded that a donation envelope has been established for this project to enable community partners, philanthropic organizations, and individuals to contribute to the funding of this renewal alongside dedicated capital resources.

CARRIED

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

Abstained: Commissioner Jensen

ENQUIRIES

Commissioner Bastyovanszky requested the Board be provided with information on the impact of the rezoning of a property on Barclay Street.

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR – 2026 TERM

Change in Chair

The General Manager assumed the chair to conduct the elections.

1. Election of Board Chair

As set forth in the Park Board's Procedure By-law, the General Manager, acting as Chair pro tem, called for nominations for Chair of the Board for the 2026 term.

Commissioner Howard moved, and Commissioner Viridi seconded, the nomination of Commissioner Haer as Chair of the Board for 2026. Commissioner Haer accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Christensen moved, and Commissioner Bastyovanszky seconded, the nomination of Commissioner Digby as Chair of the Board for 2026. Commissioner Digby accepted the nomination.

The General Manager called for additional nominations. There being no further nominations, the General Manager declared nominations for the Chair of the Board closed.

A vote was taken by a show of hands at which Commissioner Digby was elected as Chair of the Board.

2. Election of Board Vice-Chair

The General Manager called for nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Board for 2026.

Commissioner Digby moved, and Commissioner Jensen seconded, the nomination of Commissioner Bastyovanszky as Vice-Chair of the Board for 2026. Commissioner Bastyovanszky accepted the nomination.

Commissioner Viridi moved, and Commissioner Howard seconded, the nomination of Commissioner Haer as Vice-Chair of the Board for 2026. Commissioner Haer accepted the nomination.

The General Manager called for additional nominations. There being no further nominations, the General Manager declared nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Board closed.

A vote was taken by a show of hands at which Commissioner Bastyovanszky was elected as Vice-Chair of the Board.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR – 2026 Term

1. Election of Committee Chair

The General Manager called for nominations for the Chair of the Committee for 2026.

Commissioner Digby moved, and Commissioner Jensen seconded, the nomination of Commissioner Christensen as Chair of the Committee for 2026. Commissioner Christensen accepted the nomination.

The General Manager called for additional nominations. There being no further nominations, the General Manager declared nominations for the Chair of the Committee closed.

The General Manager announced Commissioner Christensen elected as Chair of the Committee by acclamation.

2. Election of Committee Vice-Chair

The General Manager called for nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Committee for 2026.

Commissioner Christensen moved, and Commissioner Digby seconded, the nomination of Commissioner Jensen as Vice-Chair of the Committee for 2026. Commissioner Jensen accepted the nomination.

The General Manager called for additional nominations. There being no further nominations, the General Manager declared nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Committee closed.

The General Manager announced Commissioner Jensen elected as Vice-Chair of the Committee by acclamation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 8:18 pm.

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Steve Jackson
General Manager

Laura Christensen
Chair