



## PARK BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS — June 1, 2026 —

*The following information is intended to provide a brief overview of the Board's governance work at the Committee and Board meetings. The full agenda, meeting materials, video clips and official minutes can be found on the [Park Board website](#).*

### STAFF REPORTS / PRESENTATIONS

#### **Burrard View Hospice - Vancouver Coastal Health - Lease Agreement Renewal**

The Board approved the [report](#), which authorizes staff to enter into a lease agreement with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) for the fieldhouse at Burrard View Park for an initial term of ten years, with two additional five year renewals, for a total contract term of twenty years effective September 1, 2026. In exchange for the ability to provide hospice care from the site, VCH will initially invest approximately \$600,000 in much needed capital maintenance and commit to annual maintenance and repairs at a minimum of \$55,000/year for the entire building.

#### **Designated Smoking Area at Select Special Events in Summer 2026 - Pilot Program**

The Board approved the [report](#), which allows for designated smoking areas at select special events on a pilot program basis. While the Park Board's no smoking policy and public compliance-based approach has proven effective amongst general park users, illicit smoking at large events continues to be an issue of concern. In order to reduce illicit smoking at their events, reduce public safety risks and enhance park protection, two event producers – Trixstar Productions and Feaster Festivals & Events – will be allowed an exemption to the Park Board's Smoking Regulation Bylaw in order to offer designated smoking areas (tobacco and vaping products only), on a pilot program basis, for three events in Summer 2026. Staff will report back to the Board before designated smoking areas are introduced at these or other events in the future.

#### **Indigenous Community-led Cultural Events – Report Back**

The Board approved the [report](#), which allocates \$50,000 from the Corporate Sponsorship Fund for 2026 to support staff and services for Indigenous community-led cultural events and initiatives in parks. The Corporate Sponsorship Fund allocation enables staff to bring funding and operational, technical, and production support to the organization of Indigenous-led cultural events and ceremonies in parks. These events range from small community gatherings to major festivals, and contribute to vibrancy in parks and are important to both the relationship building that is foundational to the Park Board's [Reconciliation Missions and Mandate](#) and to the commitments to Reconciliation articulated in [VanPlay](#).

### CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Digby [highlighted](#) recent events attended by commissioners:

- Beaconsfield Park Wetland Tour – Commissioner Christensen attended the opening and tour of the new Beaconsfield Park wetland.
- Park Visits – Comr. Christensen – Commissioner Christensen visited Cedar Cottage Park and Tatlow Park Playground.
- Arts & Health Gala – Commissioner Christensen and Commissioner Haer attended the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Arts & Health Gala Showcase at Roundhouse Community Centre
- Park Visits – Comr. Jensen – Commissioner Jensen visited Riley Park Farmers Market, False Creek Community Centre, Oakridge Shopping Centre, and Nat Bailey Stadium



## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The General Manager presented an overview of the GM's report:

- Celebrating 10 Years of Reconciliation – The Park Board celebrated 10 years of Reconciliation in 2026. In 2016, the Park Board adopted its 11 Reconciliation Strategies as the foundation of our Reconciliation work and reaffirms its commitment to those strategies, and the implementation of the City's UNDRIP Action Plan endorsed by Park Board in 2024.
- National Indigenous History Month – National Indigenous History Month is celebrated every June across Canada. Through the month, there are many opportunities across the parks and recreation system to celebrate the occasion. The Park Board invites everyone to take time to attend these community events and programs, support Indigenous artists and cultural practitioners, and learn more about Indigenous peoples in Canada and Vancouver. More information on [related events and activities](#) can be found online.
- Hadden Park Floating Sauna Update - A referral report on the rezoning of four custody care and maintenance parcels in Hadden Park will be brought to City Council on June 2, 2026. Should Council approve the report at that time, the item will be referred to public hearing at a future date, where Council will decide on the rezoning.
- Villages Planning Program - A referral report on the Villages Planning Program be brought to City Council on June 2, 2026. The program focused on enabling Missing Middle housing and strengthening 17 local commercial areas and will be a key part of delivering the upcoming Vancouver Official Development Plan.
- Council Business (relating to or impacting parks & recreation)
  - Council to receive a report on June 2, 2026, titled "[Vision Zero Safe Mobility Plan](#)"
  - Council to receive a report on June 2, 2026, titled "[Proposed Amendments to the Election Bylaw](#)"
  - Council to receive a report on June 2, 2026, titled "[2026 Cultural Grants \(Projects, Cultural Spaces, Capacity\) and SRO Upgrading Grant](#)"
  - Council to receive a report on June 2, 2026, titled "[Auditor General Committee Recommendations Transmittal Report](#)"
  - Council to receive a report on June 3, 2026, titled "[Downtown Eastside \(DTES\) Plan Implementation Grant Program Allocation 2026](#)"
  - Council to receive for a report on June 3, 2026, titled "[City of Vancouver UNDRIP Task Force Annual Report](#)"
  - Council to consider a motion on June 3, 2026, titled "[Pride in Vancouver: Strengthening and Celebrating the Vancouver Pride Festival](#)"
  - Council to consider a motion on June 3, 2026, titled "[More than Zero: Integrity and Accountability for Staff and Department Changes](#)"
  - Council to consider a motion on June 3, 2026 titled "[Recognizing National Accessibility Week as an Official City of Vancouver Observance,](#)"



## BOARD MOTIONS

### **Prohibition and Restriction of Motorized Personal Watercraft in Burrard Inlet**

Commissioners discussed the formal policy position advocating for the prohibition or significant restriction of high-speed recreational motorized personal watercraft within Burrard Inlet and adjacent near-shore waters surround Vancouver parks and beaches. While the Commissioners appreciated the intent of the recommendation, the [motion](#) was defeated.

### **Think Accessible Play: Advancing Vancouver's Second Destination Inclusive Sensory and All-Abilities Park with a Communication Board Pilot at Queen Elizabeth Park**

The Board approved the [motion with amendments](#), which directs staff to undertake planning and feasibility work for the development of a destination sensory all-abilities park at Queen Elizabeth Park. Staff were directed to consider inclusive play features including, but not limited to, accessible play components, sensory-rich play experiences, quiet spaces, inclusive swings, and communication boards designed to support non-verbal individuals, educators and multilingual families. The Board will receive a report back via memo by Q1 2027 on timelines and preliminary concept directions.

### **Think Free Swim: Carrying on Joe Fortes' Legacy through Universal Access to Basic Swimming Lessons and Expansion of Aquatic Infrastructure as Core Public Safety Policy**

The Board approved the [motion with amendments](#), which affirms the Board's position that access to introductory swimming lessons should be treated as a core public safety goal. The Board directed staff to report back with cost, capacity, and service level options for a program providing tree access to the first three level of swimming lessons (or equivalent beginning stages) for all residents of Vancouver, with priority access for children aged 3 to 12. The report back will also clearly indicate the amount of service reductions elsewhere in the Park Board system that may be required with each option.

### **Beach Safety and Marine Protection**

The Board approved the [motion](#), which requests that Transport Canada, The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, the Vancouver Police Department Marine Unit, and other relevant agencies review opportunities to improve swimmer safety, recreational marine safety, and marine wildlife protection adjacent to Vancouver beaches and park waters. It also expresses the Board's willingness to support the placement of marine safety signage, maps, and whale awareness information at appropriate beaches, parks, seawalls, and waterfront access points under Park Board jurisdiction.

## NEXT MEETINGS

The next Committee and Board meetings are scheduled for July 13, 2026.