SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JULY 20, 2026

A Special meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, July 20, 2026, at 6:32 pm, in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference.

PRESENT:	Commissioner Laura Christensen, Acting Chair Commissioner Tom Digby, Chair Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky, Vice-Chair 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

* *Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.*

Appointment of Acting Chair

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

> THAT the Vancouver Park Board appoints Laura Christensen as the Acting Chair for the July 20, 2026 Special Meeting.

CARRIED
In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Jensen
Opposed: Commissioner Haer
Abstained: Commissioner Virdi
Absent: Commissioner Howard

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Acting Chair acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. We meet on this land respectfully and with honour to each other, the land, and the communities we serve. Commissioners were invited to join the Chair in actions of reconciliation in their deliberations and the decisions they make.

Motion to Suspend the Rules

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
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

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were received via email or the Contact Park Board Commissioners web form between July 13, 2026 and 3:00 pm on July 20, 2026:

- Vancouver Aquatic Centre Demolition – Contract Award:
  - One opposed
  - One email petition with 217 letters in opposition to the demolition.

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

1. Item 2 – Seasons in the Park Restaurant – Lease Extension

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

> THAT Item 2 be approved on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Item 3 – The Teahouse in Stanley Park Restaurant – Lease Extension

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Virdi

> THAT Item 3 be approved on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS

1. BC Hydro Rights-of-Way in Nelson Park – Agreements Amendments

The Director, Park Planning and Development, introduced the item. The Project Manager II, Park Development, provided a presentation regarding proposed amendments to the land use agreements with BC Hydro for the construction and operation of the West End Substation.

Staff responded to questions regarding:

- Neighbourhood concerns regarding the anticipated lengthy construction disruption and the loss of trees in Nelson Park
- The need to accommodate the Nelson Park Community Garden Society during the construction period and to restore the community gardens upon completion
- Alternatives for BC Hydro to obtain ownership of the land in the event that the Park Board refused to amend the land use agreements.

The Board heard from nine speakers, of which one spoke in favour and eight spoke in opposition to the staff recommendation.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

> THAT the Vancouver Park Board authorize the Director of Real Estate Services to execute those amendments and related agreements with BC Hydro, as outlined in this report (the "Nelson Park Hydro Amending Agreements"), for 1030 Bute Street, legally described as: PID 007-036-817, Lot B Block 22 District Lot 185 Plan 19348, related to the West End Substation Project (the "Project") on the terms and conditions outlined in this report and to the satisfaction of the General Manager of Real Estate, Environment and Facilities Management, the General Manager of Parks and Recreation, and the Director of Legal Services.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT Item B be added to the Main Motion:

> B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to work collaboratively with the Nelson Park Community Garden Society and BC Hydro to:
>
> i. Identify suitable temporary and permanent replacement growing areas within Nelson Park to maintain the capacity and long-term viability of the Nelson Park Community Garen during and following the BC Hydro construction project;
>
> ii. Facilitate the relocation and preservation, where practical, of the community garden's apiary, accessible garden plots, mature perennial planting, native

species, pollinator habitat, and other significant ecological or heritage garden assets; and

iii. Identify opportunities for site preparation, infrastructure, and other resources necessary to implement the relocation plan in a timely manner.

CARRIED
In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Jensen
Opposed: Commissioner Haer, Virdi
Absent: Commissioner Howard

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Virdi

THAT Items C and D be added to the Main Motion:

C. FURTHER THAT the Board direct staff to work with BC Hydro to so that the “alternative temporary public washroom facilities” are durable temporary toilets including wheelchair accessibility, rather than low durability event toilets; and

D. FURTHER THAT staff be directed to explore with BC Hydro the option to potentially use the Nelson Street statutory right-of-way (SRW) for the transmission segment rather than the Nelson Park Transmission SRW identified in Report Figure 1.1.

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

Question on Amendment Item C

THAT the Board direct staff to work with BC Hydro to so that the “alternative temporary public washroom facilities” are durable temporary toilets including wheelchair accessibility, rather than low durability event toilets.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Jensen, Digby, Haer, Virdi
Absent: Commissioner Howard

Question on Amendment Item D

THAT the Board direct staff to explore with BC Hydro the option to potentially use the Nelson Street statutory right-of-way (SRW) for the transmission segment rather than the Nelson Park Transmission SRW identified in Report Figure 1.1.

CARRIED
In favour: Commissioners Digby, Haer, Virdi
Opposed: Commissioner Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Jensen
Absent: Commissioner Howard

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board authorize the Director of Real Estate Services to execute those amendments and related agreements with BC Hydro, as outlined in this report (the "Nelson Park Hydro Amending Agreements"), for 1030 Bute Street, legally described as: PID 007-036-817, Lot B Block 22 District Lot 185 Plan 19348, related to the West End Substation Project (the "Project") on the terms and conditions outlined in this report and to the satisfaction of the General Manager of Real Estate, Environment and Facilities Management, the General Manager of Parks and Recreation, and the Director of Legal Services;

B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to work collaboratively with the Nelson Park Community Garden Society and BC Hydro to:

i. Identify suitable temporary and permanent replacement growing areas within Nelson Park to maintain the capacity and long-term viability of the Nelson Park Community Garen during and following the BC Hydro construction project;

ii. Facilitate the relocation and preservation, where practical, of the community garden's apiary, accessible garden plots, mature perennial planting, native species, pollinator habitat, and other significant ecological or heritage garden assets; and

iii. Identify opportunities for site preparation, infrastructure, and other resources necessary to implement the relocation plan in a timely manner;

C. FURTHER THAT the Board direct staff to work with BC Hydro to so that the "alternative temporary public washroom facilities" are durable temporary toilets including wheelchair accessibility, rather than low durability event toilets; and

D. FURTHER THAT staff be directed to explore with BC Hydro the option to potentially use the Nelson Street statutory right-of-way (SRW) for the transmission segment rather than the Nelson Park Transmission SRW identified in Report Figure 1.1.

CARRIED
In favour: Commissioners Christensen, Jensen
Opposed: Commissioner Haer, Virdi
Abstained: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Digby
Absent: Commissioner Howard

2. Seasons in the Park Restaurant – Lease Extension

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 extend the current lease agreement, with Q. E. Park Restaurant Inc. and Sequoia Company of Restaurants Inc. ("Sequoia"), for the restaurant at Queen Elizabeth Park for an initial term of four (4) years eleven (11) months, with one additional five (5) year renewal, for a total contract extension of nine (9) years and eleven (11) months effective March 1, 2028;

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.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

3. The Teahouse in Stanley Park Restaurant – Lease Extension

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 extend the current lease agreement, with Ferguson Point Restaurant Inc. and Sequoia Company of Restaurants Inc. ("Sequoia"), for the restaurant at Stanley Park for an initial term of four (4) years eleven (11) months, with one additional five (5) year renewal, for a total contract extension of nine (9) years and eleven (11) months effective January 1, 2028;

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.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

Recess
The meeting recessed at 8:00 pm and reconvened at 8:05 pm.

4. Vancouver Aquatic Centre (VAC) Demolition – Contract Award

The General Manager referenced the report provided with the agenda material and invited questions.

Staff responded to questions from the Board.

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

Recess
The meeting recessed at 8:27 pm and reconvened at 8:28 pm.

The Board heard from 17 speakers, of which one spoke in favour and16 spoke in opposition to the staff recommendation.

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

A. THAT the Board authorize staff to negotiate and execute a stipulated sum construction contract for demolition services of the existing Vancouver Aquatic Centre with Heatherbrae Builders Co. Ltd., for an estimated value of $3,469,927.88, covering all work through completion of post-demolition services (the “Agreement”), funded from the approved project capital budget;

B. THAT the Board delegate authority to execute the Agreement to the Director of Legal Services, Chief Procurement Officer, and Park Board General Manager, General Manager of Real Estate and Facilities Management;

C. FURTHER THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created by Board’s approval of Recommendations A and B unless and until the City executes and delivers the Agreement; and

D. THAT notwithstanding Recommendations A and B, staff continue to monitor the ongoing legal proceedings related to the Vancouver Aquatic Centre Renewal Project and, where appropriate, defer issuance of a Notice to Proceed or commencement of demolition activities until there is sufficient clarity regarding the outcome of the hearing and any associated legal matters.

CARRIED
In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Jensen
Opposed: Commissioner Haer, Virdi
Absent: Commissioner Howard

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 9:26 pm.

* * * * *

Steve Jackson General Manager	Tom Digby Chair