



Report Date: July 16, 2026

VanRIMS No.: 08-3000-30

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TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: Manager, Decolonization, Arts and Culture
SUBJECT: Recognition of Jim Clive and Howard Kelsey - Report Back

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. THAT the Park Board, in alignment with the 2022 Board decision suspending review of new commemorative requests, honour Jim Clive and Howard Kelsey through interpretive signage at Kitsilano Beach Park, recognising their contributions to Vancouver's athletic community.
- B. THAT staff coordinate an event to unveil the signage and recognise Jim Clive and Howard Kelsey's contributions to Vancouver's athletic community.

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

In a member's motion passed on May 25, 2026, Park Board Commissioners directed staff to formally recognise and honour the contributions of Jim Clive and Howard Kelsey to Kitsilano Beach Park and Vancouver's recreation system, including consideration for the naming of facilities, and to report back in a timely manner with options to commemorate each of their legacies. This report outlines the request and associated Park Board and City of Vancouver policies and practices that inform Park Board staff recommendations.

VANCOUVER PARK BOARD AUTHORITY

As per the [Vancouver Charter](#), the Park Board has exclusive jurisdiction and control over all areas designated as permanent and temporary parks in the City of Vancouver, including any structures, programs and activities, fees, and improvements that occur within those parks.

The Board shall have the custody, care and management to the extent prescribed by Council of such other areas belonging to or held by the City as Council may from time to time determine.

PARK BOARD PREVIOUS DECISIONS AND POLICIES

[VanPlay Framework](#), [Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan](#) (2020). These recommendations align with VanPlay's direction to support diverse cultural visibility through arts, culture, and storytelling, including collaboration on commemorative and interpretive initiatives.

[Joint CoV/PB Commemoration Framework - Guiding Principles, Vision & Emerging Priorities](#) (2022). Approved recommendation: "THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to suspend the review of any new commemorative requests including plaques, naming, and monument donations while the Commemoration Framework is under development." This remains current.

Adopting the [UNDRIP Action Plan 2024-2028](#) (2024). Action Group 9 – Public Realm, Early Action 1: Assert presence of the Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, and Tsleil-Waututh Nation via asset naming, re-naming, and commemoration.

[Park Board Commemorative Naming Policy Park Board Community Facilities](#) (2007). The policy defines commemorative naming as naming a property in honour of outstanding achievement, distinctive service, or significant community contribution, generally without financial consideration.

CITY OF VANCOUVER PREVIOUS DECISIONS AND POLICIES

In the absence of Park Board-specific policies, staff look to policies and procedures processed by the City of Vancouver for non-binding guidance.

[City of Vancouver Commemoration Framework](#) (2026). Application Criteria – When commemorating individuals, it is recommended that there be a minimum of a two-year waiting period from the time of a person's passing or the occurrence of an event and the proposed commemoration.

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Staff have been directed to formally recognize and honour the contributions of Jim Clive and Howard Kelsey to Kitsilano Beach Park and Vancouver's recreation system, and to report back with options to commemorate their legacies including naming of amenities in the park.

As outlined in the members' motion, Jim Clive will be inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2026 for his contributions to beach volleyball in British Columbia as a coach, volunteer, and founder of Vancouver's first permanent beach volleyball courts at Kitsilano Beach. Howard Kelsey, a Canadian Basketball Hall of Fame inductee and former Team Canada player who represented Canada for 11 years, including at two Olympic Games, has made significant contributions to the development of basketball in Vancouver and launched Kits Fest, the annual three-day sports and healthy living festival at Kitsilano Beach that began in 2009.

The motion highlights their legacies of teamwork, mentorship, and civic pride, and references the existing signage recognising Vasek Pospisil at the Kitsilano Beach Tennis Courts as an example of recognition within a public recreation space.

The motion directs staff to *"report back on options to commemorate Jim Clive and Howard Kelsey as part of the Kitsilano Beach Park project, including: (i) consideration of naming the beach volleyball court at Kitsilano Beach Park in Jim Clive's honour and a basketball court at Kitsilano Beach Park, consistent with Park Board naming policies; and (ii) other appropriate recognition measures, including plaques, dedications, or naming of park features."*

DISCUSSION

There is a current Board-approved [suspension](#) of new commemorative requests. Additionally, the City has approved a [Commemoration Framework](#) indicating that commemorations aren't supported for living individuals. The Park Board Commemoration Framework is under development; in the interim Park Board can default to City policies or give specific direction to staff. As such, staff have received the Board's direction and identified an opportunity to honour the contributions of the individuals named in a way that celebrates their achievements and contributions to the sports supported by Park Board and is consistent with current best practices, or alternatively, name amenities in Kitsilano Beach Park.

In June 2022, the Park Board approved the [Joint City of Vancouver/Park Board Commemoration Framework – Guiding Principles, Vision & Emerging Priorities](#), developed in partnership with the City of Vancouver. The Framework was intended to guide policies related to monuments, memorials, plaques, naming and renaming. As part of this work, the Board approved a suspension on new commemorative requests, including naming proposals, plaques, and monument donations, pending completion of the Framework. It does not apply to recognising or honouring individuals through non-commemorative measures such as interpretive signage, storytelling, and public recognition events.

In March 2026, Vancouver City Council approved a City of Vancouver Commemoration Framework establishing the City's approach to commemorative requests. The Park Board's Arts, Reconciliation and Culture Department will develop a Park Board-specific Commemoration Framework informed by the City's framework. The completed framework will include policies related to park naming and commemorative naming.

While the current suspension applies to new commemorative requests, it does not prevent the Park Board from recognising or honouring individuals through non-commemorative measures such as interpretive signage, storytelling, and public recognition events nor does it prevent the Board as decision maker to take a different approach on a case-by-case basis.

Commemorative Best Practices

The City of Vancouver's Commemoration Framework defines commemoration as "an intentional act of acknowledging the memory of communities, people, places, events and ideas." While the Park Board is not bound by the City's framework, its assessment criteria reflect current best practices and community feedback gathered through the joint City–Park Board Commemoration Framework process.

A key principle of the framework is that commemoration should be locally relevant, recognize Vancouver's diverse communities and histories, and advance reconciliation priorities. The framework also requires a minimum two-year waiting period following a person's death or the occurrence of an event before commemoration is considered. This approach aligns with national and international best practices, which generally discourage commemorating living individuals because their legacies are still evolving and public perceptions may change over time. The Board may want to consider a time limited approach to the proposed recognition of these two individuals.

Park Board continues to support celebrating the contributions of these remarkable individuals to sports that deliver Park Board's goals of supporting the health, vitality, and community relationships in ways that are consistent with approved policies for commemoration.

Options for Honouring Jim Clive and Howard Kelsey

Recognition Option (Recommended)

Considering the established standards of commemoration and the Park Board's temporary suspension of commemorative naming, staff recommend that the Park Board proceed with the second recommendation in the member motion and use a recognition-based approach through interpretive signage at the Kitsilano Beach Volleyball and Basketball Courts. Similar to the signage recognising Vasek Pospisil at the Kitsilano Beach Tennis Courts, the signage would celebrate Jim Clive's and Howard Kelsey's contributions to Vancouver's athletic community and acknowledge the long-standing role of their respective organisations in supporting beach volleyball and basketball at Kitsilano Beach.

This approach provides a timely opportunity to honour their achievements while remaining consistent with current Park Board policy, emerging commemorative policy directions, and City of Vancouver best practices. The signage could be unveiled at a public ceremony attended by the honourees and the community.

Naming Option

Alternatively, the basketball courts could be named the 'Howard Kelsey Basketball Courts'. There are two options for recognizing this designation at the site:

- Plaque Installation: A plaque could be installed on a decorative rock adjacent to the courts.
- Court Surface Recognition: The name could be painted directly on the court surface in a discreet manner.

The installation of a plaque is the sub option preferred by staff, as it provides an opportunity to include interpretive information highlighting Howard Kelsey's achievements and contributions, is consistent with other naming plaque installation in parks, and is easy to fabricate, install, and maintain in-house.

Similarly, the volleyball courts at Kitsilano Beach could be named the 'Jim Clive Volleyball Courts'. Recognition options include:

- Plaque Installation: A plaque mounted on a decorative rock near the courts. allows for the inclusion of explanatory and commemorative information about Jim Clive's accomplishments and legacy.
- Post-Mounted Signage: A plaque or sign installed on a vertical post, similar in appearance and scale to the volleyball net posts.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The costs of developing signage to honour Jim Clive and Howard Kelsey would include staff time and materials for content development, consultation with the honourees, their families, and community organisations, as well as design, production, and installation.

Costs associated with signage unveiling ceremonies would depend on the scale of the events and may include staff resources for planning and coordination, communications support, and event-related supplies and services.

All costs associated with the development and installation of signage, as well as any unveiling ceremonies, would be borne by the park amenities capital program for interpretive signs, and operating programs for ceremonies. . Based on comparable recognition and signage projects, staff estimate that a budget of approximately \$20,000 would be sufficient to cover design, fabrication, installation, and event costs.

CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Park Board staff have reviewed the members' motion and recommend a recognition-based approach that honours Jim Clive and Howard Kelsey while remaining consistent with the current suspension of commemorative requests, emerging directions in commemoration policy, and best practices for recognising living individuals.

Subject to Board approval, staff will work with the honourees, their families, and relevant community organisations to develop and design the signage, oversee fabrication and installation, and determine appropriate locations near the beach volleyball and basketball courts.

Following installation, staff will coordinate a public unveiling event to provide an opportunity for Commissioners and the community to recognise and celebrate the contributions of Jim Clive and Howard Kelsey.

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