



June 12, 2026

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Director, Business Services

SUBJECT : **Stanley Park Mini Golf Activation – Pilot Program – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to inform you of an upcoming summer mini golf activation in the Stanley Park Train Plaza that is anticipated to operate from July 1, 2026 to September 30, 2026.

Background/Context

Due to ongoing issues related to aging infrastructure and equipment, and the required timeline for upgrades, the Stanley Park Train has not been operational since December 2024. These challenges, together with the required capital investment for upgrades, prompted a review of the Stanley Park Train business model. The results of the review were presented to Commissioners at a public meeting on July 7, 2025, and resulted in the issuance of a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEOI) in February 2026 to explore market interest in the introduction of an updated and reimagined attraction at the Stanley Park Train site. The RFEOI closed on April 30, 2026 and staff are now working with the City of Vancouver's Supply Chain Management team to review and evaluate submissions (an update on the Stanley Park Train RFEOI process will be provided to Commissioners in a separate memo).

While the evaluation process and next steps unfold, Park Board staff continue to proactively pursue opportunities to activate the Stanley Park Train site in order to engage new audiences, add value to visitor experiences in Stanley Park (particularly during the FIFA World Cup 2026 event period), and generate incremental revenues that can be used to support parks and recreation services and programs. The Stanley Park Mini Golf experience presented in this briefing memo represents the most recent activation opportunity and follows the successful delivery of the Harry Potter Forbidden Forest event in this location in late 2025/early 2026.

About the Operator (Studio Meanwhile)

The Stanley Park Mini Golf Activation will be undertaken in collaboration with Studio Meanwhile. Founded in 2013 in Vancouver, Studio Meanwhile is headquartered in Vancouver's Kitsilano neighborhood and led by Founder and Creative Director Chris Charest. For over 12 years, Studio Meanwhile has built a strong reputation of transforming urban landscapes and blending industrial design with creative placemaking to deliver solutions that empower communities to thrive. The company uses its designs and products as tools for shaping how people live, connect, and share public spaces in cities. Studio Meanwhile has successfully partnered with several Vancouver Business Improvement Associations to reimagine neighbourhood plazas and create vibrant people-focused public spaces, including projects in South Graville and West 4th. As an international design studio with clients in Canada and the United States, Studio Meanwhile operates as a registered benefit corporation with a triple bottom line business focus.

Studio Meanwhile will be the operator of the Stanley Park Mini Golf Activation and its staff will be responsible for managing and operating the experience, including onsite guest registration,



operations, concession activities, and maintenance to ensure a clean, safe, and welcoming environment.

Studio Meanwhile will also develop and maintain an online booking platform for the Stanley Park Mini Golf Activation at stanleyparkminigolf.com. This portal will enable guests to select and pay for their golf experience in advance and skip potential line-ups.

Overview of the Concept/Experience

The Stanley Park Mini Golf Activation will be a new attraction in the Stanley Park Train Plaza for Summer 2026. With 18 holes and a few hidden extras, guests will be welcomed to play a round of 9-holes on the front 9, great for families and those wanting a quicker game experience, or the full 18-hole course experience.

The Stanley Park Mini Golf Activation is a unique destination experience that blends the natural beauty of Stanley Park with a visually impressive and fun to play course. The experience leans into the forest backdrop of the train plaza site, enabling guests to discover each hole as they walk through the course.

Each hole is designed to be playable by guests of all skill levels and deliver satisfying experiences. Some guests may find themselves wanting to play more than once and will be welcomed to spend the afternoon, with food & beverage options, public seating, and other ancillary game experiences.

Ancillary Experiences & Weekend/Evening Programming

The Stanley Park Mini Golf Activation will provide guests with food & beverage options, including a pop-up kiosk offering treats and picnic baskets for guests to enjoy in the park along with programming like market event pop-ups and potential food truck vendors (subject to market demand). Additionally, there will be complimentary onsite game experiences such as the Studio Meanwhile designed Art Deco style City Pong tables, small games like cornhole, etc.

On select days and times, there will also be DJ music sets in the evenings and roving performers in costumes to enlighten and enhance this Stanley Park Mini Golf experience.

Saturday & Sunday Afternoons

From 11:00am to 5:00pm on Saturdays and Sundays weekly, the Stanley Park Mini Golf Activation will have family friendly experiences, including roving performers to create memorable photo opportunities, live music/DJ sets, as well as pop-up vendors and potentially food trucks.

Thursday, Friday & Saturday Evenings

From 7:00pm to 11:00pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, the Stanley Park Mini Golf Activation will transform itself into a 19+ event, serving drinks along with food and music/DJ sets. The musical entertainment is intended to create a comfortable and engaging background atmosphere and will be delivered at sound levels appropriate for an evening park environment.

This programming will be adjusted based on guest feedback to provide fresh and exciting guest experiences throughout the season.

Target Audiences



The Stanley Park Mini Golf Activation is intended for guests of all skill levels to play and enjoy. The general target audience will be families with children 5 and up, as well as guests of all ages. There will also be targeted evening programming aimed at adults.

Hours of Operation

The anticipated operating hours for the Stanley Park Mini Golf Activation are summarized below; these operating hours are subject to change based on seasonality and market demand.

- Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays – 10:00am to 9:00pm
- Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays – 10:00am to 11:00pm

Pricing

Pricing for the Stanley Park Mini-Golf Activation is still being finalized but it's expected that the experience will offer 9-hole and 18-hole pricing with adult, child, and family rates. The average guest pricing is expected to be in the range of \$19.50/person.

Activation Benefits

The benefits accruing to the public, the Park Board, and its partners/stakeholders from the Stanley Park Mini Golf Activation include:

- Engagement of residents and visitors through an experiential event activation;
- Collaboration and support with existing Stanley Park partners/stakeholders;
- Collaboration and support for local suppliers and creatives;
- Promotion of Vancouver as a destination for tourism, support for long-term economic activity, and enhancement of the City's reputation (particularly during the FIFA World Cup 2026 event period); and
- Generating important incremental revenues that can be used to support Vancouver's parks and recreation system.

Financial Considerations

All expenses related to the delivery and execution of the Stanley Park Mini Golf Activation will be borne by the event producers; there will be no cost to the Park Board related to this initiative.

Park Board staff will work with the organizers to finalize the financial terms and conditions for the use of the Stanley Park Train Plaza location in a manner consistent with the Park Board's annual Fees & Charges framework.

Risk Considerations

This initiative is considered to be very low risk given that it activates an existing event and business location in Stanley Park with relatively low impact and minimal stakeholder implications.

Next Steps

Park Board and Studio Meanwhile staff will work collaboratively over the coming weeks to complete the following actions required to deliver and deactivate the Stanley Park Mini Golf Activation:

- June 8 to June 30:
 - Mini Golf course construction and site setup
- June 15 to June 19:
 - Proposed public announcement
 - Website and bookings go live on stanleyparkminigolf.com
- July 1 to September 30:



- 2026 seasonal operations
- October 1 to October 31:
 - Scheduled teardown and/or possible extension (subject to market demand)
- October 2026:
 - Removal of all course assets and site returned to its original and natural state (including site cleaning and placing mini golf equipment/infrastructure into seasonal storage)
- November 2026
 - End of season review with Vancouver Park Board staff

We welcome you to drop by and experience this new and enjoyable activation in Stanley Park once operational on July 1.

Please contact me should you have any questions or require additional information.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Brodie".

John Brodie (he/him)
Director, Business Services – Vancouver Parks and Recreation

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
PB Business Services
PB Communications
Octavio Silva, Associate Director, Business Development
Leeza Woo, Business Development & Sponsorship Coordinator

Appendix 1 Preliminary Stanley Park Mini-Golf Concept Renderings

Logo and Branding



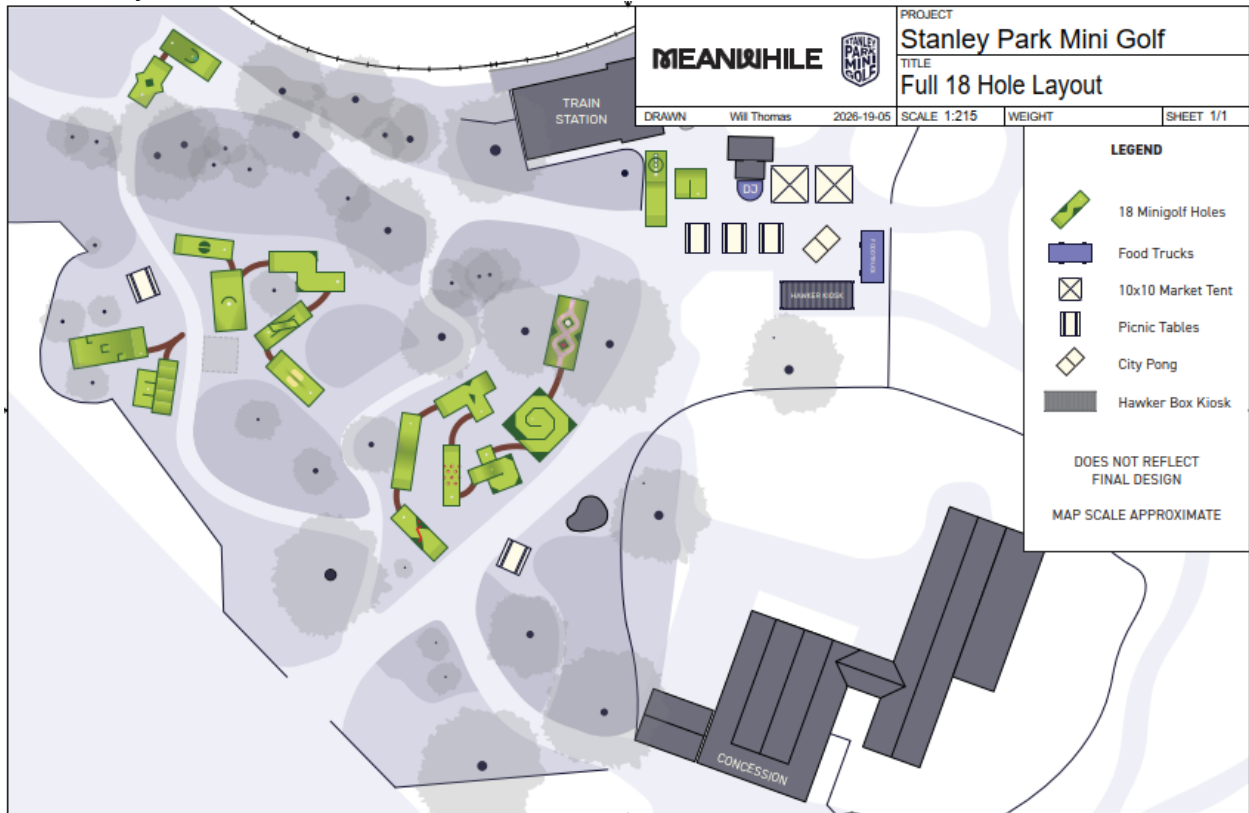
Merchandise



Design



Preliminary Site Plan



Operations Kiosk

