



BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 6 AND 7, 2025

A Committee meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, October 6, 2025 at 6:37 pm in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference. Subsequently, the meeting recessed and reconvened on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 6:37 pm.

PRESENT:

Commissioner Scott Jensen, Chair
Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky
Commissioner Laura Christensen
Commissioner Tom Digby, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Angela Haer
Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard
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 territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

Suspension of Rules

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Virdi

THAT the Vancouver Park Board varies the agenda to consider the item titled "T100 Vancouver Multisport Festival 2026 – Special Event" following the Referred Items.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Commissioner Haer
SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Vancouver Park Board suspends the rules to hear from speakers who had registered following the deadline.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Digby, Haer, Virdi

Opposed: Commissioner Howard

Abstained: Commissioners Christensen, Jensen

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Board Committee Meeting – September 15, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Digby

SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT the Minutes of the Board Committee meeting on September 15, 2025, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were received via email or the [Contact Park Board Commissioners](#) web form between September 29, 2025, and 3:00 pm on October 6, 2025 regarding:

- Member's Motion titled "Think Home Run":
 - Two in support
 - One with other comments
- Procurement Policy Update – Report Back:
 - One opposed
- T100 Vancouver Multisport Festival 2026 – Special Event:
 - Four in support.

REFEPPED ITEMS

1. Think Home Run

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

The Board Committee heard from 15 speakers, of which 11 spoke in support and three spoke in opposition to the Member's Motion and one requested that use of the proposed batting facility be restricted to JLL players. The speakers responded to questions from Commissioners.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Virdi

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

WHEREAS:

1. Jericho Little League (JLL) is a long-standing, volunteer-run, not-for-profit organization that has provided meaningful athletic opportunities for children in Vancouver for decades, serving approximately 450 children aged 4 to 12 annually, and delivering high-quality programming that relies heavily on City park infrastructure;

2. JLL uses various Vancouver parks including Jericho Beach Park, Trimble Park, and Carnarvon Park for its baseball programs;
3. JLL has proposed the construction of a new enclosed baseball training facility at Carnarvon Park, near 16th Avenue and Mackenzie Street, utilizing the existing footprint of the current batting cage and bullpen area, ensuring that no additional green space will be impacted;
4. The proposed facility would be fully funded by JLL through donations and corporate sponsorships, resulting in no capital or operating costs to the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation;
5. Once built, the facility would be operated and maintained in partnership with Park Board, and would be made available not only to Jericho Little League players, but all local baseball clubs, teams, and youth development programs, thereby maximizing community access and expanding use across a broader recreational base;
6. The enclosed nature of the facility would provide year-round access to baseball training for children and youth, particularly during winter and rainy months, supporting the Park Board's broader objectives to promote equity in access, youth participation, and lifelong physical activity;
7. The proposed facility is inspired by and modeled on successful precedents, such as the UBC Rose Indoor Training Centre, a high-demand resource for winter baseball training, though the Carnarvon Park version would be scaled appropriately for community-level use;
8. JLL has consistently demonstrated responsible stewardship of public facilities, maintaining the current Carnarvon Park batting cage at no cost to the City, and has committed to continuing that responsibility with this proposed facility; and
9. Carnarvon Park is scheduled to host the B.C. Little League Majors Provincial Championship tournament in 2027, underscoring the importance of the site as a regional sports venue and further supporting the need for modern, year-round training infrastructure. (In 2025, the same tournament will be hosted at Trout Lake Park.)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to work collaboratively with Jericho Little League to explore the feasibility of constructing and operating an enclosed community baseball training facility at Carnarvon Park, including but not limited to:

- A. Assessing site suitability and potential design or environmental considerations;
- B. Evaluating operational logistics, including access, scheduling, and community use;
- C. Identifying and analyzing potential community benefits, especially for equity-seeking and underserved youth populations;
- D. Investigating the financial structure, including the potential for a revenue-sharing arrangement with JLL to ensure long-term sustainability and potential Park Board benefit; and

- E. Engagement with existing user groups and key stakeholders, including but not limited to soccer leagues, multi-sport organizations, residents, and other park users, to ensure transparency, collaboration, and effective shared use of the park space;

AND FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to report back to the Board by Q1 of 2026, with findings, recommendations, and proposed next steps, including community engagement opportunities, a review of comparable facility models, and guidance to support an informed decision on advancing the proposed partnership.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT the Main Motion be replaced with the following:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to evaluate the Jericho Little League (JLL) proposal in accordance with the Park Board's Unsolicited Proposal Process, clarifying whether it qualifies as a Tier 1 ($\leq \$200k$ construction) or Tier 2 project, and ensuring alignment with the Board's established policies on community amenities, partnerships, sponsorships, and donations;
- B. FURTHER THAT staff assess the proposal's consistency with the Park Board's VanPlay Framework, and the Sport Field Strategy priorities, equitable access, community benefit, including:
 - i. Direction 5, Action C – Sustainable funding source to support minor upgrades; and
 - ii. Direction 5, Action J – Implementation of enhanced amenities;
- C. AND FURTHER THAT staff report back by Q2 2026 with recommended next steps.

Amendment to the Amendment

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT Item C of the Amendment be amended to:

- C. AND FURTHER THAT staff report back in the next Unsolicited Proposal Process (UPP) report back to the Board.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen; Digby, Howard, Jensen

Opposed: Commissioner Haer

Abstained: Commissioner Virdi

Question on the Amendment, as Amended

THAT the Main Motion be replaced with the following:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to evaluate the Jericho Little League (JLL) proposal in accordance with the Park Board's Unsolicited Proposal Process, clarifying whether it qualifies as a Tier 1 ($\leq$ \$200k construction) or Tier 2 project, and ensuring alignment with the Board's established policies on community amenities, partnerships, sponsorships, and donations;
- B. FURTHER THAT staff assess the proposal's consistency with the Park Board's VanPlay Framework, and the Sport Field Strategy priorities, equitable access, community benefit, including:
 - i. Direction 5, Action C – Sustainable funding source to support minor upgrades; and
 - ii. Direction 5, Action J – Implementation of enhanced amenities;
- C. AND FURTHER THAT staff report back in the next Unsolicited Proposal Process (UPP) report back to the Board.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Jensen

Opposed: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Virdi

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to evaluate the Jericho Little League (JLL) proposal in accordance with the Park Board's Unsolicited Proposal Process, clarifying whether it qualifies as a Tier 1 ($\leq$ \$200k construction) or Tier 2 project, and ensuring alignment with the Board's established policies on community amenities, partnerships, sponsorships, and donations;
- B. FURTHER THAT staff assess the proposal's consistency with the Park Board's VanPlay Framework, and the Sport Field Strategy priorities, equitable access, community benefit, including:
 - i. Direction 5, Action C – Sustainable funding source to support minor upgrades; and
 - ii. Direction 5, Action J – Implementation of enhanced amenities;
- C. AND FURTHER THAT staff report back in the next Unsolicited Proposal Process (UPP) report back to the Board.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recess

The meeting recessed at 8:21 pm and reconvened at 8:30 pm.

2. Potential Disqualification of Commissioner Howard

Commissioner Bastyovanszky introduced the motion and responded to questions from the Board Committee.

The Board Committee heard from six speakers, of which five spoke in support and one spoke in opposition to the Member's Motion. The speakers responded to questions from Commissioners.

Motion to Extend

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the meeting be extended to the conclusion of the discussion of the item titled "T100 Vancouver Multisport Festival Triathlon – Special Event".

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Jensen, Virdi

Opposed: Commissioner Howard

Abstained: Commissioner Haer

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

WHEREAS:

1. Section 144 of the *Vancouver Charter* provides that a Commissioner who is absent from meetings of the Board for a period of 60 consecutive days or four regularly scheduled meetings, whichever is the longer time period, without leave of the Board ceases to hold office;
2. Commissioner Howard has missed three consecutive Board meetings on three separate occasions, placing her one meeting short of the threshold for disqualification under Section 144 of the *Vancouver Charter*;
3. Commissioner Howard has been absent without leave from 60% of Board meetings in 2025 missing 6 of 10 meetings, her recorded absences for 2025 are:

- January 20, 2025 - Absent	- May 12, 2025 - Absent
- February 3, 2025 - Absent	- June 2, 2025 - Absent
- February 24, 2025 - Absent	- June 16, 2025 - Absent

4. Commissioner Howard was absent from the following consecutive regular meetings of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation without leave in 2025:
 - May 12, 2025
 - June 16, 2025
 - June 2, 2025
5. Commissioner Howard was recorded as absent for a portion of the meeting on April 14, 2025, which may constitute a fourth consecutive absence and requires a legal opinion; and
6. Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard has demonstrated a consistent pattern of absenteeism, lack of transparency, and disregard for obligations under the Vancouver Charter, raising serious questions about her capacity to serve in public office.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation refers the matter to legal counsel for review and confirmation of the applicability of Section 144 of the *Vancouver Charter* to Commissioner Howard's attendance record, and requests that legal counsel provide a recommendation to the Board on appropriate next steps.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Digby

SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT the Main Motion be replaced with the following:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation reaffirm that Commissioners are expected to attend all Board or Board Committee meetings, in person or by electronic attendance, otherwise a Leave of Absence is required; and

FURTHER THAT The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation implement a process for requesting Board permission for electronic attendance, as proposed in the March 8, 2021 report to the Board ("Park Board Procedure By-law Update – Report Back"), and that without such permission a Commissioner will be deemed absent from the Board or Board Committee meeting;

- B. THAT the Board request that the City review the actions taken by Commissioner Howard in regards to the Conflict of Interest provisions of *Vancouver Charter* Sections 145.2-145.5, or other sections, noting in particular that Commissioner Howard:
 - i. Attended, participated and voted on a motion in which she had a pecuniary interest in at the Board Meeting of September 16, 2025; and is again attending and participating in this motion tonight and still has not recognized or declared her ongoing Conflict of Interest in these proceedings;
 - ii. By email to all Commissioners dated September 9, 2025, sought to influence Commissioners' views of this motion;
 - iii. By filing a complaint with the Integrity Commissioner, sought to have certain Commissioners deemed ineligible to vote on this motion; and

- iv. Any other actions of Commissioner Howard as may be revealed by due investigation; and
- C. FURTHER THAT if such actions are deemed to have disqualified Commissioner Howard from holding office under Section 38(2) of the *Vancouver Charter*, that the Park Board request the City make an application to the courts for declaration of disqualification of Commissioner Howard under Section 142.1(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Haer
SECONDED by Commissioner Virdi

THAT the Main Motion be replaced with the following:

- A. The motion titled “Potential Disqualification of Commissioner Howard” submitted on July 21, 2025, be struck from the public record as redundant, procedurally improper, and inconsistent with the intent of Section 144 of the *Vancouver Charter*;
- B. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation affirm its commitment to compassion, dignity, and due process in all matters relating to Commissioners’ attendance and personal circumstances;
- C. The Board recognize that compassion and humanity must guide our actions, particularly when a Commissioner is experiencing profound personal loss, such as the passing of a parent; and
- D. Any future attendance or conduct concerns be referred in camera to legal counsel and the General Manager for confidential consideration prior to any public discussion or motion.

DEFEATED

In favour: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Virdi

Opposed: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Jensen

Amendment to the Main Motion

THAT the Main Motion be replaced with the following:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation reaffirm that Commissioners are expected to attend all Board or Board Committee meetings, in person or by electronic attendance, otherwise a Leave of Absence is required; and

FURTHER THAT The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation implement a process for requesting Board permission for electronic attendance, as proposed in the March 8, 2021 report to the Board (“Park Board Procedure By-law Update – Report Back”), and that without such permission a Commissioner will be deemed absent from the Board or Board Committee meeting;

- B. THAT the Board request that the City review the actions taken by Commissioner Howard in regards to the Conflict of Interest provisions of *Vancouver Charter* Sections 145.2-145.5, or other sections, noting in particular that Commissioner Howard:
- i. Attended, participated and voted on a motion in which she had a pecuniary interest in at the Board Meeting of September 16, 2025; and is again attending and participating in this motion tonight and still has not recognized or declared her ongoing Conflict of Interest in these proceedings;
 - ii. By email to all Commissioners dated September 9, 2025, sought to influence Commissioners' views of this motion;
 - iii. By filing a complaint with the Integrity Commissioner, sought to have certain Commissioners deemed ineligible to vote on this motion; and
 - iv. Any other actions of Commissioner Howard as may be revealed by due investigation; and
- C. FURTHER THAT if such actions are deemed to have disqualified Commissioner Howard from holding office under Section 38(2) of the *Vancouver Charter*, that the Park Board request the City make an application to the courts for declaration of disqualification of Commissioner Howard under Section 142.1(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Jensen

Opposed: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Virdi

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation reaffirm that Commissioners are expected to attend all Board or Board Committee meetings, in person or by electronic attendance, otherwise a Leave of Absence is required; and

FURTHER THAT The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation implement a process for requesting Board permission for electronic attendance, as proposed in the March 8, 2021 report to the Board ("Park Board Procedure By-law Update – Report Back"), and that without such permission a Commissioner will be deemed absent from the Board or Board Committee meeting;

- B. THAT the Board request that the City review the actions taken by Commissioner Howard in regards to the Conflict of Interest provisions of *Vancouver Charter* Sections 145.2-145.5, or other sections, noting in particular that Commissioner Howard:
- i. Attended, participated and voted on a motion in which she had a pecuniary interest in at the Board Meeting of September 16, 2025; and is again attending and participating in this motion tonight and still has not recognized or declared her ongoing Conflict of Interest in these proceedings;
 - ii. By email to all Commissioners dated September 9, 2025, sought to influence Commissioners' views of this motion;

- iii. By filing a complaint with the Integrity Commissioner, sought to have certain Commissioners deemed ineligible to vote on this motion; and
 - iv. Any other actions of Commissioner Howard as may be revealed by due investigation; and
- C. FURTHER THAT if such actions are deemed to have disqualified Commissioner Howard from holding office under Section 38(2) of the *Vancouver Charter*, that the Park Board request the City make an application to the courts for declaration of disqualification of Commissioner Howard under Section 142.1(1) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Jensen

Opposed: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Virdi

STAFF REPORTS

Agenda Varied

The order of the agenda was varied to consider Item 3 prior to Item 1.

3. T100 Vancouver Multisport Festival Triathlon – Special Event

The Director, Business Services, introduced the item. The Associate Director, Business Development, and Operations Manager, Filming and Special Events, jointly reviewed a presentation regarding the proposed addition to the annual Calendar of Major Special Events and highlighted:

- Successful execution of the inaugural 2024 event
- Proposed event dates of August 14 to 16, 2026 and mid-August thereafter.

Following the presentation, staff and the event organizers responded to questions and comments related to the preference for August dates from an international competition perspective.

The Board Committee heard from seven speakers, all of whom spoke in support of the staff recommendation. The speakers responded to questions from Commissioners.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Virdi

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board receive for information the report back on the 2025 T100 Vancouver Multisport Festival Triathlon as outlined in this report; and
- B. THAT the Board approve the addition of the T100 Vancouver Multisport Festival Triathlon to the annual Calendar of Major Special Events starting in 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Agenda Varied

The order of the agenda was resumed.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 10:51 pm and reconvened on October 7, 2025 at 6:39 pm.

1. Imagine West End Waterfront Vision: Alternative Phase 1 – Report Back

The Director, Park Planning and Development introduced the item. Planner III and Planner II, jointly reviewed the presentation regarding the recommendation to begin detailed design work for Alexandra Park, as the first phase of Imagine West End Waterfront Vision implementation.

Following the presentation, staff responded to questions related to:

- The determination of playground deficiency
- Confirmation that there are no plans to demolish the Haywood band stand
- Whether the project will include changes to south of Alexandra Park toward the English Bay bath house
- Suggestion to undertake consultation specifically on Alexandra Park to ensure it meets the needs of local residents
- Concern regarding interface with Beach Avenue and the attendant liability risk:
 - Whether there is an option to make the Beach Avenue more pedestrian friendly to mitigate the risk
- Confirmation that a request for the cost of construction will be included in the next capital request.

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to begin detailed design work for Alexandra Park, as the first phase of Imagine West End Waterfront Vision implementation, as described in this report.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Jensen

Opposed: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Viridi

2. Procurement Policy Update – Report Back

The Board Committee heard from one speaker, who spoke in opposition to the staff recommendation. The speaker responded to questions from Commissioners.

MOVED by Commissioner Virdi
SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

THAT the Board of Parks and Recreation approve amendments to the Park Board Procurement Policy as described in this Report and attached as Appendix A, which includes changes to delegated authorities (also referred to as "Standing Authorities") for procurement;

FURTHER THAT this amended policy supersedes the existing Park Board Procurement Policy.

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Jensen, Virdi

Opposed: Commissioner Haer

Abstained: Commissioner Howard

The Committee meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

* * * * *

Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Scott Jensen
Chair



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 7, 2025

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 7:38 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

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

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. The meeting is being held on the land respectfully and with the knowledge that there must be continued acknowledgement of the history of injustice toward 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 in 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;

(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 – September 15, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of September 15, 2025, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair highlighted the participation of Commissioners at Park Board events since the previous Board meeting on September 15, 2025:

- Commissioners recognized National Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30
- Commissioner Bastiovanszky attended the Roundhouse CCA meeting in his role as liaison
- Commissioner Digby was a judge in the Dog Trick Contest at Dog Day in Dude Chilling Park
- Commissioner Digby attended the International Spin Wook Outdoors Day event in Trillium Park
- Commissioner Digby attended the Hogan's Alley Society event in the unnamed park at Gore and Union Streets
- Chair Christensen and Commissioner Digby attended the Grandview-Woodlands Advisory Committee meeting on enhancing public greenspace in the Grandview-Woodlands neighbourhood
- Commissioner Digby attended the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association lecture covering the history and current collections at VanDusen Botanical Garden
- Commissioner Digby attended the Day of Long Boat canoe races at Jericho Sailing Centre
- Commissioner Bastiovanszky attended the Canadian Women's rugby team viewing party at the Meraloma Clubhouse, the roof of which was recently repaired by Park Board staff.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were received via email or the [Contact Park Board Commissioners](#) web form between September 29, 2025, and 3:00 pm on October 7, 2025 regarding the Member's Motion titled "Enjoy the Sunset in Vancouver":

- Two in support
- One opposed.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Report of the Board Committee – October 7, 2025

The Board considered the report containing recommendations and actions taken by the Board Committee. Its items of business included:

1. Imagine West End Waterfront Vision: Alternative Phase 1 – Report Back
2. Procurement Policy Update – Report Back
3. T100 Vancouver Multisport Festival Triathlon.

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Virdi

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Board Committee at its meeting of October 6 and 7, 2025, as contained in items 1 through 3.

CARRIED

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

STAFF REPORTS

1. General Manager's Report

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

- Completion of the 2025 outdoor sport court renewal program
- The award of King Charles III Coronation Medal to Albert Sing Wai Lee , Past President of Renfrew Park Community Centre, in recognition of his service to the Vancouver-Kingsway neighbourhood
- Award of the consultant contract for the design of the Moberly Park synthetic turf field and fieldhouse
- Award of consultant contract for design of Ross Park spray park and fieldhouse
- Council agenda items related to, or impacting, parks and recreation:
 - Council to receive a report on October 7, 2025, titled "[Kitsilano Secondary Synthetic Turf Replacement and Sport Field Lighting – Licence Agreements, Custody, Care, Management of Land and Expenditure of Development Cost Levies](#)", which would approve negotiating a contract to acquire the rights to use a portion of the grounds at Kitsilano Secondary School for the purposes of replacing a synthetic turf field
 - Council to receive a report on October 7, 2025, titled "[Auditor General Committee Recommendations Transmittal Report](#)", which would endorse the 13 recommendations in the recent audit of Recreation Facility Asset Management report.

- Council to consider a motion on October 8, 2025, titled “[Zero Means Zero: Advancing a Zero Percent Property Tax Increase for 2026](#)”, which would direct staff to prepare the draft 2026 Operating Budget based on a zero percent property tax increase,
- Council to consider a motion on October 8 2025, titled “[VanStat: A Pilot Program for Smart, Transparent, and Accountable City Services](#)”, which would direct staff to establish a 3-month pilot program modelled on the CompStat accountability framework
- Council to consider a motion on October 8, 2025, titled “[Protecting the Champlain Heights Forest Trail Network for Future Generations and Residents](#)”, which would direct staff to report back with considerations for the protection of the Champlain Heights trail system network under provisions for park designation
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from September 15 to October 6, 2025.

MEMBERS’ MOTIONS

1. Affirming the Park Board’s Commitment to Transgender Lives and Rights

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

Suspension of Rules

MOVED by Commissioner Digby

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Vancouver Park Board suspends the rules to hear from two speakers in the audience.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board heard from two speakers who commented on the damage done to the 2SLGBTQIA+ by the Park Board by featuring the work of JK Rowling and that some of the proceeds of the event may be used to fund her legal actions against transgender rights. The speakers responded to questions from the Board.

Suspension of Rules

MOVED by Commissioner Digby

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the Vancouver Park Board suspends the rules to hear from one additional speaker from the audience.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Board heard from one speaker who expressed concern that the decision to proceed with the Harry Potter event was taken in-camera, which was a departure from the normal process for approving new events.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Digby

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastiovanszky

WHEREAS:

1. The Vancouver Park Board has a long history of celebrating Vancouver's 2SLGBTQIA+ community including transgender, gender diverse and Two-Spirit (TGD2S) people, and addressing specific needs and opportunities within these communities;
2. The City of Vancouver created its first TGD2S Action Plan in 2016 and has completed many of the "early actions" contained in that plan. The City is currently renewing the TGD2S action plan with a stronger focus on making sure TGD2S communities feel safe and included. Public consultation has concluded on the renewed plan, and a draft report is anticipated in November 2025.
3. By in-camera decision dated May 12, 2025, the Park Board approved hosting a Harry Potter™ event in Stanley Park, with that event being currently scheduled to open in November 2025, which approval may not have had a robust reputational assessment at that time about its impact on the TGD2S community;
4. Deep concerns about the event have arisen because the original author of Harry Potter, JK Rowling, has since at least 2018, used her platform and the wealth gained from the Harry Potter™ franchise to fund and amplify anti-transgender political campaigns, and her actions have caused harm to trans communities worldwide, including here in Vancouver (To avoid platforming the views of JK Rowling, specific actions taken by her have been circulated by Commissioner Digby to all Commissioners for their individual assessment.);
5. The potential negative effects on an important part of our community by the decision to host the Harry Potter™ event in Stanley Park opening in November 2025 has called into question the reputation of the Park Board regarding, specifically, its commitment to the TGD2S community, and more generally, whether it intends to profit from events which are associated with the targeting of any of our diverse equity seeking groups in Vancouver; and
6. The Park Board recognizes that repairing trust requires more than reaffirming existing policies, and must include clear public acknowledgment, concrete actions, and meaningful gestures of goodwill.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board hereby apologizes for the harms caused to transgender, gender diverse and Two-Spirit (TGD2S) people and their community by hosting of the Harry Potter™ event;

FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Park Board

- i. Reiterates that it unequivocally supports the lives and rights of TGD2S people, it will continue to celebrate and honour them and their communities, and it will

- continue to support their specific needs and opportunities in the Vancouver parks and recreation system;
- ii. Recognizes that transphobia sets a precedent to the reduction in human rights that affects all of us;
- iii. Publicly disavows JK Rowling's political activity and recognizes the harm that it causes globally;
- iv. Directs the Chair to send a letter conveying the foregoing apology to appropriate members of the community;
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board directs staff to report back to confirm that the Harry Potter™ event will run for one season only, with no renewal or extension;
- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board directs staff to separately report back on concrete actions the Park Board can take to repair trust and address the harm caused to TGD2S people and their communities by hosting the Harry Potter™ event, including:
 - i. Actions to increase TGD2S inclusion and safety according to the renewed TGD2S Action Plan anticipated for Q1/2026;
 - ii. Strengthened consultation processes to ensure events with equity or human rights implications are referred to the 2SLGBTQ+ Advisory Committee as early as possible in the planning process;
 - iii. Expanding spaces, place-making and events to celebrate and honour TGD2S people and communities; and
- D. THAT The Vancouver Park Board directs staff in the business services group to, in the future, conduct deeper investigations into the reputational aspects of potential hosted events, and to present a fulsome account of such risks to Commissioners at the time approval is requested.
 - i. Requests for confidential approval by potential suppliers shall be viewed with extreme skepticism going forward.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Enjoy the Sunset in Vancouver

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

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

WHEREAS

1. Sunset in Vancouver on June 2 (solstice) each year is about 9:21 pm, with light remaining in the sky to at least 11 pm (all times PDT);
2. Sunset on the Victoria Day long weekend in late May is about 9:01 pm;

3. Sunset on BC Day is within a few minutes of 8:49 pm;
4. Police have in recent years increased beach patrols providing safety and management of civil order on Vancouver's very safe beaches; and
5. Police have demonstrated increasing enforcement of the current 10 pm park closing by-law which interrupts visitors during hours which are commonly used by many residents to enjoy the immediate post-sunset conditions on our beaches, most of whom cause little or no disruption to surrounding neighbourhoods.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board hereby directs staff to prepare a by-law amendment for approval by Commissioners extending the public hours on ocean beaches facing English Bay to 11 pm from Victoria Day long weekend to BC Day, each year, inclusive.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Haer
SECONDED by Commissioner Viridi

THAT Item B be added to the Main Motion:

- B. Conduct meaningful public consultation on the proposed extension of beach hours, including outreach to residents, beach users, and neighbourhood associations, and report findings back to the Board prior to final approval of any by-law changes.

DEFEATED

In favour: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Viridi

Opposed: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Jensen

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Main Motion be amended as follows:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board hereby directs staff to prepare a report summarizing costs and risks/benefits, as well as a by-law amendment for approval by Commissioners extending the public hours on ocean beaches facing English Bay to 11 pm from Victoria Day long weekend to BC Day, each year, inclusive.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Jensen

Opposed: Commissioners Haer, Viridi

Abstained: Commissioner Howard

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT Item B be added to the Main Motion:

- B. FURTHER THAT the Park Board direct staff to decline to pay any costs charged to the Park Board in 2026 for policing the alcohol on beaches program which totaled \$430,500 in 2025.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioner Digby

Opposed: Commissioners Bastovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Haer, Howard, Jensen

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Vancouver Park Board hereby directs staff to prepare a report summarizing costs and risks/benefits, as well as a by-law amendment for approval by Commissioners extending the public hours on ocean beaches facing English Bay to 11 pm from Victoria Day long weekend to BC Day, each year, inclusive.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Howard, Jensen

Opposed: Commissioners Haer, Viridi

Recess

The meeting recessed at 9:13 pm and reconvened at 9:31 pm.

3. Think Free Play: Expanding Sports Access in Vancouver Through Self-Service Equipment Stations

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

Motion to Extend

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT the meeting be extended to the conclusion of the Board meeting.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Haer, Jensen, Viridi

Abstained: Commissioner Howard

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Viridi
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

WHEREAS:

1. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation manages and operates over 240 parks, 24 community centres, a network of sports fields, courts, and recreation facilities, serving as the largest provider of free and low-cost recreational opportunities in the city;
2. The Board has long prioritized accessibility, equity, and inclusion, delivering programs that reduce financial barriers to recreation, including the Leisure Access Program for low-income residents;
3. Despite these efforts, many Vancouver residents still face barriers to participation in sport and physical activity, including the cost and storage of equipment;
4. The City of Surrey has recently become the first municipality in North America to introduce free sports equipment lending stations, in partnership with Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities and Equip Sport. The initiative has launched 30 self-service stations across 20+ parks, offering year-round access to equipment such as table tennis sets, soccer balls, basketballs, and fitness gear, at no cost to residents or the municipality;
5. Surrey's initiative is powered by Equip Sport, a Swiss-based company operating more than 400 lending stations across Europe, and fully funded by Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities, a national organization dedicated to removing barriers to children's participation in sport and recreation;
6. By leveraging partnerships, Surrey has demonstrated an innovative, inclusive, and cost-neutral approach to expanding access to recreation and strengthening community connection – an approach that could be adapted for Vancouver's extensive park and recreation system; and
7. Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities and Equip Sport have expressed a strong interest in expanding the free public sports equipment lending program and self-service stations to Vancouver parks and recreation facilities (Letter of Interest appended).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to work with Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities and Equip Sport to pilot a free sports equipment lending program in Vancouver parks and facilities, modeled after the Surrey initiative, with a report back to the Board following the first year of implementation; and

FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation affirm and direct that accessibility, equity, and inclusion be prioritized in this initiative, ensuring that residents of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds can participate in sport without financial or logistical barriers.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the Main Motion be amended as follows:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to work with Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities and Equip Sport to pilot a free sports equipment lending program in Vancouver parks and facilities, modeled after the Surrey initiative, through the existing unsolicited proposals process.

DEFEATED

In favour: Commissioner Bastyovanszky

Opposed: Commissioners Christensen, Digby, Haer, Jensen, Viridi

Absent: Howard

Question on the Main Motion

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to work with Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities and Equip Sport to pilot a free sports equipment lending program in Vancouver parks and facilities, modeled after the Surrey initiative, with a report back to the Board following the first year of implementation; and

FURTHER THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation affirm and direct that accessibility, equity, and inclusion be prioritized in this initiative, ensuring that residents of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds can participate in sport without financial or logistical barriers.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ENQUIRIES

Commissioner Bastyovanszky requested information on the timing for the update on the Park Board's land assets that are held in trust.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 10:08 pm.

* * * * *

Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Laura Christensen
Chair