



BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 19, 2026

A Committee meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, January 19, 2026 at 6:36 pm in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference.

PRESENT:

Commissioner Laura Christensen, Chair
Commissioner Scott Jensen, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky
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

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The 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. I would like you to join me in actions of reconciliation in our deliberations and the decisions we make.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Board Committee Meeting – November 3, 2025

Suspension of the Rules

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Vancouver Park Board suspends the rules to allow an amendment to the minutes to allow a note to be added to the minutes.

DEFEATED

In Favour: Bastyovanszky, Digby, Jensen
Opposed: Virdi, Christensen, Haer, Howard

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Minutes of the Board Committee meeting on November 3, 2025, be approved.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Commissioner Bastyovanszky

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Digby announced that January 19, 2026 marks the 10th anniversary of the Board adopting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as its reference framework for reconciliation. He also acknowledged that the Park Board was the first municipal body in the Lower Mainland to take on this commitment.

COMMUNICATIONS

There was no correspondence of note related to the January 19, 2026 Board Committee Meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

1. Snow and Ice Treatment Policy

The Director, Park Operations, introduced the report. The Associate Director, Park Operations, provided a presentation on the proposed Snow and Ice Treatment Policy.

Staff responded to questions related to:

- There is no guarantee that snow and ice removal from priority routes will be completed by a specific time under the proposed policy
- Vancouver's snow and ice removal policies, compared to other Canadian jurisdictions
- Whether the large number of agencies and private property owners involved in the snow and ice clearing on a portion of the seawall creates challenges
- Confirmation that the City of Vancouver utilizes only Park Board staff on Park Board property
- Whether the attention to snow and ice removal staff is equitable across the City
- Whether there are options to prevent Park Board staff from being redeployed to City of Vancouver snow and ice removal priorities
- Suggestion that routes used by seniors, people with disabilities and transit users be prioritized
- Factors included in the identification of priority locations for snow and ice removal
- Confirmation that the Park Board has adequate resources to meet the requirements of the Snow and Ice Removal Policy.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Virdi

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the Snow and Ice Treatment Policy, as outlined in this report and attached in Appendix A, which outlines Park Board snow and ice treatment services.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Haer
SECONDED by Commissioner Virdi

THAT the motion be amended to read:

WHEREAS — Retained Policy Principles (Kept)

WHEREAS the Snow and Ice Treatment Policy appropriately recognizes the importance of maintaining safety in parks and public spaces during winter weather events; and

WHEREAS the policy establishes a framework for prioritizing routes and allocating resources during snow and ice events; and

WHEREAS the policy acknowledges that winter conditions in Vancouver are variable and require operational flexibility; and

WHEREAS the policy seeks to balance public safety, operational capacity, and fiscal responsibility;

WHEREAS — Areas Requiring Clarification or Strengthening (Changed)

WHEREAS the current policy does not sufficiently define minimum service levels or response timelines for park-controlled routes; and

WHEREAS reliance on discretionary language may weaken accountability and create uncertainty regarding Park Board responsibilities; and

WHEREAS equity and accessibility considerations require clearer prioritization to ensure vulnerable populations are not disproportionately impacted by untreated snow and ice; and

WHEREAS public understanding of winter maintenance responsibilities depends on clear and transparent communication; and

WHEREAS effective implementation of the policy requires alignment between stated service commitments and available staffing and budget resources.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED — Retained Policy Direction (Kept)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board reaffirm its commitment to maintaining safety in parks and public spaces through the Snow and Ice Treatment Policy; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the overall intent and structure of the Snow and Ice Treatment Policy be maintained;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED — Amendments and Changes

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the policy be amended to explicitly affirm the Park Board's responsibility for snow and ice treatment on all park-controlled paths, routes, and public spaces, without reliance on adjacent property owners, volunteers, or informal arrangements to meet minimum safety standards;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the policy establish clear minimum service levels for priority park routes, including defined response timelines following snow or freezing events, and that discretionary language not replace minimum safety expectations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT equity and accessibility considerations, including routes serving seniors, people with disabilities, transit access points, and high-use pedestrian corridors, be explicitly incorporated into route prioritization;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Park Board commit to transparent public communication regarding priority routes, expected response times, and winter maintenance responsibilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff report back on whether existing staffing and budget resources are sufficient to meet the policy's stated service levels and identify any additional resources required to implement the policy as amended; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the policy prioritize safety outcomes for park users and avoid disclaiming Park Board responsibility for high-use park routes and facilities.

DEFEATED

In favour: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Viridi

Opposed: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Jensen

Question on the Main Motion

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the Snow and Ice Treatment Policy, as outlined in this report and attached in Appendix A, which outlines Park Board snow and ice treatment services.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

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Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Laura Christensen
Chair



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 19, 2026

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, January 19, 2026, at 7:37 pm, in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference.

PRESENT:

Commissioner Tom Digby, Chair
Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Laura Christensen
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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair stated that tonight marks the 10th anniversary of this Board adopting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as its reference framework for reconciliation. This Board was, in fact, the first municipal body in the Lower Mainland to take on this commitment.

As Commissioners may recall, the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission had been released in December 2015 with its 94 Calls to Action. Within four weeks this Board formally responded. The Calls to Action focus on creating a new relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples through government policy, professional training, and public awareness.

I am proud that this Board was an early adopter of the UNDRIP framework, and I want to acknowledge, and thank, the staff and Commissioners for the work they do every day towards reconciliation and decolonisation.

In the spirit of truth, there remains a great deal of work to be done to build trust between Indigenous and non-indigenous people. It is estimated that fewer than 20 of the 94 Calls to Action have been fully implemented across Canada. One can find ongoing racist rhetoric in social media, and, incredibly, a recent spike in residential school denialism that seeks to exploit ignorance and block the path forward.

Commissioners, let us work together to defeat our three foes: ignorance, fear and cultural arrogance. Let us agree, at this table, here and now, that our work towards reconciliation will continue and must continue.

In particular, let us reaffirm this Board shall continue its foundational work with the Stanley Park Intergovernmental Working Group to develop the Stanley Park Comprehensive Plan with the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh as a cornerstone of our efforts towards reconciliation.

In this regard, I acknowledge that the meeting is taking place on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. We meet on this land respectfully and with knowledge that there must be continued acknowledgement of the history of injustices towards 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 and community.

IN CAMERA MEETING

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

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;
- (i) The receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- (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 – December 8, 2025

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of December 8, 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 December 8, 2025:

- Chair Digby and Commissioner Jensen attended and participated in the 2026 Polar Bear Swim at English Bay Beach
- Chair Digby attended meetings with the Britannia, Dunbar, Mount Pleasant and Thunderbird Community Centre Associations (CCAs), as well as meetings with the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee in his roles as Park Board liaison
- Chair Digby attend the Van Dusen Festival of Lights display with his family
- Chair Digby visited Burrard View Park to see the various projects being led by the Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation and the Eagles Inspirit Protecting Indigenous Fathers Society in partnership with the Park Board
- Commissioner Jensen attended meetings for the Strathcona and Dunbar CCA in his role as liaison
- Chair Digby visited numerous parks during the holiday break, including the Sanctuary Pond at Hastings Park, the bicycle pump track at Empire Field, the intertidal marsh at New Brighton Park and Canyon Creek during a king tide event.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were received via email or the [Contact Park Board Commissioners](#) web form between January 12, 2026 and 12:00 pm on January 19, 2026 regarding the 2026 Councillor Liaison appointments.

- One letter indicating that recommended appointments to Council Advisory Bodies are pending approval from City Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Report of the Board Committee – January 19, 2026

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

1. Snow and Ice Removal Policy

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Board Committee at its meeting of January 19, 2026, as contained in item 1.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS

1. 2025 Year in Review

The General Manager presented the 2025 Year in Review, highlighting the work delivered by staff on a range of priorities, projects and initiatives for Vancouver's parks and recreation spaces.

2. Pathways to Play: Older Adults and Seniors in Recreation

The Director, Recreation Services, introduced the item. The Associate Director, Recreation Services, provided a presentation regarding the development of a five-year plan for city-wide recreation programming for older adults and seniors.

Staff responded to questions related to:

- Status of the construction of the Sunset Community Centre seniors' centre
- Efforts to raise the awareness of the Leisure Access Program (LAP).

3. Integrity Commissioner Investigation Report Decision

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Commissioners Bastyovanszky and Virdi declared conflicts of interest and recused themselves from the meeting for the discussion of this matter.

Point of Order

Commissioner Haer questioned whether Commissioner Jensen is in a conflict of interest. Commissioner Jensen declared that he does not have a real or perceived conflict of interest.

Commissioner Bastyovanszky advised that he has appointed Commissioner Jensen to be his representative, as he entitled to do. Commissioner Virdi did not name a representative.

The Chair noted that the Integrity Commissioner's Report had been posted on December 12, 2025 and, as part of the January 19, 2026 Board meeting agenda material.

The Solicitor Team Lead, Legal Services, responded to questions related to:

- Actions that can be taken if a Commissioner refuses to comply with the Integrity Commissioner's recommendation
- Whether the Park Board has the authority to review the actions of and sanction Commissioners.

The Chair invited Commissioner Jensen to provide comments on behalf of Commissioner Bastyovanszky. Commissioner Jensen read aloud a statement that was authored by Commissioner Bastyovanszky.

The Chair invited a Commissioner to represent Commissioner Virdi. There were no comments provided.

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board resolve to review the Investigation Report issued by the Integrity Commissioner on December 1, 2025, (the “Investigation Report”) attached as Appendix “A” to this report.
- B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board endorse the recommendation on sanctions in relation to Commissioner Bastyovanszky made by the Integrity Commissioner in the Investigation Report.
- C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board endorse the recommendation on sanctions in relation to Commissioner Viridi made by the Integrity Commissioner in the Investigation Report.

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Christensen, Digby and Jensen

Opposed: Commissioners Haer and Howard

4. General Manager’s Report

The General Manager and Manager, Partner Relationship, jointly presented the General Manager’s Report, highlighting:

- Annual Park Board stewardship planting initiative
- Coal Harbour Park playground renewal
- The passing of 30-year Director and President with the Kerrisdale Community Centre Society, Kathleen Bigsby, on December 27, 2025
- Council agenda items related to, or impacting, parks and recreation:
 - Council to receive a report on January 20, 2026, titled “[Washroom Strategic Framework and 2026 Actions](#)”
 - Council to receive a report on January 20, 2026, titled “[2026 Cultural Grants and Social Policy Grants](#)”
 - Council to receive a report on January 20, 2026, titled “[Appointment of External Auditor for 2026](#)”
 - Council to receive a report on January 20, 2026, titled “[CD-1 Rezoning: 7051 Ash Crescent \(Langara Gardens\)](#)”
 - Council to consider a motion on January 21, 2026, titled “[Good Pay for Good People’s Work: Rectifying Vancouver as a Living Wage Employer](#)”
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from December 8, 2025 to January 19, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 8:42 pm.

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Steve Jackson
General Manager

Tom Digby
Chair