



BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 23, 2026

A Board Committee meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, February 23, 2026 at 6:31 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
Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard
Commissioner Jas Virdi

ABSENT: Commissioner Angela Haer

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. Commissioners were invited to join the Chair in actions of reconciliation in their deliberations and the decisions they make.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Board Committee Meeting – February 2, 2026

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Minutes of the Board Committee meeting on February 2, 2026, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair acknowledged that Wednesday, February 25, 2026, is Pink Shirt Day, a day to encourage inclusiveness and kindness to all.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were received via email or the [Contact Park Board Commissioners](#) web form between February 17, 2026 and 3:00 pm on February 23, 2026 regarding the concept plan for the W.C. Shelly Park expansion:

- Four in support.

STAFF REPORTS

1. W.C. Shelly Park Expansion – Concept Plan

The Director, Park Planning and Development, and Associate Director, Park Development, introduced the item. The Landscape Architect II, provided a presentation on the proposed concept plan for the W.C. Shelly Park expansion.

Staff responded to questions related to:

- Concern regarding the absence of a public washroom in the concept plan
- Whether the concept plan will expedite the designation of W.C. Shelly Park as a permanent park
- The inclusion of the repair of existing elements in the park renewal, funded through a different budget.

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Virdi

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

THAT the Vancouver Board approve the proposed concept plan for the W.C. Shelly Park expansion, as described in this report and as shown in Appendix A.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm.

* * * * *

Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Laura Christensen
Chair



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 23, 2026

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 7:13 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 Marie-Claire Howard
Commissioner Scott Jensen
Commissioner Jas Virdi

ABSENT:

Commissioner Angela Haer

**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, ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

Previously in our Land Acknowledgement, we reflected on the meaning of the word “unceded.”

We have called on the Provincial and Federal Crown to resolve the unfinished obligation to reach treaty agreements with Indigenous peoples.

On June 15 of this year, that obligation will have gone unfulfilled for 180 years.

Tonight, I want to acknowledge my concern regarding statements by Premier Eby that he is considering amendments that would roll back commitments made by the Legislature in 2019, when it passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

When DRIPA was adopted in November 2019, it was described as a historic step toward reconciliation. A path forward grounded in collaboration and shared decision-making. It received unanimous support across party lines in Victoria.

More recently, however, the Premier stated that certain court decisions, including the Gitxaala and Cowichan cases have created “confusion and concern about the intent of the Act and reconciliation work more broadly”.

As a result, the government is reportedly considering amendments to the laws that implement DRIPA. Those amendments have not yet been made public.

But some Indigenous leaders have already expressed serious concern, warning that the proposed changes could gut the Act.

Look, DRIPA took six years to develop with a vast group of stakeholders. It passed unanimously in Victoria. That history matters.

Here at the Park Board, we call on all parties to find a path forward. As many have said, reconciliation, captured in the image of parallel canoe journeys, must begin with truth.

Truth about our shared history.

Truth about the commitments that have been made.

And truth about the obligations that remain unfulfilled

For our part, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation will continue to work towards the City of Vancouver's UNDRIP strategy and the 79 recommendations put forward in 2024. which we first adopted over 10 years ago.

And we will continue to recognize that we live and work as uninvited guests on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

We meet on this land respectfully and with knowledge that there must be a continued acknowledgement of the history

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 Bastiovanszky

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;

(j) information that is prohibited, or information that if it were presented in a document would be prohibited, from disclosure under section 21 [disclosure harmful to business interests of a third party] of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*;

- (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

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

Abstained: Commissioner Howard

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Regular Board Meeting – February 2, 2026

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of February 2, 2026, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair highlighted the participation of Commissioners at Park Board events since the previous Board meeting on February 2, 2026:

- Chair Digby attended meetings with the Association President's Group and Britannia Community Services Society, in his role as Park Board liaison
- Commissioner Jensen attended the Our Global Village event at the Old Hastings Mill Store Museum
- Commissioner Jensen met with the West End Business Improvement Area (BIA) to discuss upcoming activations throughout Vancouver's parks and beaches in the West End during summer 2026
- Commissioner Bastyovanszky attended meetings with the West End Community Centre Association (CCA), West Point Grey CCA Annual General Meeting in his role as Park Board liaison
- Commissioners Bastyovanszky and Jensen met with representatives from the Vancouver Field Sport Federation and Vancouver Athletic Football Club
- Commissioner Christensen visited the renewed Collingwood Park
- Commissioner Jensen met with volunteers and advocates for the Vancouver Urban Food Forest Foundation and Eagles Inspirit Society at Burrard View Park
- Chair Digby met with members of the Burrardview Community Association at Burrard View Park
- Chair Digby congratulated members of the New Brighton Restoration Project on their work clearing invasive Himalayan Blackberry from the foreshore

- Chair Digby and Commissioners Bastyovanszky and Jensen attended the Lunar New Year celebration at Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden
- Commissioner Jensen met with MP Wade Grant at his office following the Lunar New Year celebration
- Commissioners Bastyovanszky and Jensen attended the Swim BC Island and Coastal Vancouver Divisional Championship at the Vancouver Aquatic Centre (VAC) from February 20 to 22, 2026
- Commissioner Jensen visited various parks, including Burrard View, China Creek North, Hinge, Kitsilano and Hadden Beach Parks
- Chair Digby visited a number of parks across the city.

COMMUNICATIONS

There was no communication of note received related to the Board meeting agenda items.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Report of the Board Committee – February 23, 2026

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

1. W.C. Shelly Park Expansion – Concept Plan

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Board Committee at its meeting of February 23, 2026, as contained in item 1.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS

1. General Manager's Report

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

- City-Wide Youth Council clothing donation drive that was held across Vancouver's community centres over the holiday season
- The passing of John Macintyre, a director of the Douglas Park Community Association and a member of the finance and strategic plan implementation committees

- Council agenda items related to, or impacting, parks and recreation:
 - Council to receive a report on February 24, 2026, titled “[2STGD+ Safety and Inclusion Action Plan Renewal](#)”, which would approve the renewed 2STGD+ Safety and Inclusion Action Plan and provide it to the Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver Park Board, and Vancouver Police Board for their awareness and consideration of strategic alignment
 - Council to receive a report on February 24, 2026, titled “[Local Improvement by Initiative - Dunbar Beach Access for Consideration - Court of Revision 643](#)”, which would approve the repairs of beach access points located between Dunbar Street and Cameron Avenue through the Local Improvement Initiative process
 - Council to consider a motion on February 25, 2026, titled “[Meeting the Moment](#)”, which would establish a FIFA Public Safety and Local Readiness Working group for the purpose of developing an Integrated Readiness Strategy
 - Council to consider a motion on February 25, 2026, titled “[Recommitting to \\$10 a Day Childcare](#)”, which would reaffirm its support for the \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program for the role of publicly funded, public and non-profit childcare in delivering long-term affordability, stability, and access for families
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from February 2 to 23, 2026.

The General Manager responded to questions regarding Council agenda items.

MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. 2030–2038 Barclay Street Rezoning Impacts on Stanley Park

Commissioner Bastiovanszky requested that consideration of the motion be deferred to the March 9, 2026 Board meeting.

NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Invitation to Office of Auditor General – Vancouver Aquatic Centre (VAC) Audit

Commissioner Jensen submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of March 9, 2026, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Parks and Recreation invite the Office of the Auditor General to undertake a performance audit of the recommendation to replace the existing 50-metre pool with a 25-metre pool at the Vancouver Aquatic Centre.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Expense Approval for BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) 2026 Symposium

Commissioner Jensen responded to questions from the Board regarding the benefit that the public will receive from the expenditure for the symposium fees.

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the attendance of Commissioners Haer and Jensen at the BC Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) 2026 Symposium in Vancouver from April 28 to May 1, 2026, for the total estimated cost of \$2,193.86.

CARRIED

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

ENQUIRIES

Commissioner Jensen enquired regarding how renewal plans for the VAC will accommodate the preservation and display of historical awards and commemorative items currently exhibited by the Canadian Dolphin Swim Club and the allocation of space for long-standing user groups.

Commissioner Bastyovanszky requested an update on the timing for receipt of early capital planning information.

Commissioner Virdi questioned the frequency of the application of gravel to the Langara running track to cover exposed tree roots and potholes.

Commissioner Jensen requested an update on the repair of potholes in the Hillcrest Community Centre parking lot.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 7:47 pm.

* * * * *

Steve Jackson
General Manager

Tom Digby
Chair