VANCOUVER BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 9 AND 10, 2026

A Board Committee meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 6:46 pm in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference. Subsequently, the meeting recessed and reconvened on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 6:36 pm.

PRESENT:	Commissioner Laura Christensen, Chair Commissioner Scott Jensen, Vice-Chair * Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky Commissioner Tom Digby Commissioner Angela Haer * Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard * Commissioner Jas Virdi (March 10, 2026 leave of absence) *
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.

Motions to Suspend the Rules

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

> THAT the Vancouver Park Board suspends the rules to reduce the length of time permitted for speakers from five minutes to three minutes.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Commissioner Haer
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

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

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

Motion to Adjourn

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the Vancouver Park Board agrees to adjourn the meeting following Item 2 on the Board Committee agenda and to reconvene on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 6:30 pm.

CARRIED
In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Jensen
Opposed: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Virdi

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Board Committee Meeting – February 23, 2026

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the Minutes of the Board Committee meeting on February 23, 2026, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were received via email or the Contact Park Board Commissioners web form between February 23, 2026 and 12:00 pm on March 9, 2026 regarding:

- Queen Elizabeth Park Attractions – Business Opportunity
  - 47 in support
  - 90 opposed
  - Two noted as other
- Lost Lagoon Tidal Reconnection - Concept
  - Two in support

- Three opposed
- One noted as other.

STAFF REPORTS

1. Queen Elizabeth Park Attractions – Business Opportunity

The Director, Business Development, introduced the item. The Associate Director, Business Development, and Marketing and Communications Coordinator, Business Development, jointly provided a presentation on business opportunity by providing Queen Elizabeth Park attractions.

Staff and the proponent's representatives responded to questions related to:

- Forecasted attendance and pricing
- The rationale for the removal of the zip line that was installed in 2015
- The goal of the tree walk to improve the health of the forest
- Concern regarding the impact of the tree walk on bird habitat:
  - Confirmation that the proponent will conduct annual surveys of the bird population
- The legacy benefits following the expiration of the contract
- Financial risks of proceeding with the new attractions
- Application of the Amenity Improvement Fee to both attractions
- Accessibility of the attractions.

The Board Committee heard from 17 speakers, of which nine spoke in favour, seven spoke in opposition and one offered comments regarding the staff recommendation. The speakers responded to questions from the Board Committee.

MOVED by Commissioner Virdi
SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the concept and introduction of the nature-based attractions program in Queen Elizabeth Park by Greenheart, the Nature Agency, and Triple Bottom Line as outlined in this report.

B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board authorize staff to negotiate, to the satisfaction of the Park Board's General Manager and the City's Director of Legal Services, and enter into an agreement with Greenheart, the Nature Agency, and Triple Bottom Line for an initial term of five (5) years, with the option to renew for an additional term of five (5) years.

C. THAT no legal rights or obligations shall arise, and no consents, permissions, or licenses are granted hereby, and none shall arise or be granted hereafter unless and until all contemplated legal documentation has been executed and delivered by all parties.

CARRIED

Recess
The meeting recessed at 9:01 pm and reconvened at 9:09 pm.

2. Recreation Management System – Contract Award – Report Back

The Director, Strategic Operations and Board Relations, referenced the report provided with the agenda material and invited questions.

Staff responded to questions related to:

- Concern regarding the estimated $8 million cost to the Park Board to transition to a new similar-priced system
- Concern that engagement was not undertaken with community user groups and end users.

The Board Committee heard from three speakers, of which one spoke in favour and two spoke in opposition to the staff recommendation.

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board authorize staff to negotiate an agreement with The Active Network, Ltd. for the Provision of a Recreation Management System, funded from the Park Board Operating Budget, for an estimated value of $1,080,000 plus applicable taxes (initial three (3)-year term) and an estimated total contract value of $3,744,000 plus applicable taxes (maximum nine (9)-year term, if all extensions are exercised);

B. THAT the City's Director of Legal Services, Chief Procurement Officer, and Park Board General Manager be authorized to execute the agreement; and

C. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created unless and until the agreement is executed by the authorized signatories.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Absent: Commissioner Jensen

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm and reconvened on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 6:36 pm with Commissioners Haer, Howard and Virdi absent.

3. Lost Lagoon Tidal Reconnection – Concept

The Director, Park Planning and Development introduced the item. The Planner III, Archaeology, Infrastructure and Environment, provided a presentation on the proposed tidal reconnection of Lost Lagoon.

Staff responded to questions related to:

- Whether it is possible to create artificial islands in Lost Lagoon
- Potential to integrate public education opportunities into the tidal reconnection
- The need for public engagement on the design
- The sample of dredged material indicated that the material could be reused
- Areas of possible flooding in Stanley Park will be identified and mitigated during the detailed design phase
- The risk of heavy metals from the dredged material becoming airborne
- Whether Lost Lagoon will be safe for swimming after the tidal reconnection.

The Board Committee heard from three speakers, of which two spoke in favour and one spoke in opposition to the staff recommendation. The speakers responded to questions from the Board Committee.

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Committee recommend to the Board:

> THAT the Vancouver Park Board endorse the Lost Lagoon tidal reconnection concept and direct staff to engage with potential funding partners and regulatory agencies to enable its delivery through a multi-party funding arrangement reflective of its multiparty benefit.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Absent: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Virdi

The Committee meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

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Steve Jackson	Commissioner Laura Christensen
General Manager	Chair

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 10, 2026

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 7:40 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 Scott Jensen
ABSENT:	Commissioner Angela Haer Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard Commissioner Jas Virdi (leave of absence)
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

We begin our meeting by acknowledging that the land on which we meet is the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.

Previously, in our Land Acknowledgement, we have called on the Provincial and Federal Crown to resolve the unfinished obligation to reach treaty agreements with Indigenous peoples noting that this obligation has gone unfulfilled for almost 180 years.

But tonight, I would like to adjust that statement to say “mostly” unfulfilled. Because in important news this past week, one of our host nations, the Musqueam Nation, and the Federal Crown, took a small but important step towards recognizing Musqueam Aboriginal title by signing a rights recognition agreement.

After 10 years of negotiation, the agreement recognizes Musqueam Aboriginal title rights to their ancestral territory, which includes the land we meet on.

From the Agreement, which I have read carefully, it absolutely does not involve the transfer of private property, despite some loud social media voices which state otherwise.

Rather, the Agreement wisely puts into writing the commitment of Musqueam Chief Wayne Sparrow who said the goal is a “partnership and relationship with our neighbours, not trying to take away our neighbours’ private property.” The Agreement puts in place a negotiation pathway between the Federal Crown and the Musqueam which is designed to avoid adversarial court room litigation as we take steps towards decolonization and reconciliation.

Everyone participating in this meeting needs to know that virtually all of the issues coming before this Board – including matters considered last night and tonight – are heavily impacted by the unfinished business of land claims and reconciliation. Participants who fail to recognize that critical point are missing critical subtext to the discussions at this table.

We meet on this land respectfully and with knowledge that there must be a 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 Bastyovanszky
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;

(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 UNANIMOUSLY
Absent: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Virdi

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Regular Board Meeting – February 23, 2026

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of February 23, 2026, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Absent: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Virdi

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair highlighted the participation of Commissioners at Park Board events since the previous Board meeting on February 23, 2026:

- Chair Digby attended meetings with the Associations Presidents Group, the Champlain Heights CCA and the Vancouver City Planning Commission, in his role as Park Board Chair
- Chair Digby and Commissioner Jensen attended the First Skate event at Rogers Arena
- Chair Digby and Commissioners Christensen and Jensen attended the HUB Cycling Awards, where the Park Board was recognized for the reconfiguration of the Kitsilano Park cycling and walking platforms
- Commissioner Jensen attended the Vancouver Skate Board Coalition Annual General Meeting and CCA meetings at Hastings, Douglas Park and Strathcona Community Centres, in his role as Park Board liaison
- Commissioner Jensen visited the newly renovated turf field at Vancouver Technical Secondary School.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were received via email or the Contact Park Board Commissioners web form between February 23, 2026 and 12:00 pm on March 9, 2026 regarding:

- Member's Motion titled "Invitation to Office of Auditor General":
  - 368 in support
- Member's Motion titled "2030-2038 Barclay Street Rezoning Impacts on Stanley Park":
  - Two in support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Report of the Board Committee – March 9, 2026

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

1. Queen Elizabeth Park Attractions – Business Opportunity
2. Recreation Management System – Contract Award – Report Back
3. Lost Lagoon Tidal Reconnection – Concept.

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 March 9 and 10, 2026, as contained in items through 3.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Absent: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Virdi

STAFF REPORTS

1. Coastal Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment

The Associate Director, Archaeology, Infrastructure and Environment, introduced the item. The Planner I and Associate Director, Archaeology, Infrastructure and Environment, jointly reviewed a presentation providing an update on the Coastal Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (CHVA).

Recess
The meeting recessed at 8:10 pm and resumed at 8:34 pm.

Staff responded to questions related to:

- Park Board participation in regional coastal sea rise protection work
- The identification of risk mitigation measures will be dependent upon the specific circumstances of each hazard.

2. General Manager’s Report

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

- Delivery of intergenerational programming
- Upgrade of Oak Park Little League baseball diamond
- Council agenda items related to, or impacting, parks and recreation:
  - Council received a report on March 10, 2026, titled “2026 Community Services and Other Social Grants and One Cultural Grant”, which would approve a total of a total of $4,022,482 disbursed through 90 grants to community social service organizations and one Arts and Culture organization
  - Council received a report on March 10, 2026, titled “Outstanding Council Motions Update”, which would approve the allocation of staff time and resources regarding Council motions to more efficiently align with Council priorities in 2026, including motions regarding the turf field upgrade at Beaconsfield Park and Kitsilano Pool replacement
  - Council received a report on March 10, 2026, titled “City of Vancouver Official Development Plan”, which would set out the long-term policy for land-use and development city-wide over the next 30 years

- Council to consider a motion on March 11, 2026, titled "Cheap, Easy and Everywhere", which would direct staff to develop and report back on a Vancouver Bike Share Growth Strategy for extending the capacity and geographic reach of bike share within the City

- Board briefing memos and emails issued from February 24 to March 9, 2026.

MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Invitation to Office of Auditor General

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

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

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 proposed replacement of the existing 50-metre pool at the Vancouver Aquatic Centre (VAC) with a 25-metre pool represents a significant change in service level, public use, and long-term capital and operating implications;

3. Given the importance of the VAC to residents, user groups, and regional aquatic programming, there is a need for independent review of the analysis, assumptions, and decision-making that informed the recommendation for a 25-metre pool configuration; and

4. The Park Board and City have another big decision coming next term with Kits pool and the OAG would help with the important lessons we can learn from the VAC process followed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Parks and Recreation invites the Office of the Auditor General to undertake a performance audit of the responsibilities and decision making authority for planning and delivery of major capital projects within Park Board jurisdiction, including the relationships between Park Board, Real Estate and Facilities Management (REFM), and Finance and Supply Chain Management, within the context of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre and upcoming Kitsilano Pool projects.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Absent: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Virdi

2. 2030–2038 Barclay Street Rezoning Impacts on Stanley Park

Commissioner Bastyovanszky requested that consideration of the motion be deferred to the March 30, 2026 Board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair advised that a Special Board meeting will be held on April 7, 2026 at 5:30 pm to discuss 2027-2030 Capital Plan priorities.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 9:06 pm.

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Steve Jackson	Tom Digby
General Manager	Chair