



BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 27, 2026

A Board Committee meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, April 27, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference.

PRESENT:

Commissioner Laura Christensen, Chair
Commissioner Scott Jensen, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Brennan Bastovanszky
Commissioner Tom Digby
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. 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 – April 13, 2026

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Minutes of the Board Committee meeting on April 13, 2026, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Absent: Commissioners Haer, Howard

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Jensen acknowledged Natalie Froelich, Director, Financial Planning and Analysis, who will be departing the Park Board on May 5, 2026.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

STAFF REPORTS

1. Seḥákw Partnership Welcome Centre

The Director, Business Services, invited questions on the report provided with the agenda material.

Staff responded to a question regarding whether the license fee could be reduced to the “partnership” rate in the interests of reconciliation.

The Board Committee heard from one speaker, who spoke in favour of the staff recommendation.

MOVED by Commissioner Digby

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT, in accordance with the Park By-laws, the Park Board approve a request by Seḥákw (Building 1) Limited Partnership (the “Seḥákw Partnership” or “SP”), as the representative of Squamish Nation, to place a temporary Welcome Centre in Vanier Park pursuant to the terms of this report.
- B. THAT Recommendation A does not become legally binding until the General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services, is satisfied with the following:
 - i. The Seḥákw Partnership and the Park Board have settled the terms of an amended Temporary Workspace Licence Agreement documenting the terms and conditions for the Welcome Centre;
 - ii. If applicable, the Seḥákw Partnership complying with Metro Vancouver’s “proximity requirements” whenever construction is proposed to be carried out in proximity to one or more assets owned or operated by Metro Vancouver;
 - iii. No changes are required to the March 27, 2026, consent letter provided by the Federal Government consenting to the placement of the temporary Welcome Centre in Vanier Park and, if changes to the letter are required based on changes by the Seḥákw Partnership to the design, location or duration of the Welcome Centre, the Federal Government provides an amended consent letter to the City, all in accordance with the terms of a 1966 lease by the Federal Government to the City which enabled the creation of Vanier Park; and
- C. THAT the Board determine the licence fee to be imposed for the temporary commercial use of park land for the Seḥákw Welcome Centre and, if so, a reduced

rate, with delegated authority to the GM to negotiate, determine the amount or structure of a licence fee below market rate; and

- D. THAT, the General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, be authorized to negotiate and execute any legal agreement or document that may be necessary, including the above, in order to give effect to these Recommendations.

CARRIED

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

Abstained: Commissioner Howard

Absent: Commissioner Haer

2. 2026 City of Vancouver Public Fireworks Celebration – Special Event

The Director, Business Development, introduced the topic. The Associate Director, Business Development, provided a presentation on the proposed 2026 City of Vancouver public works celebration.

Staff responded to questions related to:

- The special event will be funded by the City, without federal, provincial and sponsor funds
- Confirmation that Park Board costs of approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000 will be fully recovered from the event organizer
- Concern regarding the environmental impact of fire and smoke on Stanley Park.

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

MOVED by Commissioner Virdi

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve an application from the City of Vancouver to host the 2026 Public Fireworks Celebration at English Bay Beach Park with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager of the Park Board.
- B. THAT the Park Board approve an application from the City of Vancouver for a Special Event Permit from the BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch to serve alcohol at the aforementioned location with a maximum capacity of 100 guests.

Commissioner Jensen requested that the motion be considered as distinct propositions.

Question on Item A

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve an application from the City of Vancouver to host the 2026 Public Fireworks Celebration at English Bay Beach Park with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager of the Park Board.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Commissioner Bastyovanszky

Question on Item B

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

THAT the Park Board approve an application from the City of Vancouver for a Special Event Permit from the BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch to serve alcohol at the aforementioned location with a maximum capacity of 100 guests.

CARRIED

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

Opposed: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Jensen

The Board Committee meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

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Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Laura Christensen
Chair



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 27, 2026

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, April 27, 2026, at 7:31 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 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.

IN CAMERA MEETING

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

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. Special Board Meeting – Tuesday, April 7, 2026

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Minutes of the Special Board meeting of April 7, 2026, be approved.

CARRIED

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

Abstained: Commissioner Howard

2. Regular Board Meeting – Monday, April 13, 2026

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of March 31, 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 April 13, 2026:

- Chair Digby attended meetings with the Kerrisdale and Champlain Heights Community Centre Associations and the Sunset Community Centre Annual General Meeting
- Chair Digby attended the 40th anniversary celebration of the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden
- Chair Digby and Commissioners Bastyovanszky and Jensen attended the Stanley Park Ecology Society Earth Day celebration in Stanley Park
- Chair Digby attended the Everett Crowley Park Committee Earth Fest
- Commissioners attended the Earth Day Dinner at VanDusen Botanical Garden
- Commissioners Hear and Viridi attended the Sikh Heritage Month proclamation
- Commissioner Jensen attended the Tree Talks and Walk at Callister Park

- Commissioner Jensen attended the Kerrisdale Days Little League parade and opening ceremony to kick off the 2026 season
- Commissioner Jensen visited Pandora Park, Harbour Green Park and the playground beside the nearly completed new school in Coal Harbour, Seaside Elementary.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Report of the Board Committee – April 27, 2026

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

1. Señákw Partnership Welcome Centre
2. 2026 City of Vancouver Public Fireworks Celebration – Special Event.

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 April 27, 2026, as contained in items 1 through 2.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS

1. General Manager's Report

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

- Memorial West Park improvements
- Launch of public engagement on inclusive playground design
- Wide range of special events delivered by Community Centre Associations (CCAs) throughout the year
- 2025 community youth development highlights
- Board briefing memos and emails from April 13 to 27, 2026.

NOTICE OF MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Honouring Charlie Cuzzetto – Beaconsfield Park Community Legacy

Commissioner Haer submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of May 4, 2026, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The Vancouver Park Board formally acknowledge and honour the contributions of Charlie Cuzzetto to Beaconsfield Park and the broader Vancouver parks system;
- B. Staff be directed to report back with options to commemorate Mr. Cuzzetto's legacy within the Beaconsfield Park project, including:
 - (i) Consideration of naming the new turf field at Beaconsfield Park in his honour, consistent with Park Board naming policies; and
 - (ii) Other appropriate recognition measures, including plaques, dedications, or naming of park features; and
- C. Staff report back in a timely manner to enable the Board to consider and implement recognition without delay.

2. Urgent Review of Beach Parking Fees, Affordability, and Accessibility at Jericho, Locarno, and Spanish Banks

Commissioner Haer submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of May 4, 2026, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board affirm that affordability, accessibility, and broad public access to Jericho Beach, Locarno Beach, and Spanish Banks are core public priorities;
- B. THAT the Board direct staff to conduct an urgent review of beach parking fees at Jericho Beach, Locarno Beach, and Spanish Banks and report back no later than May 25, 2026, or the next available Regular Board meeting;
- C. THAT the review include a clear implementation pathway to reduce or eliminate paid public parking fees at these beach lots, including budget implications, operating impacts, and replacement-funding options;
- D. THAT the review include immediate affordability and accessibility options for the 2026 beach season, including free or reduced parking for seniors, SPARC permit holders, Leisure Access Program users, volunteers, non-profit program users, families, and users carrying adaptive recreation, water-sport, sailing, or other bulky recreation equipment;

- E. THAT, pending the review, the Board direct staff to freeze any further parking fee increases at Jericho Beach, Locarno Beach, and Spanish Banks; and
- F. THAT the review include non-fee parking-management tools, including time limits, no-overnight enforcement, accessible drop-off areas, loading zones, equipment loading areas, emergency access protection, resident spillover mitigation, improved signage, improved cycling access, and coordination with TransLink and City staff on improved beach transit service.

3. Reducing Parking Fees at Spanish Banks for 2026

Commissioner Digby submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of May 4, 2026, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The Vancouver Park Board hereby directs staff to immediately change the car parking rates at Spanish Banks to \$3.00/h or lower for the summer period of 2026;
- B. FURTHER THAT the pricing at Spanish Banks bear a closer relation to the city charged parking rates at Locarno Beach; and
- C. FURTHER THAT the Chair be directed to send a letter to Evo Car Share and its owner BCCA, encouraging them to include Spanish Banks in its home zone for car drops.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Urgent Business – Member's Motion – Reaffirming Park Board Independence: Capital Planning for Park Board Assets

Commissioner Christensen submitted a motion regarding capital planning to be considered as urgent business.

Ruling of the Chair

The Chair ruled that the does not meet the definition of "Urgent Business" under the Park Board Procedure By-Law and will be placed on the agenda of the May 4, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

Challenge of the Chair

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the ruling of the Chair be sustained.

DEFEATED

In favour: Commissioners Digby, Howard, Haer, Viridi

Opposed: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Jensen

Commissioner Christensen introduced the motion and responded to questions from Commissioners.

MOVED by Commissioner Christensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

WHEREAS:

1. The mission and mandate of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is to provide, preserve, and advocate for parks and recreation services to benefit all people, communities, and the environment;
2. The Vancouver Charter grants the Park Board the legal capacity to exercise the powers bestowed on it and to enforce those powers and the exercise thereof by actions, proceeding or prosecution;
3. Under the Vancouver Charter, the Board has the exclusive possession of, and exclusive jurisdiction and control of all areas designated as permanent public parks and temporary public parks. This “includes the authority to determine how such real property shall be used, [...], what improvements shall be made thereon, including the removal or demolition of any existing improvements”;
4. On April 22, 2026, City Council passed a motion entitled “Back to Community: Establishing Strategic Priorities and Consolidating Council Direction for the 2027–2030 Capital Plan”, which directed staff to allocate funds within the 2027-2030 Capital Plan for the new construction, renewal, or redevelopment of Park Board assets including community centres, pools, spray parks, turf fields, and park washrooms; and
5. It is unprecedented that Council has directed allocation of funding for assets under Park Board jurisdiction prior to and without Park Board’s approval.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Board directs staff to continue with the Capital Plan process without regard to the projects listed within the Council motion of April 22, 2026, and prioritize projects based on already approved Park Board plans, strategies, and previous Board directions; and
- B. THAT the Board retain independent legal counsel to provide advice on the jurisdiction of Park Board granted under the Vancouver Charter to make Capital Plan allocations in public parks, and to advise on the scope of City Council authority in this regard, if any; and

FURTHER THAT costs for such legal counsel be drawn from the remaining \$20,000 allocation made by the Board at the January 22, 2024 meeting (Independent Legal Advice for Judicial Review of Mayor’s Motion).

CARRIED

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Jensen

Opposed: Commissioners Haer, Howard, Virdi

ENQUIRIES

Commissioner Virdi requested an update on the status of the lease of the Shaughnessy Restaurant.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 8:32 pm.

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Steve Jackson
General Manager

Tom Digby
Chair