



BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MAY 25, 2026

A Board Committee meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, May 25, 2026 at 6:42 pm in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference.

PRESENT:

Commissioner Scott Jensen, Chair
Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Laura Christensen
Commissioner Tom Digby
Commissioner Angela Haer
Commissioner Jas Virdi

ABSENT:

Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard

**GENERAL MANAGER'S
OFFICE:**

Steve Jackson, General Manager
Jessica Kulchyski, Manager, Executive Office and Board Relations
Debbie Reimer, 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 – May 4, 2026

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Minutes of the Board Committee meeting on May 4, 2026, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications received via email or the [Contact Park Board Commissioners](#) web form between May 19, 2026 and 3:00 pm on May 25, 2026.

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

1. Item 1 – Bard on the Beach – New Multi-Year Agreement Framework for Main Festival Site at Vanier Park

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT item 1 be approved on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS

1. Bard on the Beach – New Multi-Year Agreement Framework for Main Festival Site at Vanier Park

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (“Park Board”) direct staff to explore the development of a new multi-year agreement framework for Bard on the Beach at their main festival location in Vanier Park;
- B. THAT, subject to a positive assessment, the Park Board direct staff to present the proposed terms of a new agreement framework to the Board at the earliest possible date; and
- 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.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

The Board Committee meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.

* * * * *

Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Scott Jensen
Chair



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 25, 2026

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, May 25, 2026, at 6:50 pm, in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference.

PRESENT: Commissioner Tom Digby, Chair
Commissioner Brennan Bastovanszky, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Laura Christensen *
Commissioner Angela Haer *
Commissioner Scott Jensen
Commissioner Jas Viridi

ABSENT: Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard

GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE: Steve Jackson, General Manager
Jessica Kulchyski, Manager, Executive Office and Board Relations
Debbie Reimer, 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.

IN CAMERA MEETING

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Viridi

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 – Monday, May 4, 2026

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of May 4, 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 May 4, 2026:

- Chair Digby attended a meeting of the Association Presidents Group
- Commissioners attended the grand opening of the Sunset Seniors Centre
- Commissioners Haer, Jensen and Viridi attended the Khalsa Diwan Society Vancouver Kabaddi tournament
- Commission Viridi attended the City of Vancouver Proclamation for Guru Nanak Jahaz
- Commissioner Viridi attended the Guru Nanak Jahaz 112th Anniversary at Harbour Green Park
- Commissioners attended the unveiling of the newly resurfaced basketball courts at Kitsilano Beach Park
- Commissioner Jensen participated in the 2026 Sponsor Media Appreciation Invitational at Mayfair Lakes Golf Course
- Commissioner Jensen attended the Memorial South Park Centennial Celebration
- Commissioner Jensen visited Columbia Park at the Oakridge Community Centre
- Commissioner Jensen attended the Steam Engine 374 Celebration at the Roundhouse Community Centre
- Commissioner Jensen attended the Vancouver Art Book Fair at Roundhouse Community Centre
- Commissioner Jensen played at the Vancouver Lawn Bowling Club Open House
- Chair Digby attended a tour of the Moberly Arts and Culture Centre

- Chair Digby and Commissioner Jensen visited the newly resurfaced tennis courts at Kitsilano Beach Park
- Chair Digby and Commissioner Jensen met with Jim Clive, founder of the Kits Beach Volleyball Association.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were received via email or the [Contact Park Board Commissioners](#) web form between May 19, 2026 and 3:00 pm on May 25, 2026 regarding:

- Member's Motions – Recognition of Jim Clive and Howard Kelsey for Their Contributions to Sport and Community at Kitsilano Beach Park: Eight in support.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Report of the Board Committee – May 25, 2026

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

1. Bard on the Beach – New Multi-Year Agreement Framework for Main Festival Site at Vanier Park .

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT the Board approve the recommendations and actions taken by the Board Committee at its meeting of May 25, 2026, as contained in item 1.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

STAFF REPORTS

1. General Manager's Report

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

- Construction is underway for the Slocan Park Children and Youth Hub
- Improvements were completed at Crab Park renewal and splash pad refresh and artwork will be incorporated into select playground panels on the splash pad surface
- Twenty temporary washrooms have been delivered to the Stanley Park Information Booth, Prospect Point and Sunset Beach locations
- Highlights of 2026 Youth Week

- Support for the VanDusen Botanical Garden Learning Garden
- Increased sales of the Spring Savings Flexipass
- 25 Years of Service Awards on May 4, 2026
- Board briefing memos and emails from May 4 to May 25, 2026.

The General Manager responded to questions regarding:

- The notification of the unveiling of art at Crab Park
- Whether additional bathrooms are required in Stanley Park.

MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. Recognition of Jim Clive and Howard Kelsey for Their Contributions to Sport and Community at Kitsilano Beach Park

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

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

WHEREAS:

1. Jim Clive has been officially confirmed for induction into the BC Sports Hall of Fame, Class of 2026, recognizing over five decades of leadership, coaching, and volunteer service that helped define beach volleyball in British Columbia;
2. Jim Clive is widely regarded as a founding builder of beach volleyball in Vancouver, having established the first permanent public volleyball courts at Kitsilano Beach, founded the Kits Beach Volleyball Association, and hosted numerous community and provincial level tournaments that have fostered inclusive recreation for thousands of participants of all ages;
3. Through his advocacy and mentorship, Jim Clive advanced equitable access to sport, built partnerships among recreation groups, and helped make Kits Beach a welcoming destination for active living and community connection;
4. Howard Kelsey, a world class Canadian basketball player and sport leader, represented Team Canada (1977 – 1988) for 11 years, winning gold medals at the Commonwealth Basketball Championships (1978) and the FISU World University Games (1983), and competing as a two-time Olympian (1980 and 1984) with a 4th place finish at the 1984 Olympic Games;
5. Howard Kelsey's continued service to athlete development through Basketball British Columbia, Canada Basketball, and his ongoing mentorship of youth has strengthened participation and leadership in Vancouver and across Canada;

6. He has been recognized by induction into the Canadian Basketball Hall of Fame (2019), the Basketball British Columbia Hall of Fame, the Point Grey Secondary School Hall of Fame, and through the Governor General of Canada's Medallion for Extraordinary International Contributions to Canada;
7. Kitsilano Park already honours local and national excellence in sport with the naming of the Vasek Pospisil Tennis Court reflecting the Vancouver Park Board's commitment to celebrating athletic achievement and community building within public recreation spaces; and
8. Recognizing Jim Clive and Howard Kelsey at their respective facilities would celebrate their enduring legacies of teamwork, mentorship, and civic pride at Kitsilano Beach Park.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. THAT The Vancouver Park Board formally acknowledge and honour the contributions of Jim Clive and Howard Kelsey to Kitsilano Beach Park and the broader Vancouver recreation system;
- B. THAT staff be directed to report back with options to commemorate Jim Clive and Howard Kelsey legacy within the Kitsilano Beach Park project, including:
 - (i) Consideration of naming the beach volleyball court at Kitsilano Beach Park in Jim Clive's honour and a basketball court at Kitsilano Beach Park, consistent with Park Board naming policies; and
 - (ii) Other appropriate recognition measures, including plaques, dedications, or naming of park features; and
- C. THAT staff report back in a timely manner to enable the Board to consider and implement recognition without delay.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Digby, Jensen, Virdi

Absent: Commissioners Christensen, Haer, Howard

NOTICE OF MEMBERS MOTIONS

1. Prohibition and Restriction of Motorized Personal Watercraft in Burrard Inlet

Commissioner Digby submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of June 1, 2026, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. THAT The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation formally adopt a policy position advocating for the prohibition or significant restriction of high-speed recreational motorized personal watercraft, including Jet Skis and Sea Doos,

within Burrard Inlet and adjacent near-shore waters surrounding Vancouver parks and beaches;

- B. Park Board staff be directed to report back on measures available within Park Board jurisdiction to discourage or restrict the launching, staging, and operation of motorized personal watercraft from Park Board-managed facilities, including signage, public education, launch conditions, and potential amendments to relevant policies or permits;
- C. The Chair of the Park Board be directed to advocate to relevant federal and regional authorities, including Transport Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, and the Vancouver Police Department Marine Unit, for stronger regulation of motorized personal watercraft activity in Burrard Inlet in order to improve marine wildlife protection, reduce shoreline disturbance, and enhance public safety; and
- D. The Park Board further call upon senior governments and marine regulatory agencies to prioritize Burrard Inlet as an urban marine conservation and stewardship zone, recognizing its growing importance for marine biodiversity, climate resilience, and public ecological education.

2. Think Accessible Play: Advancing Vancouver's Second Destination Inclusive Sensory and All-Abilities Park with a Communication Board Pilot at Queen Elizabeth Park

Commissioner Virdi submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of June 1, 2026, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to undertake planning and feasibility work, within available funding in the approved 2023–2026 Capital Plan, for the development of Vancouver's second destination sensory all-abilities park at Queen Elizabeth Park;
- B. THAT in undertaking this work, staff be directed to consider how the proposed inclusive sensory all-abilities park may complement existing, approved, and emerging destination amenities within Queen Elizabeth Park, including the proposed zipline and tree canopy walk;
- C. THAT staff be directed to identify and evaluate potential locations within Queen Elizabeth Park, giving preference to sites that:
 - i. Provide convenient access for children, families, and caregivers of varying mobility levels;
 - ii. Are in close proximity to public washroom facilities;
 - iii. Are in close proximity to parking, including accessible parking;

- iv. Minimize impacts on significant horticultural, heritage, and viewscape features; and
 - v. Can support a destination-quality play experience appropriate to the park's citywide role, including consideration of nature-based and context-sensitive design approaches aligned with the park's character;
 - D. THAT staff be directed to undertake public and stakeholder engagement to inform both the preferred location and future play features of the proposed sensory all-abilities park, including engagement with families, park users, accessibility advocates, community organizations, and relevant advisory groups;
 - E. THAT staff be directed to consider inclusive, destination-quality play features, including but not limited to accessible play components, sensory-rich play experiences, quiet or retreat spaces, accessible surfacing and pathways, inclusive swings, social play elements, and nature-integrated play opportunities appropriate to the Queen Elizabeth Park setting, and to incorporate universal communication access features as part of a pilot approach, including accessible communication boards designed to support non-verbal individuals, educators, multilingual families, and individuals with diverse communication needs;
 - F. THAT staff be directed to explore the implementation of accessible communication boards as a pilot initiative within the proposed park, in consultation with relevant experts and organizations including Forever Kind Learning Ltd. and others working in this field, to assess best practices for inclusive communication tools in public parks, including but not limited to Picture Assisted Communication (PAC), American Sign Language (ASL) supports, Braille integration, color-coded learning systems, and interactive communication features designed to foster accessibility and inclusion; and
 - G. THAT staff report back to the Board via memo by July 27, 2026, on timelines and preliminary concept directions for both communication boards and inclusive play features for the proposed park, including potential approaches to implementing accessible communication boards as a pilot initiative within Queen Elizabeth Park.
3. **Think Free Swim: Carrying on Joe Fortes' Legacy through Universal Access to Basic Swimming Lessons and Expansion of Aquatic Infrastructure as Core Public Safety Policy**

Commissioner Virdi submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of June 1, 2026, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation affirm that basic swimming ability is an essential life skill and that access to introductory swimming instruction should be treated as core public safety goal;
- B. THAT Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to work with the City of Vancouver staff to design and implement a program providing free access to the

first three levels of swimming lessons (or equivalent beginner stages) for all residents of Vancouver, with priority access for children aged 3 to 12;

- C. THAT the Board direct staff to support Council's proposed per-capita aquatic infrastructure target (e.g., pools per 10,000 residents or equivalent service metric) to be achieved by 2035, analogous to the City's parkland provision metrics, including:
 - i. Current service levels and geographic distribution;
 - ii. Projected population growth and demand; and
 - iii. Recommended targets to ensure equitable access across neighbourhoods;
- D. THAT direct staff to immediately restore the pre-COVID-19 operational procedures for all public pools in the City of Vancouver, including but not limited to the reintroduction of full-capacity operations without time-limited swim sessions, the reinstatement of drop-in public access alongside lane swimming and leisure use, and the resumption of in-person queuing and admissions practices that enabled flexible, spontaneous access for residents and visitors throughout the day; and
- E. FURTHER THAT the Board directs staff to report back on the timeline and operational requirements necessary to reinstate this pre-pandemic service model in advance of the upcoming summer season.

4. Beach Safety and Marine Protection

Commissioner Bastovovanszky submitted a Notice of Motion on the above-noted matter. The motion below may be placed on the Board meeting agenda of June 1, 2026, as a Member's Motion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation request that Transport Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, the Vancouver Police Department Marine Unit, and other relevant agencies review opportunities to improve swimmer safety, recreational marine safety, and marine wildlife protection adjacent to Vancouver beaches and park waters;
- B. THAT the Board advocate for:
 - i. Enhanced swim safety buoys and protected swimming boundary infrastructure adjacent to Vancouver beaches, including Sunset Beach and Spanish Banks as areas of priority;
 - ii. Expanded low-speed or no-wake measures adjacent to heavily used swimming beaches and recreational waterfront areas;
 - iii. clear and standardized public guidance regarding minimum distances from swimming beaches and whales, including consideration of 300m setbacks from swimming beaches and 400m setbacks from whales for high-speed personal watercraft;

- iv. improved public signage, maps, and awareness information regarding whale protection, swimming areas, low-speed zones, and recreational marine safety at beaches, marinas, seawalls, and vessel launch locations;
 - v. review of recreational vessel operator education, certification, and safety awareness measures relating to marine wildlife protection and urban recreational waterways;
 - vi. consideration of whether additional operating conditions, exclusion areas, or restrictions are appropriate for high-speed personal watercraft in heavily used urban recreational waters; and
 - vii. improved interagency coordination, prevention, and timely response regarding abandoned, grounded, or derelict vessels affecting Vancouver beaches and nearshore recreational waters;
- C. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation express its willingness to support the placement of marine safety signage, maps, and whale awareness information at appropriate beaches, parks, seawalls, and waterfront access points under Park Board jurisdiction; and
- D. THAT the Chair of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation communicate this request to the relevant federal, port, and marine authorities on behalf of the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Special Meeting

Chair Digby noted that a Special Park Board meeting has been scheduled for July 20, 2026 to consider the Park Board Capital Plan.

2. Waiving 2026 Vancouver Park Board Fees for Italian Day on The Drive

Commissioner Jensen presented an urgent motion.

The Chair ruled that the motion is deemed to be an urgent matter.

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

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen

SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

WHEREAS:

1. Italian Day on The Drive is one of Vancouver's largest free cultural festivals, attracting hundreds of thousands of attendees annually to Vancouver's historic Little Italy along Commercial Drive;

2. Italian Day is a free, all-ages event powered by volunteers, sponsors, local merchants, artists, performers, and community organizations, and has become one of Vancouver's signature cultural celebrations since its revival in 2010;
3. Festival organizers have identified extraordinary financial pressures affecting the 2026 festival season, including rising costs associated with public safety, sanitation, insurance, and event operations, as well as the loss of sponsorship revenue related to FIFA World Cup street banner restrictions and changes to provincial grant funding priorities;
4. The Vancouver Park Board has historically supported festivals, cultural celebrations, and community events that contribute to vibrant public spaces and strengthen neighbourhood identity and inclusion; and
5. Waiving applicable Vancouver Park Board fees for the 2026 Italian Day festival would provide meaningful support to organizers while helping ensure the continued success and accessibility of this important community event.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to waive all applicable Vancouver Park Board fees associated with the 2026 Italian Day on The Drive Festival, including event-related permit and park use fees where operationally feasible.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Digby, Jensen, Viridi

Absent: Commissioners Christensen, Haer, Howard

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 7:25 pm.

* * * * *

Steve Jackson
General Manager

Tom Digby
Chair