



Restoring Lifeguard Services at Key Vancouver Beaches

The below is for information only. Minutes contain the official record of Board decisions.

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Final motion as approved:

WHEREAS

1. Access to safe, supervised beaches is a core public service that supports recreation, public health, and community well-being for residents and visitors throughout the summer months;
2. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation has historically provided seasonal lifeguard services at high-use locations including Spanish Banks East and West, Sunset Beach, and Third Beach;
3. These beaches are among the most heavily visited waterfront destinations in Vancouver and play a significant role in supporting tourism, local businesses, and outdoor activity;
4. It has been reported that the cost to restore seasonal lifeguard services at these locations is approximately \$600,000, representing a modest investment relative to the scale of public use and safety benefit;
5. Vancouver City Council has adopted a “Zero Means Zero” budget framework, which has been described as maintaining funding for core services; and
6. Seasonal lifeguard coverage is a frontline public safety service that aligns with the definition of a core service and is essential to ensuring safe access to Vancouver’s beaches;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation request that Vancouver City Council allocate up to \$600,000 within the 2026 operating budget, contingency, or appropriate reserves to restore seasonal lifeguard services at Spanish Banks East, Spanish Banks West, Sunset Beach, and Third Beach for the 2026 summer season;
- B. THAT if funding is approved by Council, that staff report back to the Board with implementation timelines, recruitment strategies, and operational requirements necessary to ensure lifeguard services are in place for the start of the 2026 beach season; and
- C. THAT The Chair of the Vancouver Park Board write to the Mayor and Council emphasizing that lifeguard services are a core public safety function and are consistent with the stated intent of the City’s “Zero Means Zero” budget framework.