SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 7, 2026

A Special meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 5:38 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 Scott Jensen
REGRETS:	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.

Motion to Suspend the Rules

MOVED by Commissioner Haer
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were received via email or the Contact Park Board Commissioners web form between March 31, 2026 and 3:00 pm on April 7, 2026 regarding the Member's Motion titled "Park Board 2027-2030 Capital Plan":

- 16 in support
- One opposed
- Seven others.

MEMBER'S MOTIONS

1. Park Board 2027-2030 Capital Plan

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

The Board heard from 20 speakers, of which 17 spoke in favour, one spoke in opposition and two provided comments regarding the Member's Motion. Speakers responded to questions from the Board.

Recess
The meeting recessed at 7:45 pm and resumed at 8:00 pm with Commissioner Christensen in attendance and Commissioner Haer absent.

The Board heard from 32 speakers, of which 30 spoke in favour, one spoke in opposition and one commented on the Member's Motion. Speakers responded to questions from the Board.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

WHEREAS

1. Vancouver's growing population, expected to increase by 250,000 residents, will reach nearly one million residents by 2050, has significantly increased demand for parks, recreation facilities, sports fields, and public open space;

2. Parks and recreation infrastructure are essential civic infrastructure that support public health, climate resilience, youth sport, community connection, and urban livability in a densifying city;

3. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation (herein "Park Board") is responsible for stewarding one of Canada's largest urban park and recreation systems, comprising over 240 parks and beaches, more than 24 community centres, 14 aquatic facilities, 155 sport fields, 8 ice rinks, and amenities receiving millions of visits each year;

4. The Park Board has a long history of planning and advocating for new and renewed capital investment in our parks, open spaces and facilities, among them:

   i. VanPlay, the Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan designed to maximize access to high-quality parks and recreation opportunities that connect people with each other, nature and themselves;

   ii. VanSplash governing Vancouver's Aquatics Strategy, which identifies the need for renewal and expansion of Vancouver's aquatic facilities to serve growing neighbourhood populations and replace aging pools that are reaching the end of their service life;

   iii. The Sport Field Strategy identified a shortage of playable hours and recommended the expansion of synthetic turf fields and lighting upgrades, including conversion of under-utilized gravel fields;

   iv. The Community Center Strategy which anticipates needs for new community centers and the renewal of aging facilities in each capital planning cycle in order to keep pace with population growth and aging infrastructure; and

   v. The Urban Forest Strategy has prioritized reconciliation, biodiversity, rainwater management, and proactive climate measures;

5. The city's Real Estate and Facilities Management department (REFM), not the Park Board, is responsible for maintenance and renewal of Park Board facilities. REFM proposed a 5 year $347m emergency restoration fund for facilities renewal to the Park Board, which request was approved by the Park Board as part of the Capital Plan 2023-26 mid-term update and forwarded to Council;

6. The Office of the Auditor General audit of Recreation Facility Asset Management recognized that 72% of recreation facilities are in poor or very poor condition. It called for REFM and the Park Board to jointly develop an asset management plan for recreation facilities. This proposal has been endorsed by the Park Board, and an asset management plan is now in development;

7. The upcoming 2027–2030 Capital Plan presents a critical opportunity to address long-standing infrastructure renewal needs, implement adopted Park Board strategies, and invest in the next generation of parks and recreation facilities for Vancouver;

8. Development of the 2027-2030 Capital Plan is currently underway between Park Board staff, City staff, the Mayor, Councillors and Park Board Commissioners. The Special Meeting of the Park Board, called for April 7, 2026, will discuss Park Board priorities for the 2027-2030 Capital Plan, and hear from the public, during this sensitive period before the draft plan is presented to Commissioners in June; and

9. The public will have a further opportunity to speak to the 2027-2030 Capital Plan (Park Board portion) when the Park Board votes on the final version in early July. The public may also speak when Council votes on the full plan at the end of July. Vancouver voters will then vote to approve, or reject, the required borrowing authorities in October as part of the 2026 Municipal Election.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Park Board shall advocate with the Mayor and Council for a historic investment in parks and recreation in the Capital Plan 2027-2030 of $1.35 billion consisting of:

A. A commitment to Parks and Open Spaces of $300m to prioritize investments in the following capital envelopes:

Envelope	**Priority Projects**
Seawall & waterfront	Seawall and waterfront repairs due to storm tides
Urban forest & natural areas	Stump removal, new and replacement trees, street tree pruning
New parks	Burrard Slopes, East Park Phase II + 4 others
Park renewals	John Hendry, Strathcona, Columbia, Delamont + others
Park land acquisition	Acquire in Broadway plan area, Rupert/Renfrew; in future UBCx corridor, and other opportunistic purchases
Playgrounds & spray parks	Replace concrete pools with spray parks (recirculating); 12 playground renewals and substantial updates (incl. Inclusive playground at Memorial South).
Sport courts & skate parks	Court repair and upgrades, lacrosse box.
Ball diamonds & playfields	New synturf at Beaconsfield, Columbia and Oak Park, Capital maintenance of 155 grass fields and ball diamonds, 6 synturf replacements (Trillium (2), Memorial South, Jericho, Empire(2)); Disc golf
Track & field sport facilities	Maintain new competition facilities at Killarney Park and Kerrisdale/Pt. Grey Secondary
Dog off-leash areas	6 new and renewed dog OLAs prioritizing Mt Pleasant, Grandview-Woodlands, Kitsilano West, John Hendry
Park buildings, infrastructure & vehicles	Stanley Park bike lane, Roof repair on park buildings
Park Washrooms	11 new and renewals, including Everette Crowley; Install remote unlock switches at multiple washrooms.

B. A commitment of $50m for biodiversity restoration opportunities in:

i. Lost Lagoon (Stanley Park) – Return to intertidal estuary;

ii. Beaver Lake (Stanley Park) – Biodiversity recovery;

iii. Still Creek and Renfrew Ravine Watershed - Flood protection and biodiversity recovery;

iv. Champlain Trail - Protection of trail system; and

v. Musqueam Park Forest - Invasive management;

C. A commitment to recreation facilities of $1 billion to meet the urgent needs of a growing city as set out in VanPlay and VanSplash, comprising:

i. $200m for aquatic facilities, including the replacement of the Kitsilano Pool, planning for a new 50m pool, and community pools;

ii. $200m for the renewal of existing Community Centres, prioritizing renewal of Hastings, Kensington and Renfrew, and maintenance at all others;

iii. Renewal of the Britannia Community Centre in collaboration with the Canucks, including enhancement of the ice rink facilities, and renewal of the swimming pool and community centre spaces, with a city commitment of $300m, and additional funds from the Canucks, the Province and other sources;

iv. A commitment of $100m for government partnered programs for renewal of Ray-Cam (with BC Housing), and the West End Community Hub and Strathcona Community Centre (both needing support of Vancouver School Board);

v. Planning support for completion of the developer led projects including the new NE False Creek community centre and skating rink and the new Fraser River District Community Centre estimated in-kind value of $200m; and

vi. Planning support for community led capital projects at partnered facilities including Van Dusen Gardens, Bloedel Conservatory, Jericho Sailing Centre, Burrard Marina, and Dr. Sun Yat Sen Gardens, as may arise in the future;

FURTHER THAT the Park Board reiterates its support for and prioritization of a facilities asset management plan, being developed with REFM and other city departments;

AND FURTHER THAT that the Chair shall send a letter to the Mayor and Council conveying these priorities, and that the Chair and willing Commissioners shall meet with Mayor and Councillors to convey these priorities in advance of finalizing the 2027-2030 Capital Plan.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Main Motion be amended to read, as follows:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Park Board shall advocate with the Mayor and Council for a historic investment in parks and recreation in the Capital Plan 2027-2030 of $1.63 billion consisting of:

A. A commitment to Parks and Open Spaces of $300 million to prioritize investments in the following capital envelopes:

Envelope	Priority Projects
Seawall & waterfront	Seawall and waterfront repairs due to storm tides
Urban forest & natural areas	Stump removal, new and replacement trees, street tree pruning
New parks	Burrard Slopes, East Park Phase II + 4 others
Park renewals	John Hendry, Strathcona, Columbia, Delamont + others
Park land acquisition	Acquire in Broadway plan area, Rupert/Renfrew; in future UBCx corridor, and other opportunistic purchases
Playgrounds & spray parks	Replace concrete pools with spray parks (recirculating); 12 playground renewals and substantial updates (incl. Inclusive playground at Memorial South).
Sport courts & skate parks	Court repair and upgrades, lacrosse box.
Ball diamonds & playfields	New synturf at Beaconsfield, Columbia and Oak Park, Capital maintenance of 155 grass fields and ball diamonds, 6 synturf replacements (Trillium (2), Memorial South, Jericho, Empire(2)); Disc golf
Track & field sport facilities	Maintain new competition facilities at Killarney Park and Kerrisdale/Pt. Grey Secondary
Dog off-leash areas	6 new and renewed dog OLAs prioritizing Mt Pleasant, Grandview-Woodlands, Kitsilano West, John Hendry
Park buildings, Kitsilano Showboat, Brock House infrastructure & vehicles	Stanley Park bike lane, Roof repair on park buildings
Park Washrooms	11 new and renewals, including Everette Crowley; Install remote unlock switches at multiple washrooms.

B. A commitment of $50 million for biodiversity restoration opportunities in:

i. Lost Lagoon (Stanley Park) – Return to intertidal estuary;

ii. Beaver Lake (Stanley Park) – Biodiversity recovery;

iii. Still Creek and Renfrew Ravine Watershed - Flood protection and biodiversity recovery;

iv. Champlain Trail - Protection of trail system; and

v. Musqueam Park Forest - Invasive management;

C. A commitment to recreation facilities of $1.28 billion to meet the urgent needs of a growing city as set out in VanPlay and VanSplash, and to support revenue generating and community-serving assets including golf and food and beverage services, comprising:

i. $250 million for aquatic facilities, including the replacement of the Kitsilano Pool, planning for a new 50 metre pool, and community pools;

ii. $400 million for the renewal of existing Community Centres, prioritizing renewal of Hastings, Kensington and Renfrew, and maintenance at all others;

iii. Renewal of the Britannia Community Centre in collaboration with the Canucks, including enhancement of the ice rink facilities, and renewal of the swimming pool, covered skate park, and community centre spaces, with a city commitment of $300m, and additional funds from the Canucks, the Province and other sources;

iv. A commitment of $100 million for government partnered programs for renewal of Ray-Cam (with BC Housing), and the West End Community Hub and Strathcona Community Centre (both needing support of Vancouver School Board);

v. Planning support for completion of the developer led projects including the new NE False Creek community centre and skating rink and the new Fraser River District Community Centre estimated in-kind value of $200 million;

vi. Planning support for community led capital projects at partnered facilities including Van Dusen Gardens, Bloedel Conservatory, Jericho Sailing Centre, Burrard Marina, and Dr. Sun Yat Sen Gardens, as may arise in the future;

vii. A commitment of $27 million for golf services infrastructure renewal and modernization; and

viii. A commitment of $4 million for concessions and food and beverage infrastructure renewal strategic modernization; and

FURTHER THAT the Park Board reiterates its support for and prioritization of a facilities asset management plan, being developed with REFM and other city departments;

AND FURTHER THAT that the Chair shall send a letter to the Mayor and Council conveying these priorities, and that the Chair and willing Commissioners shall meet with Mayor and Councillors to convey these priorities in advance of finalizing the 2027-2030 Capital Plan.

Amendment to the Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

THAT Item C of the Amendment to the Main Motion be amended, as follows:

C. A commitment to recreation facilities of $1.08 billion to meet the urgent needs of a growing city as set out in VanPlay and VanSplash, and to support revenue generating and community-serving assets including golf and food and beverage services, comprising:

i. $250 million for aquatic facilities, including the replacement of the Kitsilano Pool, planning for a new 50 metre pool, and community pools;

ii. $400 million for the renewal of existing Community Centres, prioritizing renewal of Hastings, Kensington and Renfrew, and maintenance at all others;

iii. Renewal of the Britannia Community Centre in collaboration with the Canucks, including enhancement of the ice rink facilities, and renewal of the swimming pool, covered skate park, and community centre spaces, with a city commitment of $300m, and additional funds from the Canucks, the Province and other sources;

iv. A commitment of $100 million for government partnered programs for renewal of Ray-Cam (with BC Housing), and the West End Community Hub and Strathcona Community Centre (both needing support of Vancouver School Board);

v. Planning support for completion of the developer led projects including the new NE False Creek community centre and skating rink and the new Fraser River District Community Centre estimated in-kind value of $200 million;

vi. Planning support for community led capital projects at partnered facilities including Van Dusen Gardens, Bloedel Conservatory, Jericho Sailing Centre, Burrard Marina, and Dr. Sun Yat Sen Gardens, as may arise in the future;

vii. A commitment of $27 million for golf services infrastructure renewal and modernization; and

viii. A commitment of $4 million for concessions and food and beverage infrastructure renewal strategic modernization; and

CARRIED
In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Digby, Jensen
Abstained: Commissioner Christensen
Absent: Commissioner Haer

Question on the Amendment to the Main Motion, as Amended

THAT the Main Motion be amended to read, as follows:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Park Board shall advocate with the Mayor and Council for a historic investment in parks and recreation in the Capital Plan 2027-2030 of $1.43 billion consisting of:

A. A commitment to Parks and Open Spaces of $300 million to prioritize investments in the following capital envelopes:

Envelope	**Priority Projects**
Seawall & waterfront	Seawall and waterfront repairs due to storm tides
Urban forest & natural areas	Stump removal, new and replacement trees, street tree pruning
New parks	Burrard Slopes, East Park Phase II + 4 others
Park renewals	John Hendry, Strathcona, Columbia, Delamont + others
Park land acquisition	Acquire in Broadway plan area, Rupert/Renfrew; in future UBCx corridor, and other opportunistic purchases
Playgrounds & spray parks	Replace concrete pools with spray parks (recirculating); 12 playground renewals and substantial updates (incl. Inclusive playground at Memorial South).
Sport courts & skate parks	Court repair and upgrades, lacrosse box.
Ball diamonds & playfields	New synturf at Beaconsfield, Columbia and Oak Park, Capital maintenance of 155 grass fields and ball diamonds, 6 synturf replacements (Trillium (2), Memorial South, Jericho, Empire(2)); Disc golf
Track & field sport facilities	Maintain new competition facilities at Killarney Park and Kerrisdale/Pt. Grey Secondary
Dog off-leash areas	6 new and renewed dog OLAs prioritizing Mt Pleasant, Grandview-Woodlands, Kitsilano West, John Hendry
Park buildings, Kitsilano Showboat, Brock House infrastructure & vehicles	The Kitsilano Showboat, Brock House, Stanley Park bike lane, Roof repair on park buildings
Park Washrooms	11 new and renewals, including Everette Crowley; Install remote unlock switches at multiple washrooms.

B. A commitment of $50 million for biodiversity restoration opportunities in:

i. Lost Lagoon (Stanley Park) – Return to intertidal estuary;

ii. Beaver Lake (Stanley Park) – Biodiversity recovery;

iii. Still Creek and Renfrew Ravine Watershed - Flood protection and biodiversity recovery;

iv. Champlain Trail - Protection of trail system; and

v. Musqueam Park Forest - Invasive management;

C. A commitment to recreation facilities of $1.08 billion to meet the urgent needs of a growing city as set out in VanPlay and VanSplash, and to support revenue generating and community-serving assets including golf and food and beverage services, comprising:

i. $250 million for aquatic facilities, including the replacement of the Kitsilano Pool, planning for a new 50 metre pool, and community pools;

ii. $400 million for the renewal of existing Community Centres, prioritizing renewal of Hastings, Kensington and Renfrew, and maintenance at all others;

iii. Renewal of the Britannia Community Centre in collaboration with the Canucks, including enhancement of the ice rink facilities, and renewal of the swimming pool, covered skate park, and community centre spaces, with a city commitment of $300m, and additional funds from the Canucks, the Province and other sources.

iv. A commitment of $100 million for government partnered programs for renewal of Ray-Cam (with BC Housing), and the West End Community Hub and Strathcona Community Centre (both needing support of Vancouver School Board);

v. Planning support for completion of the developer led projects including the new NE False Creek community centre and skating rink and the new Fraser River District Community Centre;

vi. Planning support for community led capital projects at partnered facilities including Van Dusen Gardens, Bloedel Conservatory, Jericho Sailing Centre, Burrard Marina, and Dr. Sun Yat Sen Gardens, as may arise in the future;

vii. A commitment of $27 million for golf services infrastructure renewal and modernization; and

viii. A commitment of $4 million for concessions and food and beverage infrastructure renewal strategic modernization; and

FURTHER THAT the Park Board reiterates its support for and prioritization of a facilities asset management plan, being developed with REFM and other city departments;

AND FURTHER THAT that the Chair shall send a letter to the Mayor and Council conveying these priorities, and that the Chair and willing Commissioners shall meet with Mayor and Councillors to convey these priorities in advance of finalizing the 2027-2030 Capital Plan.

CARRIED
In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Digby, Jensen
Abstained: Commissioner Christensen
Absent: Commissioner Haer

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Park Board shall advocate with the Mayor and Council for a historic investment in parks and recreation in the Capital Plan 2027-2030 of $1.43 billion consisting of:

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iv. Champlain Trail - Protection of trail system; and

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viii. A commitment of $4 million for concessions and food and beverage infrastructure renewal strategic modernization; and

FURTHER THAT the Park Board reiterates its support for and prioritization of a facilities asset management plan, being developed with REFM and other city departments;

AND FURTHER THAT that the Chair shall send a letter to the Mayor and Council conveying these priorities, and that the Chair and willing Commissioners shall meet with Mayor and Councillors to convey these priorities in advance of finalizing the 2027-2030 Capital Plan.

CARRIED
In favour: Commissioners Bastyovanszky, Digby, Jensen
Abstained: Commissioner Christensen
Absent: Commissioner Haer

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 9:58 pm.

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Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Tom Digby
Chair