BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 30, 2026

A Board Committee meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Monday, March 30, 2026 at 6:42 pm in the Boardroom at the Park Board Office, and via videoconference.

PRESENT:	Commissioner Laura Christensen, Chair * Commissioner Scott Jensen, Vice-Chair Commissioner Brennan Bastyovanszky Commissioner Tom Digby Commissioner Angela Haer Commissioner Marie-Claire Howard *
ABSENT:	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.

Motions to Suspend the Rules

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Howard

> 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 Bastyovanszky, Christensen, Digby, Haer, Howard
Opposed: Commissioner Jensen

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Board Committee Meeting – March 9 and 10, 2026

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT the Minutes of the Board Committee meeting on March 9 and 10, 2026, be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Digby wished a happy Passover and Easter to those who observe the holidays.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were received via email or the Contact Park Board Commissioners web form between March 23, 2026 and 3:00 pm on March 30, 2026 regarding:

- Beaconsfield Park Synthetic Turf Field – Concept Plan:
  - 16 opposed
- Bard on the Beach – Burrard Civic Marina Temporary Storage Facility – Lease of Space:
  - Two opposed
- 2026 Outdoor Pools Operational Plan – Update:
  - Four in support.

MATTERS ADOPTED ON CONSENT

1. Item 4 –Vancouver Aquarium Development Permit

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT item 4 be approved on consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS

1. Columbia Park Renewal – Concept Plan

The Director, Park Planning and Development, introduced the topic. The Landscape Architect, Park Development, provided a presentation on the proposed concept plan for the Columbia Park renewal.

Staff responded to questions related to:

- Comparison of the environmental costs of synthetic and natural turf fields
- The accommodation that will be provided to user groups who are displaced during the construction.

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

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the concept plan for the renewal of Columbia Park as described in this report and shown in the appendices;

B. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the use of a portion of Columbia Park for an underground city stormwater detention tank managed by the City's Engineering Department; and

C. THAT the Vancouver Park Board authorize the General Manager of Parks and Recreation and the City's Engineering Services General Manager to finalize and execute funding and land use agreements for the use of Columbia Park by the Engineering Department for a stormwater detention tank to the satisfaction of the General Manager of Parks and Recreation.

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

2. Beaconsfield Park Synthetic Turf Field – Concept Plan

The Director, Park Planning and Development, introduced the topic. The Landscape Architect II, Park Development, provided a presentation on the proposed concept plan for the Beaconsfield Park synthetic turf field.

Change in Chair
The Chair relinquished, and the Vice-Chair assumed, the chair at 7:56 p.m.

Staff responded to questions related to concerns regarding the suitability of the proposed field width for adult play:

- Suggestion to remove the seating or other field element(s) to allow for a minimum field width of 60 metres
- The additional cost of increasing the field width to 60 metres.

Change in Chair
The Vice-Chair relinquished, and the Chair reassumed, the chair at 8:14 p.m.

The Board Committee heard from 10 speakers, of which six spoke in favour and four spoke in opposition to the staff recommendation. The speakers responded to questions from the Board Committee.

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the proposed concept plan for the Beaconsfield Park Synthetic Turf Field as described in this report and shown in Appendix A);

B. THAT staff continue to work with interested parties and partner groups through detailed design to confirm project details, cost-sharing or private contributions; and

C. THAT the Board direct staff to share this report with Mayor and Council, for information, in relation to the Council motion approved on September 17, 2025, titled “Accelerating the Turf Field Upgrade at Beaconsfield Park for Inclusion in the 2027-2030 Capital Plan”.

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky
SECONDED by Commissioner Haer

THAT Item A be amended as follows:

A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the proposed concept plan for the Beaconsfield Park Synthetic Turf Field as described in this report and shown in Appendix A) with the condition that the field be designed to achieve a minimum playable width of 60 metres; and ideally 64 metres.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment to the Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT Item A be replaced with the following

A. To defer this recommendation to Q2 2026 to allow staff to investigate field dimensions and report back on the feasibility and costing of a 60 metre width and to further consult with user groups.

DEFEATED

Question on the Main Motion, as Amended

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the proposed concept plan for the Beaconsfield Park Synthetic Turf Field as described in this report and shown in Appendix A) with the condition that the field be designed to achieve a minimum playable width of 60 metres; and ideally 64 metres;

B. THAT staff continue to work with interested parties and partner groups through detailed design to confirm project details, cost-sharing or private contributions; and

C. THAT the Board direct staff to share this report with Mayor and Council, for information, in relation to the Council motion approved on September 17, 2025, titled “Accelerating the Turf Field Upgrade at Beaconsfield Park for Inclusion in the 2027-2030 Capital Plan”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Bard on the Beach – Burrard Civic Marina Temporary Storage Facility – Lease of Space

The Director, Business Development, introduced the item. The Associate Director, Business Development, provided a presentation on the proposed provision of a temporary storage facility at the Burrard Civic Marina land storage area to Bard on the Beach.

Staff responded to questions related to:

- Whether the use of the storage facility would provide Bard on the Beach with the opportunity to extend its season, which would require Board approval
- Development of a master plan for Vanier Park in collaboration with the three host Nations.

The Board Committee heard from five speakers, of which two spoke in favour, two spoke in opposition and one requested additional information regarding the staff recommendation. Staff responded to the speaker’s request and speakers responded to questions from the Board Committee.

Motion to Extend

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the meeting be extended until the business of the Board Committee meeting is concluded.

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

Main Motion

MOVED by Commissioner Digby
SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

A. THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve a request by Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival for the lease of space at Burrard Civic Marina land storage lot for use as a temporary storage facility, including the installation of a Quonset tent structure, 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 Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival for the abovementioned initiative for a term of ten (10) years; 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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Recess
The meeting recessed at 9:57 pm and reconvened at 10:01 pm.

4. Vancouver Aquarium Development Permit

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the Vancouver Aquarium Development Permit, proposed within the existing License Area, as outlined in this report.

ADOPTED ON CONSENT

5. 2026 Outdoor Pools Operational Plan – Update

The Director, Recreation Services, introduced the item. The Associate Director, Recreation Services, provided a presentation on proposed operational adjustments for the 2026 season.

Staff responded to questions related to:

- Concerns regarding the long wait times at the Kitsilano Pool
- Public opposition to a reservation system at Kitsilano Pool
- Concern regarding the breadth of public engagement on the continuation of the Kitsilano Pool reservation system at a 75/25 ratio for reservations/drop-ins.

The Board Committee heard from one speaker who commented on the public concerns with the retention of the Kitsilano Pool reservation system. The speaker responded to questions from the Board Committee.

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Digby

THAT the Board Committee recommend to the Board:

> THAT the Vancouver Park Board endorse the 2026 operational changes for outdoor pools as outlined in this report.

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

The Board Committee meeting adjourned at 10:56 pm.

* * * * *

Steve Jackson
General Manager

Commissioner Laura Christensen
Chair

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 31, 2026

A Regular meeting of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation was held on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 6:35 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
ABSENT:	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. Regular Board Meeting – March 10, 2026

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Christensen

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of March 10, 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 March 10, 2026:

- Chair Digby attended Community Centre Association (CCA) meetings at Champlain Heights, Kerrisdale, Sunset and Britannia, in his role as Park Board liaison
- Commissioner Jensen met with Barry Leinback from the Kitsilano Showboat to discuss the upcoming season
- Commissioner Jensen shared information regarding the upcoming improvements to the basketball courts at Kitsilano
- Chair Digby attended the annual opening of the V6A Community Garden on Hastings Street
- Chair Digby attended a tree story tour and forest walk on the Champlain Heights Trail with the Free the Fern Society
- Chair Digby attended the unveiling of a heritage plaque at City Farmer Community Garden on the Arbutus Greenway
- Chair Digby and Commissioner Christensen met with several City Councillors to discuss Park Board considerations regarding the 2027-2030 capital plan
- Commissioner Jensen visited Maple Grove Park and Tisdall Park
- Commissioner Jensen celebrated the work done by Park Board staff on renewing the Memorial South Park pond
- Chair Digby and Commissioners Bastyovanszky and Jensen attended the Big Picnic at David Lam Park, hosted by the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Report of the Board Committee – March 31, 2026

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

1. Columbia Park Renewal – Concept Plan
2. Beaconsfield Park Synthetic Turf Field – Concept Plan
3. Bard on the Beach – Burrard Civic Marina Temporary Storage Facility – Lease of Space
4. Vancouver Aquarium Development Permit
5. 2026 Outdoor Pools Operational Plan – Update.

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 March 31, 2026, as contained in items 1 through 5.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

STAFF REPORTS

1. Allocation and Affiliation Policies – Update

The Director, Recreation Services, introduced the item. The Project Manager II, Strategic Operations, reviewed a presentation providing an update on the development of allocation principles and prioritization; affiliation criteria; and associated policies.

Staff responded to questions related to:

- The integration of SafeSport into the affiliation criteria
- Suggestion that allocation prioritization be based on age group demographics i.e. the number of seniors living in Vancouver is more than the number of youth
- The importance of including unstructured time in Park Board facilities' schedules.

2. General Manager's Report

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

- Celebration of Vancouver's cherry trees

- Katy Amon, Senior Planner, is the recipient of the 2026 Daisy Chin Woman of Inspiration Award
- Marking of the tenth anniversary of the death of Park Board arborist, Jody Taylor
- Council agenda items related to, or impacting, parks and recreation:
  - Council received a report on March 31, 2026, titled "Funding Application to Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program", which would endorse a funding application for the Champlain Heights Community Centre Energy Retrofit project for the amount of $2.3 million
  - Council to receive a report on April 1, 2026, titled "Contract Award for the Provision of a Recreation Management System", which would authorize City staff to negotiate an agreement for the provision of a Recreation Management System for the Park Board with The Active Network
  - Council to consider a motion on April 1, 2026, titled "Fostering Inclusive and Diverse Democracy Through Harassment Prevention", which would endorse the Elect Respect pledge and further calls on other elected officials, candidates, elector organizations, and community members to support the campaign
  - Council to consider a motion on April 1, 2026, titled "Creating a City of Vancouver Festival Support Fund", which would direct staff to report back on the development of a fund designed to provide stable, transparent, multi-year financial support for qualifying cultural festivals and major public events
  - Council to consider a motion on April 1, 2026, titled "Establishing a City Comptroller By-law for Budget Efficiency and Asset Management Framework", which would direct staff to report back on a draft Comptroller By-law to establish a City Comptroller as an independent oversight officer reporting directly to Council
- Board briefing memos and emails issued from March 9 to 30, 2026.

MEMBERS' MOTIONS

1. 2030–2038 Barclay Street Rezoning Impacts on Stanley Park

Commissioner Bastyovanszky recapped the issue and introduced the proposed replacement to the Notice of Member's Motion that was provided at February 2, 2026 Board meeting.

MOVED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky
SECONDED by Commissioner Jensen

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

A. Staff ensure that any future development application for 2030–2038 Barclay Street is brought to the attention of the Vancouver Park Board; and

B. Such notification include information on potential impacts to Stanley Park, to support the Park Board's review and public consideration of those impacts.

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

Question on Item A

BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff ensure that any future development application for 2030–2038 Barclay Street is brought to the attention of the Vancouver Park Board.

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

Question on Item B

BE IT RESOLVED THAT such notification include information on potential impacts to Stanley Park, to support the Park Board's review and public consideration of those impacts.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Special Meeting – April 7, 2026

The Chair noted that a Special Board meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2026 from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. to discuss 2027-2030 capital plan priorities.

2. Urgent Business – Member's Motion – Restoring Lifeguard Services at Key Vancouver Beaches

Commissioner Jensen submitted a motion regarding a public health and safety issue to be considered as urgent business. The Chair ruled that the motion can properly considered urgent business in accordance with Park Board Procedure By-Law.

MOVED by Commissioner Jensen
SECONDED by Commissioner Bastyovanszky

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 THAT:

A. 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. 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. 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.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ENQUIRIES

Commissioner Digby enquired regarding green bin and water charges at community gardens.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Board adjourned at 8:21 pm.

* * * * *

Steve Jackson
General Manager

Tom Digby
Chair