

Meeting Minutes

Regional Parks Committee

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

9:30 AM

6th Floor Boardroom
625 Fisgard St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Budget

PRESENT

Directors: J. Brownoff (Chair), L. Szpak (Vice Chair), C. Coleman, S. Goodmanson (9:33 am) (EP), G. Holman (EP), M. Tait (9:35 am) (EP), S. Tobias (EP), K. Williams, R. Windsor, C. McNeil-Smith (Board Chair, ex officio)

Staff: T. Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer; L. Jones, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services; M. MacIntyre, Senior Manager, Regional Parks; V. Somosan, Senior Manager, Financial Services; N. Elliott, Manager, Climate Action Programs, Parks & Environmental Services; G. Tokgoz, Manager, Transportation; M. Medland, Senior Financial Advisor; M. Lagoa, Deputy Corporate Officer; T. Pillipow, Committee Clerk (Recorder)

EP - Electronic Participation

Guest(s): Director C. Plant

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 am.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Director Szpak provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Director Coleman, **SECONDED** by Director Szpak,
That the agenda for the Regional Parks Committee meeting of October 22, 2025
be approved.
CARRIED

MOVED by Director McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Director Coleman,
That Director Plant be permitted to participate (without vote) in the October 22,
2025 session of the Regional Parks Committee.
CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1. [25-0853](#) Minutes of the Regional Parks Committee Meeting of June 25, 2025

MOVED by Director Szpak, **SECONDED** by Director Coleman,
That the minutes of the Regional Parks Committee meeting of June 25, 2025 be
adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

Director Goodmanson joined the meeting electronically at 9:33 am.

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Brownoff spoke briefly of the sessions she attended at the Union of BC
Municipalities conference.

5. Presentations/Delegations

MOVED by Director Coleman, **SECONDED** by Director McNeil-Smith,
That a late delegation, Eulala Mills, be permitted to speak.

CARRIED

Opposed: Windsor

Director Tait joined the meeting electronically at 9:35 am.

5.1. Presentations

There were no presentations.

5.2. Delegations

5.2.1. **25-1163** Delegation - Eulala Mills; Representing CRD DOGG Society: Re: Agenda
Item 7.2. Motion with Notice: Off-Leash Dogs in the Governor General Area
at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Director Plant)

E. Mills spoke to Item 7.2.

6. Committee Business

6.1. [25-0990](#) Regional Parks Service - 2026 Operating and Capital Budget

L. Jones and M. MacIntyre spoke to Item 6.1.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- allocation of resources for a forest fire management program within the parks
- current status of the grant applications
- clarification of the grants-in-lieu-of-taxes program and other revenue sources
- inventory of dams within the parks system
- status of electrification of the fleet vehicles
- clarification of the current land acquisition debt status

**MOVED by Director Szpak, SECONDED by Director Williams,
The Regional Parks Committee recommends the Committee of the Whole
recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:
That Appendix A, Operating & Capital Budget - Regional Parks Service, be
approved as presented and form the basis of the Provisional 2026-2030 Financial
Plan.**

CARRIED

Motion Arising:

**MOVED by Director Tobias, SECONDED by Director Goodmanson,
That staff be directed to investigate and report back to the Regional Parks
Committee on a potential Strategic Forest Management and FireSmart Plan
including scope objectives and budget.**

Discussion ensued regarding:

- confirmation that a FireSmart coordinator is on staff
- the timeline to report back to the committee

Amending Motion:

**MOVED by Director Windsor, SECONDED by Director Tait,
That the motion arising be amended by striking the words "scope objectives and"
before the word "budget".**

CARRIED

The motion was called on the motion arising as amended.

**That staff be directed to investigate and report back to the Regional Parks
Committee on a potential Strategic Forest Management and FireSmart Plan
including budget.**

CARRIED

6.2. [25-0711](#) Regional Trestles Renewal - Trails Widening and Lighting Project Update

G. Tokgoz presented Item 6.2. for information.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- clarification of non-tax revenue funds
- that bi-annual reports will go through the Transportation Committee

7. Notice(s) of Motion**7.1. [25-0810](#) Motion with Notice: Reduced CRD Parking Fees for Low Income Visitors (Director Holman)**

Director Holman read in revised wording for the Motion with Notice.

MOVED by Director Holman, **SECONDED** by Director McNeil-Smith,
The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That staff report back on including parking fees at selected regional parks, with provision for reduced fees for low-income visitors, be considered as part of the 2026 budget process.

DEFEATED

Opposed: Brownoff, Coleman, Goodmanson, McNeil-Smith, Szpak, Tait, Williams

7.2. [25-0988](#) Motion with Notice: Off-Leash Dogs in the Governor General Area at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park (Director Plant)

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the history of this portion of the park
- potential impact to the existing work plan

Director Tobias left the meeting at 11:04 am.

MOVED by Director McNeil-Smith, **SECONDED** by Director Williams,
The Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That CRD Parks staff be directed to review and report back on potential options for better accommodating off-leash dogs in the Governor General Area at Elk/Beaver Lake Regional Park along Elk Lake Road in Saanich, including site suitability, impacts to park use, environmental considerations, community input, and estimated costs.

CARRIED

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Motion to Close the Meeting

9.1. [25-0854](#) Motion to Close the Meeting

MOVED by Director Szpak, **SECONDED** by Director McNeil-Smith,
That the meeting be closed for intergovernmental negotiations in accordance
with Section 90(2)(b) of the Community Charter.

CARRIED

The Regional Parks Committee moved into closed session at 11:11 am.

The Regional Parks Committee rose from closed session at 12:14 pm without
report.

10. Adjournment

MOVED by Director Coleman, **SECONDED** by Director Williams,
That the Regional Parks Committee meeting of October 22, 2025 be adjourned at
12:14 pm.

CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDER