



WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 15, 2026

A meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 5:35 pm via electronic means.

PRESENT: Alida Oegema Thomas, Chair
Morrell Andrews*
Katsy Concepcion
Ellie Lawson, Co-Chair
Nazma Lee
Serena Mohammed
Molly Needham
Olga Shcherbyna
Shirin Shushtarian

ABSENT: Alaina Chun

ALSO PRESENT: Tanya Fink, Social Planner; Staff Liaison

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Tamara Tosoff, Meeting Coordinator

*Denotes absence for a portion of the meeting.

WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples. We thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

Leave of Absence Requests

None.

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Ellie Lawson
SECONDED by Serena Mohammed

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee approve the minutes from the meeting of Tuesday, July 14, 2026, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
(Morrell Andrews absent for the vote)

1. Update - *Advancing a Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy*

Staff from Social Policy and Projects Division provided an update on work underway to advance a city-wide Gender-Based Violence Prevention Strategy and responded to questions from the Committee.

2. Working Session Updates

None.

3. Liaison Updates

All liaisons present provided updates and responded to questions and comments.

4. Subcommittee Updates

None.

5. New Business

The Committee discussed the draft motion “Ensuring Equitable Access to Parks, Recreation and Civic Facilities.” Following discussion, it was

MOVED by Olga Shcherbyna
SECONDED by Shirin Shushtarian

WHEREAS

1. The Women's Advisory Committee advises Council and staff on improving access and inclusion for women and girls in City services and civic life;
2. The City's equity, accessibility and healthy-city policies commit Vancouver to identifying and reducing barriers to participation in public services and facilities;
3. The Park Board's paid parking strategy has legitimate goals, including improving parking availability and turnover, managing demand and supporting financial sustainability;
4. In developing the current paid parking pilot at Hillcrest, Kerrisdale, and Trout Lake community centres, Park Board staff consulted Community Centre Associations and other users. That consultation identified concerns about affordability and access, particularly for families, seniors and people with disabilities;

5. Although community-centre users currently receive three hours of free parking, the policy may affect some residents more than others, including families with multiple children, caregivers making more than one trip in a day, lower-income residents, seniors, people with disabilities, and users transporting children or recreation equipment;
6. These impacts also have a gender-equity dimension because women continue to perform a disproportionate share of unpaid caregiving and may be more likely to make multiple care-related trips in a day;
7. Similar affordability and access concerns apply to paid parking at parks, beaches and other civic facilities, particularly where rates increase significantly;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Women's Advisory Committee recommend that Vancouver City Council undertake the following, working with the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and relevant City staff:

A. Public Engagement

Before making the community-centre paid parking pilot permanent or significantly expanding paid parking to other civic facilities, undertake broader public engagement with affected users;

The engagement should build on the consultation already completed and include, in particular, families and caregivers, lower-income residents, seniors, people with disabilities, recreation and sport participants, Community Centre Associations, and users for whom walking, cycling or transit may not be a practical alternative;

B. Equity and Gender-based Analysis Review

Include an equity and gender-based analysis in the evaluation of the pilot, with particular attention to whether the parking system creates unintended barriers for:

- families with multiple children;
- caregivers making more than one trip to a facility in a day;
- lower-income residents;
- seniors;
- people with disabilities; and
- users who have limited transportation alternatives;

C. Participation and Access

Evaluate the pilot not only on parking revenue and utilization, but also on its impact on access to City services and public participation;

Where data are available, the review should consider:

- recreation and program participation before and after implementation, particularly for Leisure Access Program participants and families with multiple children;
- parking availability and turnover;

- repeat visits;
- user complaints and feedback;
- impacts on Community Centre Associations and partner programs; and
- parking spillover into nearby residential streets;

D. Public Value and Business Case

Assess the overall public value of paid parking, not parking revenue alone. The review should weigh the financial and parking-management benefits against any negative impacts on affordability, accessibility, recreation participation, public health, social connection and the City's equity objectives;

It should also consider whether parking fees may discourage participation in programs and facilities that the City and Park Board are otherwise investing public funds to provide and encourage;

E. Mitigation Measures

As part of the review, consider practical measures to reduce unintended impacts, including:

- allowing a new free-parking period for each legitimate visit to a community centre in the same day;
- reduced rates or exemptions for Leisure Access Program participants and other lower-income users;
- appropriate accommodations for SPARC permit holders and people with mobility needs;
- short-term free pick-up and drop-off parking;
- family or caregiver parking options or reasonable daily caps; and
- clear and consistent parking validation for programs delivered by Community Centre Associations and other community partners;

F. Parks, Beaches and Other Civic Facilities

Apply the same principles of affordability, accessibility, equity and public value when setting or increasing parking fees at parks, beaches and other civic facilities;

G. Report Back

Report publicly on the results of the engagement, equity and gender-based analysis review, public-value assessment and proposed mitigation measures before a final decision is made to make the pilot permanent or significantly expand paid parking to other civic facilities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Olga Shcherbyna

SECONDED by Nazma Lee

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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