Motion — Pause on Vancouver Aquatic Centre Demolition

MEMBER'S MOTION — OTHER BUSINESS

Inaugural Board Meeting, Monday, November 2, 2026

Pause on Vancouver Aquatic Centre Demolition Pending Board Review

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner _____

SECONDED BY: Commissioner _____

Purpose:

The purpose of this motion is to pause demolition of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre so that the newly elected Board can receive and consider the full planning record at its first Regular Board Meeting, scheduled for November 30, 2026, before any irreversible action is taken. The motion does not reverse any previous decision of the Board. It preserves every option, including proceeding with the project as currently planned.

WHEREAS

1. On October 17, 2026, the electors of Vancouver elected a new Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, which is sworn in at this meeting and whose first Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2026;
2. Under section 488 of the *Vancouver Charter*, the Park Board has exclusive possession, jurisdiction and control of the City's parks, including the site of the Vancouver Aquatic Centre, as staff confirmed in their report dated July 9, 2026 (**EXHIBIT "A"**);
3. In 2022, the electors approved borrowing of $103 million to replace, renew or rehabilitate the Vancouver Aquatic Centre, and the project budget now stands at $175 million;
4. On March 31, 2025, the previous Board approved proceeding with a renewal program that includes a 25-metre main pool, and affirmed a commitment to provide a 50-metre pool elsewhere in Vancouver within 10 years;
5. On July 20, 2026, the previous Board authorized staff to negotiate and execute a demolition contract with Heatherbrae Builders Co. Ltd. for an estimated value of $3,469,927.88, and in the same resolution directed staff to "continue to monitor the

ongoing legal proceedings" and, where appropriate, to "defer issuance of a Notice to Proceed" until there is sufficient clarity regarding the outcome of the hearing and any associated legal matters (**EXHIBIT "A"**);

6. On October 13, 2026, the British Columbia Court of Appeal (File No. CA51872) granted an interim injunction prohibiting the City of Vancouver and the Park Board from proceeding with demolition work at the Vancouver Aquatic Centre until November 3, 2026 — the day after this Board is sworn in — and the appeal remains before that Court (**EXHIBIT "B"**);
7. The Vancouver Aquatic Centre served the public for 52 years, and its demolition cannot be undone;
8. Section 10.1 of the Park Board Procedure By-law permits the Board to reconsider, rescind or amend an adopted motion only "provided that no person has taken irreversible action based on the motion";
9. No member of this Board has yet had the opportunity to be briefed on, or to deliberate on, the planning, design, engineering and procurement record for the project;
10. A pause until the Board's first Regular Board Meeting preserves every option available to the Board, including proceeding with the project as currently planned; and
11. Irreversible decisions about public facilities are best made by the Board accountable to the electorate, with the full record before it.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

A. THAT the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation ("Park Board") direct the General Manager to suspend, effective immediately, all demolition, stripping and site-preparation work at the Vancouver Aquatic Centre, including any work affecting its structure, exterior envelope, interior structures and pool basins, until the Board has considered the report requested in Resolution C and resolved how to proceed;

B. THAT, notwithstanding Resolution A, work strictly necessary to keep the site safe, secure and weather-tight may continue, and no hazardous-materials removal shall proceed except with the prior approval of the Board;

C. THAT the Park Board direct staff to report to the Regular Board Meeting of November 30, 2026, with:

1. the planning, design, engineering and procurement record for the Vancouver Aquatic Centre Renewal Project, including every program option assessed, with and without a 50-metre pool, and any renovation or rehabilitation studies of the existing facility;

2. the condition of the existing facility and the work completed on site since July 20, 2026;
3. the status, terms and cost implications of the demolition contract with Heatherbrae Builders Co. Ltd., including the cost of the suspension directed in Resolution A;
4. the status of legal proceedings concerning the project; and
5. the options available to the Board, including proceeding with the project as currently planned;

D. THAT the Park Board request that the City Manager and the General Manager of Real Estate and Facilities Management issue any notice required under the demolition contract with Heatherbrae Builders Co. Ltd. to give effect to Resolution A, and request that City Council concur in this resolution;

E. THAT the Park Board direct the General Manager to advise legal counsel acting for the Park Board in proceedings concerning the Vancouver Aquatic Centre that the Board does not oppose an extension of the Court of Appeal's order of October 13, 2026, to a date after the Regular Board Meeting of November 30, 2026; and

F. THAT the Park Board direct the General Manager to communicate this resolution to the City Manager and to the Mayor and Council no later than 9:00 a.m. on November 3, 2026.

Supporting information

Item A.

The Court of Appeal's injunction expires on November 3, 2026, the day after this meeting. The next Regular Board Meeting is not until November 30, 2026. Without a resolution tonight, demolition can resume before any member of this Board has seen the record.

Resolution A reverses nothing. It holds the site as it stands for four weeks. Section 10.1 of the Park Board Procedure By-law lets the Board revisit an adopted motion only "provided that no person has taken irreversible action based on the motion." Demolition is that irreversible action. Once it happens, this Board's ability to reconsider the March 31, 2025 decision is gone, whatever the Board might decide.

The pause is also consistent with the previous Board's own direction. On July 20, 2026, in awarding the demolition contract, the Board directed staff to defer a Notice to Proceed, where appropriate, until there was sufficient clarity on the outcome of the legal proceedings (**EXHIBIT "A"**, Recommendation D). The appeal is still pending.

Item B.

The Court of Appeal did not permit removal of hazardous materials. It found it did not have enough evidence to decide that question. Instead, it gave the City and the Park Board leave to apply to vary the injunction to allow removal without compromising the building, on two days' notice to the Society (**EXHIBIT "B"**). Resolution B keeps the Board in control of that decision instead of leaving it to staff. Abatement that requires opening walls or removing building elements could foreclose options before the Board has considered them.

Item C.

The report gives the new Board what it needs to make an informed decision on November 30. That includes the options assessed, the condition of the building, the cost of the pause, and the legal position. It also includes proceeding as planned, so the report does not prejudge the outcome.

Item D.

The Park Board has "exclusive jurisdiction and control over all areas designated as permanent and temporary parks" under the *Vancouver Charter* (EXHIBIT "A", p. 2). However, contracts of $2,000,000 or more require Council approval, and the City executes them (EXHIBIT "A", pp. 2–3). The demolition contract was approved at Council's Standing Committee on City Finance and Services on July 15, 2026 and by this Board on July 20, 2026. Resolution D asks the City to give the notice the contract requires, so that the Board's direction takes effect on site.

A request in this form is not new. On May 13, 2019, a member's motion relied on section 488 of the *Vancouver Charter* and asked the City, on an urgent basis, to withdraw an RFEOI affecting West End waterfront parks until the Board had reviewed it. That motion was defeated.

Item E.

The Park Board is a named party in the proceedings. As a party, the Board sets its own position in them. Resolution E tells the Court that the Board does not object to the pause continuing until it has met. It does not ask the Court to decide anything about the pool.

Item F.

Work could resume on the morning of November 3. The resolution must reach the City before then.

Exhibits

- **EXHIBIT "A"** — Vancouver Aquatic Centre Demolition – Contract Award, staff report dated July 9, 2026, for the Board meeting of July 20, 2026
- **EXHIBIT "B"** — Order of the British Columbia Court of Appeal, October 13, 2026 (File No. CA51872)

Procedural note for the mover (not part of the motion)

Move this motion under **Other Business**, item (i) of the inaugural meeting's order of business (Procedure By-law, s. 4.2). Do not rely on the Urgent Business route. Sections 7.7–7.8 refer to Regular Board Meetings, and the By-law defines Urgent Business as matters of public health or safety.

If the Chair rules that notice is required under sections 7.4–7.5, move to suspend those rules first. Section 1.3 allows any rule to be suspended by at least two-thirds of Commissioners present. That is 5 votes if all seven are present.

Suspension motion (move first, only if needed):

> THAT the Board suspend sections 7.4 and 7.5 of the Park Board Procedure By-law to consider, at this meeting, the member's motion entitled "Pause on Vancouver Aquatic Centre Demolition Pending Board Review."

The resolutions can be voted on separately if a Commissioner asks. Resolution A is the essential one. Resolutions E and F can be dropped without weakening the pause.