



Cultus Lake Park Board Regular Meeting Recap

August 19, 2026

*We would like to acknowledge that we are gathered here today on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Th'ewa':li First Nations.
We are grateful for the hospitality to live, work and play on these lands.*

Please find a link to the Cultus Lake Park Board Regular Meeting Amended Agenda here:

<https://www.cultuslake.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/1.-August-19-2026-Agenda.pdf>

(8) The following **Correspondence** was received by the Board:

(a) **Village Centre Redevelopment Project, New Questions**

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board receive the anonymous letter dated August 5, 2026 regarding the new questions on the Village Centre Redevelopment.

CARRIED

(12) The following **Staff Reports** were approved by the Board:

(a) **2025 FireSmart Supports Program**

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board approve all recommended dates and locations for the planned FireSmart Program activities, the goal is to raise community awareness regarding Cultus Lake Park FireSmart Program and disaster preparedness.

CARRIED

(b) **Temporary Pruning Application Fee Waived**

THAT the Cultus Lake Park Board approve a temporary waiver of tree pruning application fee in the amount of \$120.00 for FireSmart-related tree pruning applications from August 24, 2026 to November 20, 2026;

THAT the pruning application fee waivers be limited to a specific FireSmart activity and require the Manager of Park Operations approval; and

THAT tree pruning applications involving a substantial amount of removal of a tree's canopy or branch structure be reviewed by the Cultus Lake Park Board's consulting arborist prior to approval.

CARRIED

(c) **Chilliwack Cultural Centre - Music for Cultus Lake**

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board approve the proposed Chilliwack Cultural Centre - Music for Cultus event for November 7, 2026, from 6:00 am to 9:00 am at Main Beach.*

CARRIED

(13) *The following **Report from Commissioners** was heard:*

(a) **Community Events and Engagement Committee Recommendations for Cultus Lake Christmas**

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board approve the recommendation from the Community Events and Engagement Committee for Cultus Lake Christmas to be held on November 21, 2026, from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm; and*

***THAT** the Cultus Lake Park Board waive the parking fees in Parking Lot A and B and allow parking by donation on Saturday, November 21, 2026.*

CARRIED

(15) The following questions were heard and answered during the **Public Question** period:

Gary Lister, resident, spoke regarding the Village Centre proposal and raised concerns about whether the Park Board is following the appropriate planning process under Plan Cultus, the Park Act, the Community Charter, and related bylaws. He emphasized that Plan Cultus calls for a holistic review of lands and future development guidelines, and noted that several studies, including feasibility, financial, and traffic studies, have not yet been completed. Chair Dzaman explained that the Board has chosen a staged approach to reduce financial risk to the park, rather than completing all studies up front before the final scope of the project is known. He advised that the Board is working with the proponent, Diverse Development, and intends to continue providing information publicly through meetings and frequently asked questions. Gary recommended that the project history and related information be summarized in chronological order for residents.

The discussion also addressed transparency, public access to information, and how the Village Centre project differs from municipally funded civic projects. Commissioner Moul clarified that the Board is not looking to finance the development as a cost to the Park, but rather to provide land in exchange for compensation or rent, making it a revenue-generating opportunity. Gary maintained that residents should have access to studies and due diligence before the project proceeds further. Chair Dzaman acknowledged that the Board will ultimately make the decision, with input from future and continued meetings and committees with respect to transparency to the community members.

Laurel Shears, resident thanked the Park Board for its work on Green Shores and then raised concerns about the condition of Sweltzer Creek. She explained that since bringing the matter forward at the June Board meeting, the issue with milfoil and muck in the creek has grown significantly, now covering approximately 30% of the creek's width. She noted temperature differences between the water and the muck and expressed concern that the problem could worsen if no action is taken. She requested a clear action plan to address the issue.

Staff explained that the request to remove milfoil had been denied at this time by the Department of Fisheries as it is considered fish habitat in that area. Staff noted that milfoil mats were expected to be placed back in the creek around August 20, 2026. It was also noted by staff that garbage or debris could be removed, but the milfoil itself could not. Laurel expressed appreciation that the Board was beginning to consider possible action, while the discussion acknowledged that conditions in the creek remain a concern.