

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE STRATHCONA COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Raj Hundal
	Commissioners	- Sarah Blyth
		- Aaron Jasper
		- Stuart Mackinnon
		- Ian Robertson
		- Loretta Woodcock
	Acting General Manager	- Anita Ho
	Director, Planning and Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Director, Stanley District	- Peter Kuran
	Director, Queen Elizabeth District	- Lori MacKay
	Director, Vancouver East District	- Liane McKenna
	Senior Business Analyst	- Meg Elliott
	Manager, Recreation Services	- Thomas Soulliere
	Manager, Business Development	- Octavio Silva
	Manager, Recreation Services	- Terry Walton
	Manager, Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Co-ordinator, Arts & Culture	- jil p. weaving
	Co-ordinator, Communications	- Barb Pocock
	Recorder	- Linda Brindley

Commissioner Barnes was absent from the meeting.

The Chair thanked the Community Association of Strathcona Community Centre for their hospitality and for hosting the Park Board meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Park Board held on Monday, February 16, 2009 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair advised that several of the Commissioners had attended the Active Communities Annual Forum held at VanDusen Botanical Garden. The official opening of the Vancouver Olympic/Paralympic Centre was held in February. The centre will be the official venue for curling and wheelchair curling during the Olympics. After the Olympics, the facility will remain as a legacy with a library, rink, indoor/outdoor pool and fitness centre. It is projected that a million visitors will attend the site per year.

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

The Acting General Manager advised that there are no items scheduled at the upcoming Council or Committee meetings that are pertaining to the Park Board.

OPEN QUESTION PERIOD

Phalgun Joshi stated he is concerned that no interim solution for the childcare programs is being provided between the opening of #1 Kingsway and the construction of the childcare modular at Simon Fraser Elementary. He asked that the Board pass a Motion to continue providing childcare services for the interim period.

Ian McRae asked the status of the pier at Crab Park. Staff advised the pier was insured and once the insurance settlement is complete, the pier will be rebuilt.

Mallory O'Connor requested that the Park Board find an interim solution for childcare at Mount Pleasant Community Centre.

Commissioner Jasper stated that he will be putting forth a Motion at the March 23rd Park Board meeting to support the option of retaining the Community Centere Association building on an interim basis.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Jasper advised that the Planning & Environment Committee will meet March 3rd and the agenda includes the Street Tree Program, Marinas Update, Indoor Tennis Proposal and Spanish Bank(s). The meeting will be held at the Park Board office and is open to the public.

Commissioner Woodcock advised that the first Services & Budgets Committee meeting was held in February and the 2009 Operating Budget was discussed and is before the Board tonight. The next meeting will be held March 10th and the agenda includes the Active Communities Report, 2008 Year End Budget report, Vancouver Golf Tournament, Bottled Water Report, as well as an update on Budget Directives.

MOTION

The Chair advised that Commissioner Jasper would like to speak to the Motion he put forward. Commissioner Jasper stated that he would like to refer the Motion to the next Services & Budgets Committee meeting scheduled for March 10, 2009.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper:**To refer the following Motion to the Services & Budgets Committee meeting on March 10, 2009:**

I move to rescind granting the Chapel at Stanley Park Enterprises Inc. approval to manage and operate the Celebration Pavilion at Queen Elizabeth Park for a 5-year term with an option to renew for up to an additional 5-years.

I move that staff report back by May 4, 2009 on how the Park Board can enhance marketing, rentals, accessibility and revenues of the Celebration Pavilion under the continued operation and control of the Park Board.

The amended motion was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS**Trillium Park**

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 18, 2009 recommending that the Board approve the concept drawing for submission for a Development Permit to allow construction of two synthetic turf fields at the Trillium Park site.

Staff advised the Board that the Trillium Park site is a total of 7.5 acres and there has been a long history of public dialogue regarding this site. The site was originally secured through subdivision and purchase in 1993, with the purpose of establishing a playing field park. Numerous studies, reviews and meetings have been held. Both Park Board and City Council have approved the use of most of the park for artificial field purposes. 2/3 of the space will be used for artificial fields and the remaining space located closest to the residential neighbours will be used as a passive park. There will also be a perimeter path around the space.

In response to questions from the Board, staff responded that the fieldhouse will be tendered separately and decisions still have to be made regarding allocation of 2009-2011 Capital funds for fieldhouses. Regarding health concerns caused by the use of turf, staff replied that although earlier Astro Turf contained lead, the newer forms of artificial turf do not contain lead.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

1. Sharon Urton, Canadian Sport Centre Pacific & VACNet
2. Gavin Ross, Mt. Pleasant Community Centre Association

3. Nancy A. Chiavario, President, Mt. Pleasant Community Centre Association
4. Art Hawkins, Vancouver Ultimate League
5. Jeff Malmgren, Chair VACNet
6. Dick Woldring, More Sports
7. Jack Fraser, Board Member, Strathcona Community Center Association

The following is a summary of comments provided by the foregoing delegations:

- area is a high risk area and children need positive role models from coaches
- need more playing fields
- opposed because the park has been designed as a destination park
- no need for artificial turf fields
- requests a new name for the park
- thinks Association would prefer one artificial turf field and one natural
- concerns with isolated area leading to problems of security
- artificial fields are more sustainable as they do not require fertilizer or cutting of grass
- will provide value for local community and the overall community
- will increase participation in athletics
- need fields located close to population density
- need free access for children
- concerned that no fieldhouse or washrooms will be included

Board members thanked the delegations for their input and stated that they are aware of the importance that organized sports play in children's lives and are confident that teams will use the fields. They are very pleased that the work is progressing and feel the artificial turf is healthier for the environment.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

THAT the Board approve the concept drawing as the basis for a submission for a Development Permit to allow for the construction of two synthetic turf fields with associated lighting at the Trillium Park site.

- Carried Unanimously.

2009 Operating Budget Update

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 18, 2009 recommending that the Board approve the proposed 2009 Budget initiatives as outlined in Appendix I.

Staff advised the Board that in early February, the 2009 Interim Operating Budget Estimates report was presented to City Council. Included in that was the Park Board's share of the corporate reduction which is \$300,000 in savings. Council deferred decision on that motion until March 24th to allow time for public input. Park Board staff developed initiatives to achieve the savings which were endorsed by the Services & Budgets Committee and reviewed by CUPE 1004 and CUPE 15. Staff noted the initiatives put forward were chosen to minimize impacts for both staff and the public.

In response to questions from the Board, staff replied that regarding the current hiring freeze all vacancies will be reviewed and only positions that will impact service will be filled. The cost of hosting a Park Board meeting at a Community Centre is approximately \$2500.

The following delegation requested to speak to the Board:

- Nancy Chiavario, President, Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association

The following is a summary of comments provided by the foregoing delegation:

- suggests that Commissioners sit down with City Council and staff to review the Global Budget
- questions why no system is set up to provide financial reserves
- would like to encourage that a zero base budget be used

Board members thanked staff for the report and stated that hopefully this will be the only round of budget cuts necessary. A Commissioner stated that although it is an excellent idea to bring the Park Board out to the public, he questioned if that is the best use of the funds. The Chair stated it is important to have meetings out in the Community Centres because it allows others to attend who are unable to attend at the meetings held at the Park Board office. The Board members thanked staff for their efforts to minimize the effects to park and recreation programs.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board approve the proposed 2009 budget initiatives as outlined on Appendix I.

- Carried Unanimously.

Pigeon Park Improvements – Concept Plan and Funding

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 20, 2009 recommending that the Board approve Recommendations A to C.

Staff advised the Board that the report is before the Board because the City Engineering Department has been working on the Carrall Street Greenway project for a number of years and their intent is to work on the block adjacent to Pigeon Park this year.

Pigeon Park is about 3000 sq. ft. and is used intensely by many who reside in the area. The last significant renovations were done in the 1970s and there is some need now for restoration and replacement. A new design feature will be added to the park and that is the continuation of a rail line. A public toilet will be installed in the park and will be funded from advertising revenues.

In response to a question from the Board, staff responded that the decorative rail line will have steel tracks with bricks alongside.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Fern Jeffries, Chair, Keefer Group
- Anna Hunter, Anti Poverty Committee

The following is a summary of comments provided by the foregoing delegations:

- concerned about the allocation from the International Village Community Amenity Contribution Reserve being used to fund the Pigeon Park improvements
- their group was not consulted
- the proposal is pitting neighbours against neighbours
- supports the development of Carrall Street Greenway and the update of Pigeon Park, but thinks it can be done without neighbourhood rivalries
- concerned that the project is further marginalizing the people who utilize the park
- trees have been removed from the park
- police have increased enforcement in the park

Board members thanked the delegations for their input and questioned staff why the Reserve funds are being used for this project. Staff replied that the project fits the criteria that were set for the utilization of the Reserve funds for that area of the City. With regard to the trees removed from the park, the trees would have been removed if they were diseased.

The Board members support the improvements and agree that the park needs to be upgraded.

Moved by Commissioner Blyth,

- A. THAT the Board approve the concept plan for improvements at Pigeon Park, as described in this report and shown in Appendix A.**
- B. THAT the Board approve the installation of a public toilet in Pigeon Park by the City's Engineering Services, with final arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager of Parks and Recreation in consultation with the General Manager of Engineering Services.**

C. THAT the Board request that Council allocate \$187,468 from the International Village Community Amenity Contribution Reserve to fund the improvements at Pigeon Park.

- Carried Unanimously.

Vancouver Olympic Centre/Vancouver Paralympic Centre Operating Plan 2008-2012

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 19, 2009 recommending the Board approve Recommendations A to E.

Staff advised the Board that the Centre is located in the geographic center of the City in Queen Elizabeth Park. The opening of the curling venue was recently held and was a very successful event that attracted over 4000 people. The new Centre represents a major achievement in advancing the long-range goals to meet current and future citizen needs. When it is complete, this complex will represent an investment of over \$87 million and contain an aquatic centre, community centre, rink, branch library, fieldhouse, curling club, fitness centre and branch Park Board office.

Staff gave an outline of the 5-year service plan. The goals of the plan are to manage the transition with the public, ensure the services are provided seamlessly, protect the assets of the facility, provide financial sustainability and to provide leadership excellence. The proposal to open the pool in the summer of 2009 is not financially viable in view of our current budget challenge.

In response to questions from the Board, staff responded that the process for naming the facility will follow the current Park Board process for facility naming once the Olympics are over and that Park Board will maintain the facility. Little Mountain Baseball will not have a service disruption when the current facility is demolished.

The following delegation requested to speak to the Board:

- Marian Waterson, on behalf of the Board of Riley Park Community Centre

The following is a summary of comments provided by the foregoing delegation:

- really excited and supports the report
- feeling pressured to complete the JOA with Park Board
- hope Riley Park is not turned into a parking lot
- hope to be part of the public process for the naming

Board members thanked the delegation for the input and stated that they would like to commend staff on the enormity of the project. It will be exciting to watch the Community transition to the new facility.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

- A. THAT the Board endorse the 5-year plan for the Vancouver Olympic/ Paralympic Centre and Aquatic Centre as outlined in the staff report;**
- B. THAT the Board approve opening of the Aquatic Centre and Fitness Centre in 2010;**
- C. THAT the Board enter into agreements with the Vancouver Curling Club for use of the new curling facility, the Library Board for use of the new library facility and the Riley Park Community Centre Association for use of the new community centre prior to occupancy;**
- D. THAT once the agreements have been approved by the General Manager and the Directors of Legal Services and Risk Management for the City of Vancouver, that the General Manager be authorized to execute and deliver such documentation on behalf of the Board;**
- E. THAT no legal rights shall arise and no consents, permissions or licenses are granted hereby and non shall arise or be granted hereafter unless and until all contemplated legal documentation has been executed and delivered to all parties.**

- Carried Unanimously.

MOTIONS

The following delegation requested to speak to the Board:

- Nancy Chiavario, President, Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association

The following is a summary of comments provided by the foregoing delegation:

- Suggested that the International Women's Day festival should look at partnering with the community centre associations and that the Mount Pleasant Community Centre Association would be pleased to host such an event

Commissioner Woodcock stated she would like to see the event become a City-wide initiative because it has endless possibilities for women and girls. Commissioner Mackinnon thanked Commissioner Woodcock for bringing the Motion forward and hopes it can be extended to the Vancouver School Board.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock

THAT for 2010, the Vancouver Park Board report back on a plan and cost to celebrate an International Women's Day event in at least one community centre with the future goal of taking this celebration to community centres city-wide.

The motion was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

ENQUIRIES, OTHER MATTERS AND NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Mackinnon would like to thank Park Board union staff for keeping the parks clean and beautiful.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Anita Ho
Acting General Manager

Commissioner Raj Hundal
Chair