

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE VANCOUVER PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, APRIL 06, 2009**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Raj Hundal
	Vice Chair	- Loretta Woodcock
	Commissioners	- Constance Barnes
		- Sarah Blyth
		- Aaron Jasper
		- Stuart Mackinnon
		- Ian Robertson
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Corporate Services	- Anita Ho
	Director of Planning & Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Stanley District	- Peter Kuran
	Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Lori MacKay
	Manager of Recreation Services	
	- Vancouver East District	- Terry Walton
	Manager of Recreation Services	
	- Stanley District	- Thomas Soulliere
	Manager of Revenue Services	- Philip Josephs
	Manager of Research and Planning	- Mark Vulliamy
	Senior Business Analyst	- Meg Elliott
	Recreation Services Coordinator	
	- Sports Facilities	- Doug Pirozek
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, March 23, 2009 were adopted as circulated.

PRESENTATIONS

2008 Bright Nights in Stanley Park – BC Professional Fire Fighters’ Burn Fund

The Chair welcomed David Dales, Executive Director, Program and Events and Ray Boucher, Chair, Bright Nights Committee. This is the eleventh year that the Park Board has partnered with the Fire Fighters’ Burn Fund to organize Bright Nights in Stanley Park. Despite challenging weather conditions there were over 85,000 visitors who rode the Christmas Train. A cheque for \$65,232.33 was presented to the BC

Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund. Mr. Boucher thanked the Board for their partnership in this major fund raising event for the Burn Fund. The Burn Fund provides assistance to burn survivors by organizing camps for the young ones and a support group for adult burn survivors. A house for parents of burn victims to stay in while they are in recovery is also part of the program.

BC Restaurant Hall of Fame Inductees

George Frankl, Prospect Point Café and Jean Turcotte, Fish House are long time tenants of the Park Board in Stanley Park. George Frankl was recognised for his pioneer work in introducing patio dining to the City of Vancouver. Mr. Frankl was inducted into the BC Restaurant Hall of Fame in the Pioneer Category. Mr. Turcotte was inducted into the BC Restaurant Hall of Fame in the Front of House, Active Restaurateur Category for providing exceptional dining experience at the Fish House and Cannery restaurants. The Chair re-presented the awards to Mr. Frankl and Turcotte and the Board offered congratulations for their achievements.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on the Night Hoops Championship at Britannia Secondary School, the Artists in Residence event at Champlain Heights Community Centre and the Community Association Conference held at Sunset Community Centre.

A member of the Board referred to the tragedy that occurred in Pacific Spirit Park this past weekend. The death of Wendy Ladner-Beaudry is a shock and terrible loss to our community and we would like to extend our condolences to the Ladner-Beaudry family.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Planning and Environment Committee: next meeting is on Thursday, April 9, 2009.

Services and Budgets Committee: next meeting is on Tuesday, April 28, 2009.

City Council Report

The General Manager advised the Board that Park Board related items on the Council and Committee agendas are the 2009 Operating Budget Final Estimates, Pigeon Park Renovations and Hastings Street Sidewalk Reconstruction, Exploration of Options for Wi Fi in Civic Buildings and Motions regarding Recognizing Local Olympians and Paralympians, External Audit Review and Renewing the Childcare Agenda.

STAFF REPORT

Updated Shortlist of Potential Artificial Turf Playing Field Sites

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 27, 2009 recommending that the Board endorse Memorial South Park, Rupert Park and Beaconsfield Park as potential sites for artificial turf playing field installation for further technical review and a public process.

Staff advised the Board that following up on the Board's direction staff worked with the Vancouver Field Sport Federation to identify possible sites for the installation of artificial turf fields. Three potential sites, Rupert Park, Beaconsfield Park and Memorial South Park, have been identified for a feasibility study including geotechnical survey and pre-engineering studies followed by a public consultation process.

Ann Thompson, President, Vancouver Hawks Field Hockey Club, appeared before the Board and stated that they were thrilled with the progress made so far with regard to the installation of more artificial turf fields. However, field hockey needs more fields as they have an expanding program. They would like the Board to consider developing artificial turf field for field hockey to replace the ones they had at Andy Livingstone Park.

Board members discussed the report and were happy to see the process was in place for the review of potential sites for more artificial turf field in the city. However, there was concern with the lack of fields on the west of Main Street. A member of the Board suggested that the Board approach City Council with regard to the use of DCL from the Oakridge development for fields and staff was asked to consider the availability of parking in the area where the potential sites are being considered.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

THAT the Board endorse Memorial South Park, Rupert Park and Beaconsfield Park as potential sites for artificial turf playing field installation funded by Citywide Park Development Cost Levy (DCL) Funds, for further technical review and a public process.

-Carried Unanimously.

2009 Operating Budget Update

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 25, 2009 recommending that the Board approve the proposed 2009 Park Board Global Budget of \$61,386,930 subject to Council approval on April 7, 2009.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board approve the proposed 2009 Park Board Global Budget of \$61,386,930 including the \$60,509,780 Basic Budget, \$856,300 for 2009 Added Basic costs and \$20,850 for 2009 New and Non-Recurring costs subject to Council approval on April 7, 2009.

Staff advised the Board that the Park Board Global Operating Budget for 2009 is \$61,386,930 including \$60,509,780 in base budget funds, \$856,000 for Added Basic and one time adjustments and \$20,850 for New and Non Recurring projects. This budget was arrived at following instructions from Council to take all necessary steps to produce a 2009 Operating Budget that will minimize the property tax increase and mitigate any compromise of key City services. Given the Board's revenue shortfall of \$0.9 million in 2008 and the revenue budget increase of \$1.7 million, the Board must generate \$2.6 million more in 2009 and this will be challenging during a period of economic uncertainty. Continual close monitoring of the budget will be required in order to ensure the target can be met.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Paul Faoro, President, CUPE Local 15
- Eleanor Hadley

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

- disappointed that details of the budget efficiencies were not available on the website;
- also disappointed that there was no representation from the Park Board at the Council public consultation meeting on March 31, 2009 to speak out against the cuts to the Board's budget;
- did not receive specific details regarding the hiring freeze from the City;
- there is a lack of transparency in the process;
- concerned with ratio of exempt and unionized employees in the city;
- concerned that there is no budget allocated for the security of Stanley Park;
- there is also no money allocated for the preservation of the Hollow Tree;
- concerned that the free shuttle service around Stanley Park is discontinued.

Board members discussed the budget and requested staff to explain how a global budget worked. Staff advised the Board that unlike other departments where the budget is analysed line by line, a lumpsum is decided by the City for the Park Board who has authority to allocate its own funding. A member of the Board was concerned that CUPE Local 15 was not consulted on the budget cuts.

An amendment to the motion was proposed.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

**THAT a section B be added to the motion as follows:
THAT staff report back to the Services and Budget Committee on the service impact due to staff cuts and review alternative reductions to other areas of operation.**

Board members discussed the amendment motion and a member of the Board stated that it would be worthwhile to meet with stakeholders and the union to review the efficiencies a second time and find other opportunities as opposed to the ones approved by the Board. A member of the Board stated that the Board should vote down the budget to send a strong message to Council that the cuts to the Park Board budgets are unacceptable.

The amendment motion was put forward and it was Carried.
(Commissioner Robertson contrary)

A member of the Board referred to the external audit review of all the city departments operations and budget and stated that the Board need to reaffirm its autonomy as an elected body.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

THAT City Council be advised that the Park Board:

- 1. supports the intent of City Council's motion to utilize an external auditor to conduct a comprehensive review of the businesses in City Departments and Boards,**
- 2. will participate in the review and exercise its authorities as per the Vancouver Charter to custody, care and management of parks and recreation by having the external auditor report directly to the Park Board for the activities that relate to the Park Board, and,**
- 3. request financial support as per the 2009 Interim Budget Estimates Report from the Restructuring Fund to implement any changes approved by Park Board to drive efficiencies as per the Council motion.**

A member of the Board requested to sever the motion as she is not aware of when the process for the audit would begin and she would like to defer section 2 and 3 to the Services and Budget Committee for more information and discussion.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the amendment motion be deferred to the Services and Budget Committee.

Board members discussed the deferral and a member of the Board stated that this was a time sensitive motion as the report was being received by Council tomorrow.

A member of the Board requested a recess to deliberate the issue.

The Board called a five minutes recess at 9:34 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 9:42 p.m.

The amendment to defer was put forward and it was DEFEATED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Board members discussed the main motion and a member of the Board stated that he was concerned with the depth and breadth of the cuts and our ability to deliver park and recreation services. He was concerned with the process for budget discussions handled by the city.

The main motion was put forward and it was Carried
(Commissioner Robertson contrary)

The motions as approved are as follows:

- A. **THAT the Board approve the proposed 2009 Park Board Global Budget of \$61,386,930 including the \$60,509,780 Basic Budget, \$856,300 for 2009 Added Basic costs and \$20,850 for 2009 New and Non-Recurring costs subject to Council approval on April 7, 2009.**
- B. **THAT staff report back to the Services and Budget Committee on the service impact due to staff cuts and review alternative reductions to other areas of operation.**
- C. **THAT City Council be advised that the Park Board:**
 1. **supports the intent of City Council's motion to utilize an external auditor to conduct a comprehensive review of the businesses in City Departments and Boards,**

2. **will participate in the review and exercise its authorities as per the Vancouver Charter to custody, care and management of parks and recreation by having the external auditor report directly to the Park Board for the activities that relate to the Park Board, and,**
3. **request financial support as per the 2009 Interim Budget Estimates Report from the Restructuring Fund to implement any changes approved by Park Board to drive efficiencies as per the Council motion.**

Accomplishments Report 2008

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 25, 2009 recommending that the Board receive the report for information.

The General Manager advised the Board that the 2008 Accomplishments Report highlights key accomplishments, enhanced programs and new services of the Board focused on the directions of the Strategic Plan 2005-2010. These directions are: Greening the Park Board, Engaging People, Working Together, Managing Resources and Meeting Future Challenges. Performance is measured against objectives in order to remain accountable and to improve and evaluate success.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

THAT the Board receives this report for information.

-Carried Unanimously.

Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 2008

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 10, 2009 recommending that the Board receive the report for information.

Staff advised the Board that overall the budget was under spent at year end, however, the Global Budget arrangement with the City recognizes that a number of costs are not under the direct control of the Board. Once the net savings of these costs was removed from the Board's accounts, the Park Board financial statements show an over expenditure of 0.8% of the budget. The cause for this was additional snow removal expenditures during the inclement weather and snow storm in December and forego the revenue due to closure of the Festival of Lights at VanDusen Gardens and Bright Nights in Stanley Park on several nights. There was a net increase in the Donation program and

the remaining funds in the Stanley Park Restoration Project will fund the remaining restoration and legacy work for Stanley Park.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

THAT the Board receive this report for information.

-Carried Unanimously.

Outdoor Sport Facilities Permit Fees and Charges Changes for 2009

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 6, 2009 recommending that the Board approve the Fees and Charges adjustments for Outdoor Sports Facilities.

Staff advised the Board that the review and consultation with field user groups on the proposed changes to bring the Outdoor Sports Facilities fees in alignment with other municipalities is now completed. The proposal includes adjusting the fee categories for outdoor sports facilities and the user fees for each user type and facility type. Staff have developed a proposed 2009 Fees and Charges schedule for Outdoor Sport Facilities, however, fee for youth non-profit user groups was not considered at this time.

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

THAT the Board approve the Fees and Charges adjustments for Outdoor Sports Facilities (as detailed in Appendix A).

-Carried Unanimously.

Public Wireless Internet Access

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 27, 2009 recommending that the Board receive this report for information along with the Council report attached as Appendix A.

Staff advised that Park Board and City staff worked together to research the request from Park Board and Council regarding “Wi-Fi” initiatives. Presently, public access to wi-fi is provided at all Vancouver Public Libraries and at three community centres. Input from Community Associations and community centre staff were solicited regarding the availability of wi-fi service at their community centres. The initiative is supported by the Associations, but there were questions and concerns regarding costs and especially if the Community Associations would be asked to contribute to the cost. It is a positive initiative, however it only serves patrons who have laptops. It would be more inclusive if PCs were also provided at the community centres. Some Association

members felt that public wireless internet at their sites should be filtered, based on the many young children who use the community centre and could be exposed to inappropriate sites, however, the three community centres that currently offer this service do not filter sites and have not had any issues to date. Some Associations provide this service or are interested to provide the service to their room rental customers. The financial implications as listed in the report to Council estimates \$120,000 to build 40 sites and \$120,000 per year to manage those sites or if the City builds its own network for a similar number of sites, the cost could be in the range of \$150,000 with annual operating costs of \$140,000.

Board members discussed the report and a member of the Board stated that there were still many unknowns in wi-fi technology and that there were studies that this may have a health hazard in community centres. A member of the Board stated that this should be looked at case by case as it would help the low income students. A member of the Board stated that the Community Associations have discussed this service and if they choose to have it they will bring it forward.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board receive this report for information, along with the City Council report attached as Appendix A.

-Carried Unanimously.

MOTION

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

WHEREAS accessible, affordable and quality childcare is essential to the health and well-being of the City of Vancouver's children and families;

AND WHEREAS the current Early Childhood Development Memorandum of Understanding adopted by Council sets out a framework for collaboration between the many partners in child development that supports coordinated actions on specific policy such as a joint council on childcare;

AND WHEREAS the establishment of a joint council and protocol on childcare between the council, school board and park board led to the creation of more than 600 new childcare spaces between 2002 and 2005, exceeding the original goal of a 5% increase:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Park Board direct staff to collaborate with City staff to reinstate the Joint Council on Childcare and renew its goals and previously adopted Terms of Reference, along with an objective of a further 5% increase in childcare spaces in the next three years;

AND, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Park Board direct staff to cooperate with City staff in any review of supply and demand review for infant, toddler, 3 – 5 year old and out of school care spaces.

Board members discussed the motion and a member of the Board stated that there is a shortage of affordable childcare and this will move the childcare issue forward in the city. A member of the Board stated that it is a good exercise but we must not commit the Park Board to funding for childcare.

The motion was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

In-Camera Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

THAT the Board later this evening go into a meeting which is closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2 (1) of the *Vancouver Charter*, to discuss matters related to paragraph:

(g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the City.

-Carried Unanimously.

In-Camera Session

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A member of the Board received a letter regarding the Leaside tunnel and would like staff to review and respond.

There was an enquiry on whom to call when there are private business signs in parks. Staff advised the Board that the call should be made to the General Manager's office for the signs to be removed.

A member of the Board stated that the fence around Jericho Marginal Wharf needs to be repaired as this was a safety issue. Also the post which held the bench that was destroyed in an accident in Kensington Park should be removed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Raj Hundal
Chair