

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 08, 2010**

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| PRESENT: | Chair | - Aaron Jasper |
| | Vice Chair | - Sarah Blyth |
| | Commissioners | - Constance Barnes |
| | | - Raj Hundal |
| | | - Stuart Mackinnon |
| | | - Ian Robertson |
| | | - Loretta Woodcock |
| | Acting General Manager | - Peter Kuran |
| | Director of Planning and Operations | - Piet Rutgers |
| | Acting Director of Queen Elizabeth District | - Diane Murphy |
| | Manager of Communications | - Joyce Courtney |
| | Research Planner | - Michel Desrochers |
| | Recorder | - Shala Hay |

STAFF REPORTS

Synthetic Turf Playfields at Jericho and Memorial South Parks

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 05, 2010 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to C.

Staff informed the Board that arriving at these recommendations entailed a lengthy process. Several partners were involved in the analyses and inputs from stakeholders at the various sites were included. The two proposed sites for synthetic turf installation are the playfields at Jericho Park and Memorial South Park. The recommendations were endorsed by the Planning and Environment Committee.

A Board member inquired into, if the Prince of Wales site was included, whether staff would be able to meet the current deadline and what would be the procedures involved. Staff advised the Board that the deadlines are already tight for projects that are on Park Board sites and if a School Board site was added the Board would have to work with the School Board Committee to gain approval, at a time when the Committee is scheduled to meet, which would further delay the process. There are also funding considerations as government park levies can only be used for projects on Park Board land, therefore for the project to qualify an agreement would have to be made for the rights to be transferred to the Board, delaying the process even further. These factors combined with the other processes involved would impede on the ability to meet the July 1st, 2010 deadline.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Roy Wares, Arbutus Neighbourhood
- Art Hawkins, Vancouver Ultimate League Society
- Tim Pezarro, West Point Grey Soccer Club
- Gordon Johnson, Vancouver Youth Soccer Association
- Jeff Malmgren, Vancouver Sport Council
- Anne Thompson, Vancouver Hawks Field Hockey
- Dave Smart, Vice President, UBC Old Boy's Ravens Rugby Club
- Rick Bourne, Chairman, Ruby Canada
- Craig Woods, President, Vancouver Field Sports Federation

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

- Arbutus Neighbourhood does not have any objections to recommendations A and B
- Does not support recommendation C as it relates to the general strategic process for selecting turf and there is a weakness with the process as it is demand driven
- Recommend that the Board look for guidance at similar projects in countries such California, the UK, Australia and New Zealand before making a decision on the location
- The existing use of Prince of Wales site is not a problem for the Arbutus neighbourhood, the issue is with the bundling that come around 4-11 pm as some people live within 25m of the site
- Would be happy to assist the Board in developing a better process for selecting sites
- Believes that synthetic turf fits in with sustainability and thinks a mitigation process should be developed to deal with the impact on existing field users
- Urge the Board to consider the advice from the Vancouver Field Sports Federation
- Personally does not think that Jericho West is the best option, thinks the process has been rushed
- Time is of the essence, therefore urge the Board to make this decision and end the site selection debate which can go on endlessly
- There is a shortage of turf in the City and a need for more fields for children to play and exercise
- Soccer is a winter sport and the use of synthetic turf would reduce the cancellation which occurs in winter when playing on grass fields
- West Point Grey Soccer Club insists that one site be built in the westside as more fields are needed in this area, right now there is only one, at West Point Grey
- Believes Prince of Wales is an excellent site and would like it to remain as an option
- Residents concerns should be taken into consideration for the design of the sites and one main concern is the need for washrooms on these sites
- At West Point Grey there are no complaints about the site and therefore does not think there would be a real problem at Prince of Wales
- Propose that the fields be build in pairs one on the westside and one on the eastside
- Thinks that Prince of Wales is a great site, better than Jericho, but Jericho is also good
- Vancouver Youth Soccer Association supports the suggestions that will be brought forward by Vancouver Fields Sports Federation (VFSF)

- The recommendations before the Board are against the tenets of the original field plan as they do not include the utilization of school fields and sites close to transit
- The work of VFSF is not being taken into consideration in the recommendations
- VFSF gained consensus from various sports association for the suggestions they put forward
- When VFSF's perspective is not taken into consideration and its voice is not heard you shake the confidence placed in the federation
- This can result in individual interest groups coming forward separately to have their voices heard
- Vancouver Hawks Field Hockey (VHFH) supports the Memorial South site
- VHFH recommends a hamber size field which would support other types of sports as well
- VHFH has lost use of the field at Livingston which had to be redone
- UBC Old Boy's Ravens Rugby Club is enthusiastic about the concept of Jericho, as grass fields can create a mess and there are frequent closures and cancellations during winter
- One caveat is that the synthetic turf selected should be suitable for rugby
- UBC Old Boy's Raven Rugby Club thinks that the east field is a more suitable location for turf than the west
- Artificial turf is the way the world is going and the surface of this would be very beneficial for rugby
- Rugby Canada also suggests 'turfig' the east field and leaving the west natural
- 'Turfig' the fields would increase the hours of use and create more opportunities for boys and girls to get more involved
- The space on the right of Jericho Park could be used in the interim while the field is being developed
- This is a significant investment for the Park Board and it took a lot of time for VFSF to generate consensus from the various fields users
- Prince of Wales is the first choice of the VFSF
- This project would have significant impact on the groups at Memorial and Jericho Parks as they would be displaced for about a year
- Anything to help the displaced groups would be helpful
- Would like to know whether recommendations from VFSF would be accepted, so that recommendations could be put forward about the type of turfs that are most suitable for these sites

Board members thanked the delegations for coming out and putting forward their comments.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

- A. THAT the Board approve the installation of a synthetic turf playfield at Jericho Park on the existing grass playfield adjacent to Discovery Street (the 'West Field'), as described in this report.**

- B. THAT the Board approve the installation of a synthetic turf playfield at Memorial South Park on the existing grass playfield/diamond adjacent to Prince Albert Street (the ‘Southwest Field’), and an upgrade of the existing running track in the central oval, as described in this report.**
- C. THAT the Board direct staff to update and revise the 2002 Playing Field Renewal Plan to guide playfield capital investments, playfield maintenance programs and playfield allocations to user groups for the next ten years.**

Board members discussed the motion. A Board member suggested that the motion be amended.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the neighbouring fields where displaced user groups will be moved (the East field at Jericho Park, the Northwest field in Memorial South Park) be upgraded to be equivalent in size and quality of the fields where synthetic turf is being installed.

Board members discussed the amendment. Another member suggested that the amendment be amended to accommodate some flexibility in the relocation of displaced groups.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

THAT the neighbouring fields where displaced user groups will be moved (the East field at Jericho Park, the Northwest field in Memorial South Park) be upgraded where possible to the equivalent in size and quality of the fields where synthetic turf is being installed.

-Defeated.

(Commissioner Hundal and Commissioner Mackinnon contrary).

The original amendment to the main motion was put forward and it was Carried
(Commissioner Mackinnon contrary).

Board members discussed the motion. A Board member requested that environmental concerns be taken into consideration when selecting the turf. A Board member requested that the motion be severed.

Motion A was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

Motion B was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

Motion C was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

Motion D was put forward and it was Carried (Commissioner Mackinnon contrary).

The motion as approved by the Board is as follows:

- A. THAT the Board approve the installation of a synthetic turf playfield at Jericho Park on the existing grass playfield adjacent to Discovery Street (the ‘West Field’), as described in this report.**
- B. THAT the Board approve the installation of a synthetic turf playfield at Memorial South Park on the existing grass playfield/diamond adjacent to Prince Albert Street (the ‘Southwest Field’), and an upgrade of the existing running track in the central oval, as described in this report.**
- C. THAT the Board direct staff to update and revise the 2002 Playing Field Renewal Plan to guide playfield capital investments, playfield maintenance programs and playfield allocations to user groups for the next ten years.**
- D. THAT the neighbouring fields where displaced user groups will be moved (the East field at Jericho Park, the Northwest field in Memorial South Park) be upgraded to be equivalent in size and quality of the fields where synthetic turf is being installed.**

In-camera Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

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:

- (f) law enforcement, if the Board considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct of an investigation under or enforcement of an enactment;**

-Carried Unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Peter Kuran
Acting General Manager

Commissioner Aaron Jasper
Chair