

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, MAY 03, 2010**

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 Vancouver East District	- Liane McKenna
	Director of Planning and Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Acting Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Diane Murphy
	Co-Acting Director of Stanley District	- Philip Josephs
	Co-Acting Director of Stanley District	- Thomas Soulliere
	Co-ordinator, Arts and Culture	- jil weaving
	Senior Business Analyst	- Meg Elliott
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Shala Hay

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, April 19, 2010 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair announced a change to the agenda. Commissioner Robertson withdrew the motion on McBride Park, as it reconfirmed a motion that was previously passed by the Board and could potentially be ruled out of order. The matter was moved to the Enquires, Other Matters and New Business section of the meeting.

The Chair reported on several events over the past weeks: Earth Day celebrations in a number of Vancouver parks, which included tree plantings and exhibits; 50th anniversary celebration of the opening of the historic Percy Norman Pool; 5th annual Art in the City event at the West End Community Centre featuring the work of over 70 local artists; and memorial event for the national Day of Mourning for workers who lost their lives or became seriously injured while on the job.

The Chair acknowledged that May 2nd to 8th is Emergency Preparedness Week and there will be a number of free workshops at Park Board facilities to help families prepare for emergencies and disasters.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The last Services and Budgets Committee meeting was held on April 20, 2010. The next meeting will convene on May 18, 2010. On the agenda are: Bylaw Enforcement; Stanley Park Information Kiosk; Marketing Committee Terms of Reference; and April 2010 Statement.

There has not been a Planning and Environment Committee meeting since the last Board meeting. The next meeting will convene on May 06, 2010. On the agenda are: Summer Train Event; and Science World Project.

City Council Report

The Acting General Manager reported that, at the next Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets, Council will receive a report on Cycling in Vancouver.

STAFF REPORTS

Report by the Stanley Park Ecology Society “Ecological Integrity of Stanley Park”

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 26, 2010 recommending that the Board accept for information a report from the Stanley Park Ecology Society on the “Ecological Integrity of Stanley Park”.

Staff introduced Patricia Thomson and Robyn Worcester of Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES) to provide an overview of the “Ecological Integrity of Stanley Park” report. Robyn Worcester advised the Board that the report was developed as an information resource for SPES, the Park Board and the public, with the goal of establishing a framework to assess the current state of the ecological integrity of Stanley Park. The report includes a biophysical inventory and covers areas of weaknesses in the park and the stressor that impact on it, as well as proposed future directions and recommendations.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Joan Reekie
- Mike Mackintosh

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

- A Forest Management Plan was already developed for Stanley Park and nothing is being done
- Cares about what is being done on the ground level and whether policies are being implemented
- Don't need more signage as the signs that were placed after the storms are an eyesore
- The gardeners are planting invasive plants while the volunteers are busy removing them
- Need to leave the dead fall in-situ, but about 95% of the trees that fell during the windstorms were removed
- Do not need more policies need to implement the existing ones
- Employees are not reading the policies and management is not telling them what to do and there are no changes to the mechanisms
- Thinks that some of the gardeners are not even familiar with the types of invasive species that pose a threat to the park
- Thinks this project is long overdue
- The report is a very comprehensive consolidation of the many issues that impact on Stanley Park
- The report speaks for itself, it's very thoughtful and well presented
- There are many people who contributed to its development and would like to thank a number of them.

The Board thanked the delegations for their comments and thanked SPES for its hard work in putting the report together.

A Board member asked staff to comment on the transfer of knowledge to arboriculture staff in the field. Staff advised the Board that field staff work closely with SPES and are usually a source of information on ecological issues related to the park, management also takes steps to ensure that staff receive sufficient training and information to ensure that they possess the knowledge and ability to address issues that impact on the forest and wildlife.

A Board member requested that the Board receive feedback on the type of public questions, concerns and comments generated by the report. Copies of the report are available at SPES and the report is also accessible online at www.stanleyparkecology.ca. A Board member expressed concerns about the disappearance of the western painted turtle at Beaver Lake and whether its reintroduction to this habitat would be successful.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board accept for information a report from the Stanley Park Ecology Society on the "Ecological Integrity of Stanley Park"

Board members discussed the motion. A Board member recommended that the Board look towards taking steps to address sensitive areas in the park and based on the report thought that Beaver Lake would be a good location to start.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board request staff to come up with action items in the fall that bring forward recommendations to maintain and improve the biodiversity of Beaver Lake.

Board members discussed the amendment. Several Board members questioned whether this would be the best area to start in addressing the environmentally sensitive areas of the Park and thought that more information was needed to determine areas with the most critical needs. After discussion by the Board on the intent of the motion to provide information rather than put forward actionable items, the amendment to the motion was ruled out of order. The amendment was taken off the table and the Board concurred that it should be brought as a separate motion at the next Planning and Environment Committee meeting.

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

Historical Marker in New Brighton Park

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 23, 2010 recommending that the Board accept the donation of a historical marker with information relating to the Battle at Ballantyne Pier, to be installed in New Brighton Park with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

Staff advised the Board that this request would usually go to the Planning and Environment Committee before coming to Board; however due to the approaching 75th anniversary of the Battle at Ballantyne Pier it has come directly to the Board. The Boulder will mark a very important incident in the history of the labour movement in Canada and will be funded by International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) Canada and ILWU Pensioners Organization. Public consultation was conducted and historians were consulted on the proposed installation of the historical marker.

Dave Lomas of ILWU Pensioners Organization requested to make a few comments on the report. Dave advised the Board that ILWU has been working with staff to ensure all the requirements are met. The unveiling of the boulder on June 19th will be marked with a line up of festivities in commemoration of the tragic battle which occurred on June 18th, 1935. The objective of the boulder is to highlight this important event in the history of Vancouver and the early struggles faced by labor unions, it will also educate the public and act as a reminder of how far the City has progressed since then. The Board thanked Dave Lomas for his comments.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

THAT the Board accept the donation of a historical marker with information relating to the Battle at Ballantyne Pier, to be installed in New Brighton Park with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager

- Carried Unanimously.

The Board adopted the following reports by Unanimous Consent:

Financial Statements to March 31, 2010

Lawn Bowling Clubs – Operating Agreement Renewal

Trout Lake Community Centre Award of Contract

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A Board member advised the Board that the intent of the motion on McBride Park was to request a letter to be sent to Council reiterating that the Board unanimously passed a motion in April 2004 in support of the unification of McBride Park, and encouraging Council to move onto the next steps in the process. The Board requested staff to prepare a letter to this effect to Council.

A Board member requested that staff provide an estimate of repair work needed at the skateboard park under the viaduct, with any potential costs that might come up for consideration under future capital plans.

A Board member inquired into why competing bids for the Trout Lake Community Centre contract were not mentioned in the report. Staff advised the Board that in this particular case the contracts for the project were awarded in two stages, the first stage was for a contract under \$10,000 and therefore did not require Board approval. As the request is for an extension of the contract awarded under the first stage, the earlier bids evaluated by staff were not mentioned.

A Board member informed the Board that at night, at Riverfront Park near Kerr Street, a group of young people go to the park to smoke drugs and smash bottles, which result in a large amount of trash being littered across the park. This is not the only park where these types of activities occur on a regular basis. The Board member requested that staff work closely with the Vancouver Police Department to increase the level of surveillance and control in these locations, paying special attention to parks in isolated areas.

A Board member requested that staff update the Board on the progress at Emery Barnes Park. Staff advised the Board that the last building at the corner of Seymour and Davie Streets has now been vacated and they are in the process of assessing the asbestos levels and making plans for removal. It is anticipated that most of the park will be opened before summer and the remaining portion will be opened in summer or early fall.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Peter Kuran
Acting General Manager

Commissioner Aaron Jasper
Chair