

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE  
ON MONDAY, MAY 17, 2010**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>- Aaron Jasper</b>
	<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>- Sarah Blyth</b>
	<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>- Constance Barnes</b>
		<b>- Raj Hundal</b>
		<b>- Stuart Mackinnon</b>
		<b>- Ian Robertson</b>
		<b>- Loretta Woodcock</b>
	<b>Acting General Manager</b>	<b>- Peter Kuran</b>
	<b>Director Planning and Operations</b>	<b>- Piet Rutgers</b>
	<b>Co-Acting Director of Stanley District</b>	<b>- Philip Josephs</b>
	<b>Manager of Business Development</b>	<b>- Octavio Silva</b>
	<b>Manager of Communications</b>	<b>- Joyce Courtney</b>
	<b>Recorder</b>	<b>- Shala Hay</b>

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, May 03, 2010 were adopted as circulated.

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair reported on a number of events that occurred over the past weeks: VanDusen Botanical Garden Groundbreaking Ceremony to mark the start of construction of the new Visitor Centre; Youth Week 2010 events at a number of community centres; Move for Health Day activities which included guided walks; and UBC BioEnergy Facility Project announcement, this unique partnership between the Park Board and UBC will focus on green technology.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There has not been a Services and Budgets Committee meeting since the last Board meeting, the next meeting will convene on Tuesday, May 18, 2010. On the agenda are: Stanley Park Information Kiosk; Marketing Committee Terms of Reference; and April 2010 Operating Statement.

The last Planning and Environment Committee meeting convened on Thursday, May 06, 2010. On the agenda were: Summer Train Event; Report on the "Ecological Integrity of Stanley Park" – Next Steps; and Science World Project.

## City Council Report

The Acting General Manager informed the Board that at its next regular meeting Council will receive a report on 'Implementation of Real Time Monitoring and Continuous Optimization Program for Energy and Greenhouse Gas Management in City Facilities', as well as motions on 'Support for Steam Line Walking Route' and 'Living Wage Policy'. At the next Standing Committee of Council on City Services and Budgets, Council will receive a report on '2010 Operating Budget 1st Quarter Review'.

## STAFF REPORTS

### Summer Miniature Train Event in Stanley Park

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 07, 2010 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to D.

Staff acknowledged that the Board has long wanted a summer event at the Miniature Train facility, to build on and compliment its other flagship events. Staff advised that this partnership opportunity with Aboriginal Tourism Association of British Columbia (AtBC) offers several benefits. The proposed event, entitled Klahowya Village Summer Aboriginal showcase, will provide a number of activities for visitors focused on Aboriginal culture and will act as a pilot project to assess the feasibility for future years. The proposed period for the event is June 26 to September 06, 2010.

Board members discussed the report and expressed their excitement and support for the event. One Board member suggested that staff also look into ways of incorporating aboriginal culture into other Park Board projects.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

- A. THAT the Board approve the use of the Stanley Park Miniature Train site for an Aboriginal cultural tourism event in summer 2010 with specific details subject to the approval of the General Manager.**
- B. THAT all legal documentation is to be in a form which is satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services for the City of Vancouver and the General Manager.**
- C. THAT the General Manager be authorized to execute and deliver such documentation on behalf of the Board.**
- D. THAT no legal rights shall arise and no consents, permissions or licences are granted hereby and none shall arise or be granted hereafter unless and until all contemplated legal documentation has been executed and delivered by all parties.**

**-Carried Unanimously.**

## **Theatre Under The Stars - New Licence Agreement**

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

Staff advised the Board that Theatre Under The Stars (TUTS) has requested a 5 year agreement term with a 5 year option for extension. The security of tenure provided by the new agreement will enable the Society to participate financially in the improvements need at Malkin Bowl. There is a contingency fund of \$600,000 that can go towards improvements to the site, half of which comes from the Federal Infrastructure grant, and the remaining half comes from the capital plan. TUTS has been requested to supplement this fund and would utilize a number of strategies to do so.

James Crook, President, TUTS, requested to speak to the Board. James acknowledged that to have a theatre survive in these times is quite a task and there are over 300 volunteers behind its success. The Society is continuing to make progress in involving youths and currently has a youth mentoring program. The TUTS brand continues to be enhanced and this year there has been greater focus on corporate funding which was not heavily emphasized in the past.

The Board thanked the delegation for its comments. Board members discussed the motion.

Moved by Commissioner Blyth,

- A. THAT the Board approve a 5 year operating agreement from May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2015 with a 5 year option to Theatre Under the Stars (TUTS) to occupy the Malkin Bowl which includes provisions to sublet the venue subject to the approval of the General Manager.**
- B. THAT the Board endorse in principle the establishment of a Capital Reserve for the Malkin Bowl with TUTS paying the Board an annual capital improvement fee as outlined in this report, subject to the approval of the City's Director of Finance.**
- C. THAT all legal documentation is to be in a form which is satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services and the General Manager.**
- D. 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 none shall arise or be granted hereafter unless and until all contemplated legal documentation has been executed and delivered by all parties.**

**-Carried Unanimously.**

### **Delegation Of Contract Award Authority For Memorial South, Jericho and Trillium Parks**

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 04, 2010 recommending that the Board delegate its authority to the General Manager to award 3 artificial playing turf projects: Jericho, Memorial South and Trillium Parks.

Staff advised the Board that there is a tight deadline for completing the projects as they are funded under the Federal Infrastructure grant and must be completed by March 31, 2011. Based on the new purchasing policy, however, several levels of authorization are required due to the dollar value of the projects and these additional steps can potentially delay the commencement of work. In light of this, it is requested that the Board transfer authority to the General Manager for the awarding of contracts for these artificial playing turf implementation projects to ensure that they proceed in a timely manner, in order to meet the completion deadline.

A Board member inquired into whether the types of turf and field sizes were already determined. Staff advised that these were determined based on consultation with the Vancouver Field Sport Federation and field users. A higher turf was selected that is suitable for both hockey and soccer. A Board member inquired into whether the field size at Jericho Park would be suitable for rugby. Staff advised the Board that the field would be suitable for practice but not for playing as it is not large enough.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

**THAT the Board delegates its authority to the General Manager to award 3 artificial playing turf projects; Jericho, Memorial South and Trillium Parks, under the Federal Infrastructure Stimulus Fund and Recreation Infrastructure Canada Fund in order to meet specific deadlines, and that the General Manager report back to the Board with the award details.**

**-Carried Unanimously.**

### **Prospect Point Café - Rent Review and Lease Extension**

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 06, 2010 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to E.

Staff advised the Board that over the past four years Prospect Point Café's gross sales declined by 21%, mainly due to factors beyond its control. The proposed changes to the rental fees in the new agreement will reduce the percentage of rent paid by the Café, on gross food services revenue, so that it is on par with what is paid by other tenants in the restaurant industry, as it is currently slightly higher. In the next five year term, the percentage of rent paid, on gross gift shop venue, will also appreciate to the amount paid by the other gift shop tenant. It is anticipated that these adjustments will assist the facility in returning to its profitable state. The new agreement also states that the lessee must complete required repairs at the facility by the end of 2010.

Board members discussed the report. A Board member raised a concern that this might send the wrong perception to other lessees, especially during the current economic climate. Staff advised the Board that careful consideration was taken and this situation is quite exceptional, due in part to situations beyond the control of the Café which include windstorm damages and nearby road configuration. Staff further advised that these adjustments bring the rent on par with the rates paid to the Board by other lessees in similar types of business.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

- A. THAT the Board approve a rent of 6% of gross food and beverage revenue and 8% of gift shop revenue for the Prospect Point Café for the period December 1, 2009 – November 30, 2014 and 6% of gross food and beverage revenue and 10% of gift shop revenue for the period December 1, 2014 – November 30, 2019.**
- B. THAT the Board approve a five year renewal option for the Prospect Point Café for the period December 1, 2014 – November 30, 2019 based upon a minimum capital expenditure of \$160,000 to be undertaken by December 31, 2010.**
- C. THAT all legal documentation is to be in a form which is satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services for the City of Vancouver and the General Manager.**
- D. 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 licences are granted hereby and none shall arise or be granted hereafter unless and until all contemplated legal documentation has been executed and delivered by all parties.**

**-Carried Unanimously**

### **Kensington Park: Dedication of Land for Road Purposes**

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 06, 2010 recommending that, subject to City Council approving similar resolutions, the Board adopt recommendations i to iii.

Staff advised the Board that this project will address traffic congestion, improve the pedestrian environment along the sidewalk and lead to the planting of additional trees. In order to reassign any portion of the site the Park Board and City Council are required to revoke the park's "permanent park" designation and the remaining portion of the park will then be re-designated a "permanent park". It is anticipated that three to five trees may need to be removed; however as is customary, for every tree removed two replacements will be planted. All cost related to the project will be covered by Engineering Services.

Board members discussed the report. A Board member expressed concern about the removal of trees. Staff advised that the Board has a reciprocal relationship with the City in this regard and sometimes more green spaces are gained while at other times some may have to be given up. A Board member advised that construction should be scheduled so that it does not impact on user groups and this should be noted in the letter to Council. A Board member requested that staff post notices at the site during construction, informing the public of the work that is being done and outlining the benefits of the project.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

**A. THAT, subject to City Council approving similar resolutions, the Board:**

- i. revoke the designation of Kensington Park (legally described as Lot K, District Lots 700 and 701, Plan 7517, Group 1, New Westminster District) as a “permanent park”;**
- ii. support the establishment of a strip of land (0.08 hectares or 0.20 acres) along the western edge of Kensington Park (Knight Street) for road purposes, as described in this report and shown in Appendix A; and**
- iii. support the designation of the remaining portion of Kensington Park as a “permanent park”, as described in this report and shown in Appendix B.**

**-Carried Unanimously.**

**MOTION**

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock:

**WHEREAS walking is a healthy, environmentally friendly and inexpensive way to travel in Vancouver and is the highest-priority mode of transportation in the City of Vancouver Transportation Plan; and**

**WHEREAS walking routes in neighbourhoods across the City encourage residents of all ages and all mobility capacity to be more active; and**

**WHEREAS a proposed walking route from the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre in Yaletown to the Steam Clock in Gastown (the “Steam Line Walk”) would highlight many facets of Vancouver’s history; and**

**WHEREAS the Steam Line Walk is the latest edition to the Park Board’s ‘Step Out Walks Program’ under the Active Communities initiative, that includes 45 recreational walks all around the city; and**

**WHEREAS a fundraising program is being initiated to support the proposed Steam Line Walk by providing benches, historical plaques and signage for the route;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT in celebration of Vancouver's 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 2011, Vancouver Park Board staff work with City of Vancouver staff to create a pedestrian walk from Yaletown to Gastown that would be titled "The Steam Line Walk" and that would highlight key parts of the history of Vancouver.**

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Alan Herbert
- Emma Sutherland

The following comments were put forward by the foregoing delegations:

- This suggestion was made before, on April 28, 2009, at the Services and Budgets Committee meeting
- The program received support from the Business Communities in Yaletown, Gastown and the West End, as well as major support from the Alzheimer's Society, Arthritis Society, Heart and Stroke Society, Osteoporosis Society and the Foot and Ankle clinic
- Most of these illnesses, which are in part age related, can be addressed by walking
- Diabetes is the major killer of Canadians and exercise is one of the methods that can be used by many diabetics to control their blood sugar level
- About 20 minutes of walking a day can be beneficial and "The Steam Line Walk" would provide this
- The walk would be lined with benches, lead to popular destinations that people are going to, and tell the local history, providing both leisure, education and exercise
- The Greenest City report focuses mainly on cycling but the Park Board has the ability through its programs to promote walking which is also a sustainable form of transportation, improves health and is more suited to seniors
- The "Steam Line Walk" was launched last Monday and was attended by a diverse group of people
- The "Steam Line Walk" is one of the Step Out Walk programs
- The Walk also promotes community building which is just as important for health as physical activity and healthy eating
- Since 2006 Red Fox has been working with Active Communities of Vancouver to develop Step Out Walks and make them more accessible
- The Walk has no real cost for the Park Board
- Two Walk BC grants enabled this to happen, each of which donated \$5000
- Despite losing 95% of its funding from the Park Board, Active Communities and Red Fox have managed to survive from month to month
- Red Fox is a thriving program focused on meeting the needs of communities and would like the Board to be mindful of this when planning future budgets and considering which programs to fund, as the focus should be on survival of the fittest
- Applauds the Board for promoting this program and would like to acknowledge that there are 45 Step Out Walks and hope that in the future more Step Out Walks would be highlighted in this way

- Many Red Fox members have disabilities and are unable to work fulltime and as members of the program benefit from being involved in their community.
- These walks are making a significant difference in the lives of residents in the Downtown Eastside
- Encourage the Board to approve the motion and continue to promote these programs

The Board thanked the delegations for their comments. Board members discussed the motion. A Board member acknowledged studies which indicate that walking is the most popular form of physical activity in Vancouver and while the Board invests a lot into gyms and other facilities there is little focus on walking, which does not really require a lot of funding. This program introduces a creative way to get families out at no real cost and the historical component celebrates the City.

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

### **Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business**

A Board member announced that they have been receiving emails from Kitsilano residents expressing concerns about the relocation of the accessible playground closer to the Watermark Restaurant. Staff advised that for a number of years the Board have been receiving concerns about the proximity of the playground to the basketball court and requests to have the playground relocated closer to park facilities, such as washrooms and the main parking lot. The new location will be also closer to the lifeguard tower which provides an added source of security. In order for the Board to revoke its decision to relocate the playground, a two-thirds majority vote is required. There are many stakeholders involved in the project who will be impacted and disappointed, as well as future users who are excited about the new facilities. Staff further advised that these concerns seem to be coming from a minority group and does not seem to represent the majority of residents. Staff informed the Board that cancellation of the project would cost the Board a lot more money.

A Board member inquired into why Anti-HST campaigners were restricted access to community centres in Vancouver, while other cities have been accommodating. Staff advised the Board that the campaigners requests to occupy lobby space at community centres were not granted because it is not practice to allow groups of people to gather in lobby areas for safety reasons, as there is no means of crowd control, especially if a row should ensue, and also to allow patrons unhindered access to facilities. Staff would look into what other options are available at the various community centres for the campaign and report back to the Board.

A Board member inquired into funding from the Development Cost Levy coming out of the Shangri La Hotel construction that might be available for park development in the West End. Staff will look into this and report back to the Board.

A Board member inquired into the state of the Jericho Wharf project and public consultation process. Staff advised that the project is not moving forward at the moment pending resolution of the capital budget situation; staff anticipate that they would be able to report back to the Board in June.

A Board member acknowledged that a recent rally near Grandview Park resulted in some destruction in the neighbourhood. Due to a concern of vandalism, staff was requested to open up the backend of the park earlier, while working on the other parts. Staff advised that they would take this into consideration.

The Chair acknowledged that the next Board meeting, on June 07, will be at Strathcona Community Centre.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

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Peter Kuran  
Acting General Manager

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Commissioner Aaron Jasper  
Chair