

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, JUNE 07, 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 Planning and Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Vancouver East District	- Liane McKenna
	Co-Acting Director of Stanley District	- Philip Josephs
	Co-Acting Director of Stanley District	- Thomas Soulliere
	Acting Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Diane Murphy
	Senior Business Analyst	- Meg Elliott
	Manager of Business Development	- Octavio Silva
	Manager of Recreation Services	- Terry Walton
	-Vancouver East	
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Shala Hay

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, May 17, 2010 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The chair reported on several community events over the past weeks: announcement of EcoAction Funding for Stanley Park Ecology Society; ribbon cutting for the Brockton Oval Solar Thermal Demonstration System; unveiling of Fraser River Park Kiosk; launch of First Tee Youth Golf program; and annual Marpole Community Day festival.

Commissioner Woodcock acknowledged that Park Board staff Cindy Crapper was inducted in the Windsor/Essex County Sports Hall of Fame for her outstanding performance as a track and field athlete.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The next Services and Budgets Committee meeting will convene on Tuesday June 15, 2010 on the agenda are: May 2010 Operating Statement; Farmyard and Bloedel Update; Bylaw Enforcement; and 2011 Budget Process.

The last Planning and Environment Committee meeting was cancelled and the next meeting is scheduled to convene on July 08, 2010.

City Council Report

The General Manager informed the Board that at the next regular and standing committee meetings Council will be receiving motions on “Making City Hall Available to Harmonized Sales Tax Canvassers” and “Office of Public Consultation”, as well as reports on “Vancouver Sport Hosting Grant: Allocations”, “Temporary Float Plane Terminal in Coal Harbour Development Permit Application Number DE413848”, “Amendment to City of Vancouver Health Bylaw” and “Heritage Incentives Policy for Landscape Resources”.

OPEN QUESTION PERIOD

The following is a summary of comments put forward by the public during the open question period.

The following speakers provided their names:

- Darryl
- Loretta Siemens
- Roselyn Castles
- Stephanie Maingot
- Lisa Moffat
- John Clipsky
- Eileen Mosca
- Christina Habers
- Rich Cunningham
- Craig Ollenberger
- Cathy
- Jonathan Henley
- Joseph Jones
- Monique
- Emma Sutherland
- David Beattie
- Leon
- Wendy Walters

- Grant
- John Telowsky

A number of speakers chose not to provide their names.

Summary of Comments:

- It is concerning that the majority of Commissioners are unaware that gas powered leaf blowers are used in parks and would like these to be replaced with electric blowers
- Would like to know why only the Westend is excluded from the use of gas powered leaf blowers (staff advised that this is a decision the Board can look into and decide whether it would like to issue a ban on the use of gas blowers in other areas across the City)
- Would like regulations to be changed to permit parks to remain open for 24-hours; does not support the current regulation where parks are closed from 10pm to 6am
- Would like a copy of the Park Board Bylaws (Board advised that this could be provided by staff at a later date)
- Want a detail plan of what is proposed for Grandview park, outlining exactly where the new stage would be and its size
- Would like to know what would happen if protesters erect tents in the park
- Would like to know whether the Park Board had an input in the report on float planes in Coal Harbour (staff advised that negotiations are ongoing regarding the new location for the planes, Park Board staff provided advice for the report endorsing the relocation)
- Would like to know whether it is necessary to close the entire park during the renovation
- Suggest that the renovation be done in phases
- Advises that Grandview Park is used extensively for exercise, by dogowners, low income families and disabled persons
- Christian groups also use the park to distribute meals and it provides washrooms and a source of freshwater, which is important during summer to prevent heat exhaustion
- Would like to remind the Board that the park belongs to the people and the board had no legal right to throw persons out of the park if they have nowhere to live
- The Board should respect the wishes of the people and the people do not want the park to be closed
- Has lived in the Grandview Woodland area for about 8 years, there is strong support for the renovation in the community
- Urge the Board not to get side tracked with the current debate as most of the opponents do not have children and don't appreciate the need for a new playground
- Residents in the neighbourhood signed a petition in 2003 calling for resurfacing of the park and the installation of a gate
- Has been a resident of the area for over 6 years and moved to the neighbourhood mainly due to Grandview Park
- Plays bike polo in the park and main concern is an interim area to play when the park is closed
- Would like staff's input on alternative parks that can be used to avoid infringing on other parks
- Has been a resident of Grandview park for about 8 years and has seen the park go downhill, particularly the playground

- Appreciates the Park Board investing in this community and urge the Board to continue with the renovation as many of the people who are opposing it had an opportunity to speak at the open houses and did not choose to do so
- Has been a resident in the area for about 30 years and several decades ago residents protested to the Park Board to renovate Grandview Park and it is incredible that now there is funding to do so and people are protesting for the park not to be renovated
- Understands why the park has to be closed but when Oppenheimer Park was being renovated an area was fenced off for picnics etc and would like to suggest that a similar plan be introduced for Grandview Park (Staff advised that they would follow up with engineering to see what the possibilities are for this. If this would result in a street closure the decision would have to be made by the City and not the Park Board)
- Found the public consultation on the proposed renovation of Grandview Park to have been very open, it was attended by diverse groups in the community and most of the attendees were very enthusiastic
- When Oppenheimer Park was being renovated a lot of residents were not pleased as they had to be inconvenienced and many of the park activities had to be relocated to Crab Park
- Hopes that in the new design of Grandview Park there will be sufficient washrooms and that security would be increased
- Thinks the Board should try to avoid losing activities that currently occur in the park as this is what happened at Oppenheimer
- Grew up at Grandview Park and would like to state that residents are opposed to the redevelopment of the park as it is only catering to a few residents
- Not only was the public consultation unengaging, it also alienated many of the residents
- The park has not been maintained and the grass has not been re-seeded
- The washrooms are not maintained and many users have taken it upon themselves to repair the park, the park also needs a heat shelter
- The redevelopment will result in a loss of memory and history to gentrification and deprives residents, who will never be able to own a piece of property, from holding on to the memories they shared in the park
- Gentrification in the area makes a lot of residents nervous and it would be difficult not to have the park available to youths in the area
- Suggests that a small amount of the park be left available to residents
- Does not see the park redevelopment as an attempt to displace current park users
- Suggests that the Board find an alternative location for people who have nowhere else to go
- Thinks that the design should incorporate structures to provide shade
- The Park Board should have maintained the parts of the playground that needed to be maintained and the grass (Staff advised that in such high traffic areas it is difficult to maintain the grass the best is to add water and fertilizer which makes it difficult for people to sit on the grass. The closure would allow the grass to be refurbished. Staff further advised that the plastic and metal materials that will be used in the playground are less susceptible to the elements, unlike wooden structures and all equipment installed by the Park Board in playgrounds are Canadian Standards Association (CSA) approved. Staff also monitors any literature that comes up pertaining to materials used in parks and so far are not aware of any issue with this type of equipment.)

- Seems like the Park Board has been allowing the park to deteriorate before consultation was ever done to determine whether the public wanted the park to be renovated
- Children prefer to play on wooden structures, as opposed to plastic and metal, which get extremely hot during the summer
- Proposes that there be a closing ceremony for all those who love the park
- Would also like the Board to retain a few of the existing equipment to maintain some of the history
- The wooden house should be kept or a similar replacement should be installed
- Lived in the Grandview Park area for about 15 years and is not opposed to the redevelopment
- Feels however that there is a lower class and middle class conflict regarding the renovation
- At the 2010 public consultation there was no option to vote against the redevelopment and would like to know how staff managed to hold an open house on January 19, 2010 and two days later was able to have a report ready to present the results
- Board should have a backup plan that look towards allocating the funds elsewhere or making adjustments to the current plan
- Opposes cancellation of the Burrardview children's summer swimming program and would like to know if some time can be allocated, for the children who would suffer the loss of the program, in the Pandora Park summer program (staff advised that due to budget cuts the children's programs had to be prioritized and Pandora needs the full five day resources that it currently has and it would not be feasible to allow those resources to be shared with Burrardview)
- Strathcona embodies what a Community Association should be
- The Association has supported the Redfox program when the budgets were cut
- The Association greatly assisted the Redfox program in putting on its multicultural event after it received only about 20% of the funding requested and through the Association they were able to get a lot of support for the event
- Would like to see 'Recreation' included as one of the components of the Park Board on the City of Vancouver website
- The term 'Leisure Access' is not a good title as it does not speak to what the program is about and suggests renaming the program to something that is more helpful to new immigrants and people who speak English as a second language
- Asks the Board to reconsider the plans for Grandview Park
- Would like to know the percentage of the community that turned out during the public consultation
- Appalled by the Board's decision to go ahead with these plans
- Thinks that if it was made public at the time of consultation that there would be a need for the park to close during the redevelopment and that the closure would occur in July there would have been a lot greater turnout
- The Board should now have another public consultation to meaningfully gauge public feedback
- Did not agree with the plans and there are a lot of working parents in the area who were unable to attend the open houses

- Concerned about the cuts to children's summer programs by the Park Board, especially Burrardview and frustrated as they were not aware that these cuts were being discussed last year otherwise they would have come before the Board to protest
- The wading pool at Burrardview is the hub of the community and really thinks that a solution can be found even if the community can be facilitated at another location for one day
- Thinks that the Board will be receiving a lot more complaints from the community about this
- Fear that members of Grandview are not feeling listened to regarding their opposition to the park closure and this anger can grow really large and may even lead to vandalism out of frustration from being ignored
- Would like the Board to consider what can be done to make the residents of Grandview park area feel listened to and if this issue erupts into a protest would like to know how the Board would handle it
- Against the redevelopment but not against the maintenance and upkeep of the park and replacement of equipment
- Would like more information on the details of the plan for the park and the dimensions and location of the stage
- Have been a resident of Grandview woodland area for approximately 10 years and support the redevelopment
- Getting the park renovated would bring more people together and would allow more interactions between the various socioeconomic groups in the community
- The neighbourhood is rich in diversity and thinks some aspects of the history of the park should be maintained
- Many see the redevelopment as a means of pushing the homeless out of the park and there are claims that the park is used to sell hard and soft drugs which is untrue as rarely is hard drugs sold in the park
- Encourages the existing culture of the park which includes loitering, would like East Vancouver to remain a place where you don't have to be rich to exist
- Noticed that despite the importance of Grandview Park to the public, it is not on the agenda of this Board meeting and would like to know when this would come up at one of the Board meetings
- Shocked that a lot of people are opposed to the redevelopment of Grandview Park
- No one in the community supports pushing people out of the park, what people don't want is violence and illegal drugs in the park
- Started a petition and over a week had more than 100 signatures in support of the park redevelopment
- Urges that part of the park be left open if only for the summer and that the plans be tweaked to accommodate some existing aspects of the park.

The Board thanked members of the public for their comments.

As part of the Open Question Period staff provided an overview of the Grandview Park redevelopment project. Staff advised that Grandview Park is a well used park and shows signs of heavy usage. The park is worn out and in need of redevelopment. There are some nearby parks in the neighbourhood that are not as busy as Grandview that can be

used as alternatives during the 8 months when the park would be closed. Most aspects of the existing park will be retained with the exception of the two tennis courts as, based on feedback from residents, a multipurpose court is preferred. The two courts would be therefore converted to one large multipurpose court to accommodate a variety of user groups. The playground would be relocated to an area that offers a combination of sun and shade, closer to the water play area that has been included. Picnic tables would be available in shaded areas and the fieldhouse would be relocated to serve more visitors. A skateboard feature has also been added and the stage would be installed to accommodate performances. The stage would be in the same area and the size would be the same; however the backstage area will be larger. Drainage and irrigation would also be improved. The project is part funded under the Recreation Infrastructure Canada (RInC) fund and, like other projects funded under this program, it must be completed by March 31, 2011. This strict deadline is the reason why the construction must be done all at once and can not be carried out in phases. Complete closures have been carried out during redevelopment projects in the past and in some cases activities were transferred to other nearby parks. Although, residents may have been adversely impacted during those periods, in the end the redeveloped parks have been very well received by residents. If towards the end of construction it is possible to open up some parts of the park, every effort would be made to do so. Three open houses were conducted to gather public feedback and each of these were attended by about 100 residents. Based on the feedback only about 12% of residents did not want any significant changes to the park, while the majority supported the plan. The next step in the project would be to receive tenders and it is anticipated that construction would commence in July 2010 with completion around March 31, 2011. If the project is delayed beyond March 31, 2011 any expenditure occurred after this date would be at the expense of taxpayers, as it would not be covered by the RInC program.

STAFF REPORTS

Partnership Opportunity with Canadian Sport Centre Pacific for Southeast False Creek

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 17, 2010 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to D.

Staff advised the Board that the proposed partnership with Canadian Sport Centre (CSC) Pacific is aligned with the Vancouver Sport Strategy and its key objectives, geared at enhancing the quality of recreation opportunities for residents. CSC Pacific is a not-for-profit society and part of a national network of sport centres designed to create a stronger system of development for athletes, coaches, support teams, and sport facilities. The space that would be shared with CSC Pacific at Southeast False Creek Community Centre includes the fitness centre and multipurpose room. Staff have already met with CUPE Local 15 to confirm that there would be no impact to Park Board staff as a result of the partnership.

The chair announced that the registered delegation for this item removed itself from the agenda.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

- A. THAT the Board approve a 5-year lease agreement with Canadian Sport Centre Pacific as per the terms described in this report, for the recreation centre at Southeast False Creek.**
- 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**

Board members discussed the motion. A Board member suggested an amendment to part A of the motion.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

- A. THAT the Board approve a 5-year lease agreement with Canadian Sport Centre Pacific as per the terms described in this report and that Park Board positions will not be adversely affected by this agreement, for the recreation centre at Southeast False Creek.**

-Carried Unanimously.

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

Marketing & Business Development Advisory Committee – Terms of Reference

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 27, 2010 recommending that the Board approve the Terms of Reference for the Marketing & Business Development Advisory Committee attached as Appendix 1.

Staff advised that as per the directions issued by the Board at its regular meeting on Mar 31, 2010, terms of reference have been developed for the Marketing & Development Advisory Committee.

A Board member inquired into the process for finding and appointing committee members. Staff advised that exemplar organizations in the City would be looked at and appropriate members of these organizations would be invited to sit on the committee. A few Board members advised that staff should cast a wide net in the search for committee members and various vehicles should be used to advertise the opportunity. A Board member inquired as to how the efficacy of the committee would be measured. Staff advised that the committee would be reviewed by the Chair and General Manager on a regular basis to ensure that it continues to meet the ongoing needs of the Board, the terms of reference can then be amended as necessary and should the committee no longer meet the needs of the Board it can be dissolved at the Board's discretion. Several Board members expressed support for this endeavor to seek external expertise and assistance from the community.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

THAT the Board approve the Terms of Reference for the Marketing & Business Development Advisory Committee attached as Appendix 1.

- Carried Unanimously.

Allocation of funds from Corporate Sponsorship

Board member received copies of a staff report dated May 26, 2010 recommending that the Board contribute \$50,000 from the Corporate Sponsorship Reserve toward the installation of power hubs at David Lam Park.

Staff acknowledged that David Lam Park is used extensively by residents, as well as for sports and special events. The park is in need of a permanent power source which would eliminate the use of generators during activities. This need was identified since 2008 and during the 2010 Olympics Live Site hosting at the park it was determined that in order to accommodate installation of a power source the park's landscaping and infrastructure would have to be altered. The current restoration work being carried out at the park presents a good opportunity to do so; however, in order to fund this project an additional \$50,000 is required and it is recommended that this be taken from the Corporate Sponsorship reserve, which is in compliance with the sponsorship policy.

A Board member inquired whether this cost would be passed on to users through the special event permit fees and what would be the timeline for recouping the total cost. Staff advised that the cost would be passed on to users and it is anticipated that breakeven should occur in about three years, dependent on the level of usage.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

THAT the Board contribute \$50,000 from the Corporate Sponsorship Reserve toward the installation of power hubs at David Lam Park.

- Carried Unanimously.

Shaughnessy Restaurant - Rent Review and Lease Extension

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 28, 2010 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to F.

Staff advised the Board that since 1998 the lessee has operated the Shaughnessy Restaurant at VanDusen Botanical Garden and over the period has invested capital funds to maintain the high standard of the restaurant and also contributed to the operations of the Garden. It is recommended that the rent remain at 6% of gross food and beverage revenue, which is on par with the amount paid to the Board by other restaurant operators and that a five year option for renewal be granted, provided that a minimum capital expenditure of \$200,000 be invested by the lessee. The Board will have the option at any point during the renewal option period to give the lessee one year's notice to vacate the premises. Staff advised that this option would prevent the Board from making a long term commitment while the decision is still be made on the services to be provided at the garden pavilion.

Moved by Commissioner Blyth,

- A. THAT the Board approve a rent of 6% of gross food and beverage revenue for the Shaughnessy Restaurant at VanDusen Garden Ltd., (Shaughnessy) for the period April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2015.**
- B. THAT the Board approve a five year renewal option for the Shaughnessy for the period April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2020 based upon a minimum capital expenditure of \$200,000 with the timing and the details subject to the approval of the General Manager.**
- C. THAT the Board may, at any time during the renewal option period, give the Shaughnessy one year's notice to vacate the premises and return to them the pro-rated amount of the capital expenditure as outlined in this report.**

- D. 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**
- E. THAT the General Manager be authorized to execute and deliver such documentation on behalf of the Board.**
- F. 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.

MOTION

Commissioner Hundal announced that the original motion put forward on the agenda will be replaced by the following motion which is in conformity with Board meeting regulations.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

WHEREAS the Vancouver Park Board strictly limits the use of Community Centre lobby space for public gatherings due to operational and safety concerns;

WHEREAS an initiative petition proposing an end to the Harmonized Sales Tax has been issued under the *Recall and Initiative Act* RSBC 1996 c.398 and canvassers for the petition have sought permission to set up and carry out canvassing activities for it in the lobbies of Park Board controlled community centres;

WHEREAS the Park Board wishes to support the democratic processes contemplated by the *Recall and Initiative Act*;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the General Manager may permit persons canvassing in support of recall or initiative petitions duly issued under the *Recall and Initiative Act* to set up for and carry out such canvassing activities within lobbies of Park Board controlled community centres in which and to the extent such activities, in the General Manager's opinion, can be safely and reasonably accommodated and subject to such restrictions, terms and conditions as the General Manager might require.

A Board member inquired as to why the motion was replaced and was advised that the original motion was fine-tuned to avoid any future complications that may arise. The revised motion applies to the Recall and Initiative Act and covers all petitions issued under this Act.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- May Brown
- Bill Mc Creery
- Dave Pasin

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

- Recreation centres are not places for deep discussion and should not be opened up to this type of activity
- In the past, legitimate political groups have been allowed to rent spaces in community centres which could be done in this case as well
- Once you make one policy it is difficult not to be persuaded to make others
- Urges the Board to delay this at least until the Board is able to meet with community association partners to discuss this regulation
- There should not be an unlimited number of people and chairs in the lobby and therefore all of these aspects need to be worked out before a decision like this is made
- Requests that the Board not go forward with this recommendation
- The Board has a long tradition of jointly operating with the community centre associations
- Has gotten feedback that this canvassing is not wanted by the associations
- The HST petition already has more signatures than required and it is not necessary to go forward with this decision
- Seeing that there are questions about space allotment and a lot of details still need to be worked out, the Board should not proceed with the decision
- The campaign also has to be completed by July 5, 2010 so there is no need to go forward with this decision, considering all the issues, for just three weeks
- What will happen if someone comes to the Board for access to the centres and is turned down due to political issues – the Board is opening itself up to legal proceedings
- A lot more consideration is required and pleads with the Board not to move forward with this.

The Board thanked the delegations for their comments. A Board member acknowledged that the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) will have a significant direct impact on community centre users as it will result in higher rates and affect the public's ability to afford these services. This matter was raised in a letter sent by the Board to the British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA), seeking its support to request a waiver of the HST on recreational services. Although there are many concerns about this recommendation, based on the magnitude of the issue it is important to grant this access. Another Board member acknowledged that community centres are used as voting stations during the general elections and considering that there would be no real impact to community centre programs and no real cost to the Board, this would be a good opportunity to bring democracy to the centres. A Board member expressed concern that

this will open up the Board to other types of petitions and as this particular petition has already exceeded the required percentage there is no need to grant canvassers access to community centres. A Board member expressed concern that this will place undue pressure on staff as the motion states that access would be granted at the discretion of the General Manager.

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

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A Board member mentioned that last year a motion was passed by the Board requesting staff to investigate the feasibility of installing plug-ins for electric vehicles at Park Board facilities and since then no follow up information has been provided. Staff advised the Board that information has just been obtained on this issue and they will be able to report back to the Board in the next week on two.

A Board member announced that on Sunday, June 13 a walk for Juvenile Diabetes will be held starting at Nat Bailey Stadium.

A Board member congratulated Strathcona Community Centre on its annual Hoop-a-Thon fundraiser that generated over \$20,000 in donations and thanked Ron Suzuki for his valuable role in this event.

A Board member requested that staff provide a schedule of Canada Day Celebrations across the communities.

A Board member inquired into the summer shuttle service in Stanley Park. Staff advised that due to budget constraints the Park Board would not be funding the shuttle service this year; however a shuttle service will be provided on a trial basis by Vancouver Trolley Company, as a privately funded operation.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 pm.

Peter Kuran
Acting General Manager

Commissioner Aaron Jasper
Chair