

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 2010**

PRESENT: Chair	- Aaron Jasper
Commissioners	- Constance Barnes
	- Raj Hundal
	- Stuart Mackinnon
	- Ian Robertson
	- Loretta Woodcock
General Manager	- Malcolm Bromley
Director of Stanley District	- Peter Kuran
Acting Director of Planning and Operations	- Danica Djurkovic
Acting Director of Corporate Services	- Meg Elliott
Acting Director of Vancouver East District	- Terry Walton
Manager of Recreation Services -Stanley District	- Thomas Soulliere
Manager of Revenue Services & Marinas	- Philip Josephs
Manager of Business Development	- Octavio Silva
Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
Recorder	- Shala Hay

Commissioner Blyth was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair welcomed the new General Manager of the Park Board, Malcolm Bromley. The Chair acknowledged that Philip Josephs, Manager of Revenue Services & Marinas will be retiring after 30 years with the Park Board and thanked him for all his work over the years.

The Chair reported on several community events that occurred over the summer: Oppenheimer Park opening; David Lam Park Cherry Trees donor recognition event; Vancouver Pride Parade; Pinoy Fiesta; Klahowya Village Raven Sculpture Unveiling; Stanley Park Ecology Society Workshop: Children and Nature; annual Labour Day picnic; annual summer festival at the West End; Tecumseh Park opening; Klahowya Village closing event; Creekside Community Recreation Centre opening; and AIDS Walk for Life at Sunset Beach.

COMMITTEE REPORT

The next Services & Budgets Committee meeting will convene on September 21, 2010, on the agenda will be: 2011 Budget Update; 2011 Fees & Charges; Winter Farmers' Market – Riley Park; and August 2010 Operating Statement Review.

The last Planning & Environment Committee meeting convened on September 09, 2010. On the agenda were: Adanac Community Garden Proposal; Greenest City Action Team - Update on City Process; Bard on the Beach -New Venue Plans; Victory Square Historical Plaque; and Farmyard Update. The next meeting will convene on October 07, 2010.

City Council Report

The General Manager advised the Board that, at its next regular and standing committee meetings, Council will receive reports on: New Regional Growth Strategy -Timing and Next Steps; Transport Neighbourhood Consultation; and Adoption of the West Point Grey Community Vision.

STAFF REPORTS

Major Recreation Facility Renewal Priorities

Board member received copies of a staff report dated September 09, 2010 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised the Board that a draft of this report was presented at the July 08, 2010 Planning and Environment committee. Based on the Board's direction, rinks, pools and courts, in addition to community centres, were included in the renewal plan. At a recent meeting with Tennis BC recommendations were put forward for partnerships and business models relating to the development of indoor tennis courts, which staff think need to be looked into further. Staff recommended that the Board continue to work with this group to develop a feasibility study, the cost of which would be shared with Tennis BC.

Board members discussed the report. A Board member inquired into whether, based on the results of the recommended feasibility studies, these projects would be looked at for inclusion in the 2012-2014 Capital Plan. Staff advised that as projects have already been allotted for the next capital plan, there is only a small possibility of this happening, which would be dependant on the availability of funding.

A Board member inquired into the amount of land required for the proposed indoor tennis project. Staff advised that based on the recent discussion with Tennis BC it was determined that adding one or two courts would not be the right solution, as what is needed is

at least 8 indoor and 16 outdoor courts. The challenge would therefore be to procure the required footprint of land, this can cost between \$10 to \$18 million.

A Board member inquired into whether the study would also look into the feasibility of having a stand alone outdoor pool as opposed to one that is connected to an indoor pool. Staff advised that Hillcrest facility can provide a number of insights into the savings that can be achieved in pool operations which will be gauged over the next year or so.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Norm Zottenberg, Marpole Oakridge Community Association
- Danny Yu, Marpole Oakridge Community Association
- Wayne Morris, Vancouver Indoor Public Tennis Project
- Peter Jackson, Vancouver Indoor Public Tennis Project
- Guy O'Byrne, Vancouver Indoor Public Tennis Project
- David Murray, Dunbar Community Association
- Kevin Lonergan, Vancouver Indoor Public Tennis Project
- Raymond Greenwood, West Point Grey Community Association
- Gayle Uthoff, Renfrew Park Community Association
- Lorna Gibbs, Southeast Vancouver Seniors

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

- Thanks the Board and staff for all the time spent on this plan
- Here to emphasize the importance of Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre being approved for renewal
- Marpole-Oakridge Community Association supports the recommendation put forward to the Board
- There was a question about where Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre should be located
 - thinks it makes sense for the community centre to stay where it is, as this is the best location for it
- Tennis BC is very supportive of the process laid down by staff
- The study would determine the required cost of the indoor structures
- There are approximately 180 outdoor tennis courts in Vancouver and just about 4 indoor private courts which will be expanded to 12, but there are no public indoor courts
- Does not think that this would be capable of satisfying the entire demand
- Vancouver has the largest growth rate in tennis in all of Canada
- If a feasibility study is done in the next 12 months, Tennis BC would be interested in collaborating with the Board to development public indoor courts
- However, if there is a delay in moving forward with this, the opportunity may be lost as they are actively seeking a location and may find an alternative solution
- In terms of operating the facility, Tennis BC is open to working with the Board to find the best arrangement this may even involve bringing in a commercial partner
- Tennis Canada is prepared to share the cost of the feasibility study
- Currently there are no indoor public tennis courts in Vancouver and Tennis Canada is willing to contribute to the development of indoor facilities
- There is a high demand for tennis right now which is only being met by private clubs

- Dunbar Community Centre has been in queue for renewal for the past 10 years and the Association is happy to see its turn has finally come
- The Association is prepared to contribute to the Dunbar Community Centre feasibility study
- There are a number of stakeholders who are interested in working with Dunbar, such as Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and Musqueam First Nations Group
- West Point Grey Community Centre has been on the improvement list since 2001
- Believes the time has come for it to be addressed, however the report states that it is only a medium priority
- Thinks it should be a high priority as the gymnasium, fitness room, doors and washrooms are not accessible and there is an urgent need to work on this
- A consultant was brought in who found several areas that need to be addressed in the building to bring it up to accessibility standards
- Thinks that the recommendation by staff to relocate may be a good one; however this might take 5-7 years, but if the required work is done on the existing facility it could be completed in 6 months and all the issues would be addressed
- Relocating could then be considered later on
- Would like to remind staff that the work scheduled to be done at Renfrew Community Centre since 1999 is still pending
- Requests that Renfrew be considered for renewal, a seismic report brought before Council in 1999 raised concerns about the facility along with Mount Pleasant Community Centre and since that time Mount Pleasant has been renewed
- Requests that the seismic structure improvements to the pool be done and the rest of issues can be looked at with the other upgrades
- Renfrew Community Centre has issues in all the areas used to evaluate projects in the report and should be up for renewal
- Would like to draw the Board's attention to the seniors population in Southeast Vancouver which is growing daily
- Overall there is a lack of meeting space and programs in the southeast side of the City which is a large geographical area
- Council had directed staff to work the group on this and they were then advised to set up a work plan and form a non-profit society, which they have done
- The Society conducted a feasibility study and site plan in the hope that the Board can help in finding some space to develop the seniors' centre
- Have had several meetings with government on developing the seniors' centre and have been promised support, but for this to work the City needs to work with the provincial government, without the City's support nothing is going to happen
- Wonders if there has been a change in regulation that would permit them to gain private funding, for example through leasing options

The Board thanked the delegations for their comments.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

- A. THAT the Board authorise the commissioning of four feasibility studies for the renewal of Dunbar, Hastings and Marpole Community Centres,**

and Kensington Hall, with funding to be allocated from the 2010 Capital Budget;

- B. THAT the Board authorise staff to prepare a consolidated Major Recreation Facilities Renewal Study subject to funding provided in the next Capital Plan;**

Board members discussed the motion. A Board member requested that the motion be amended to include two issues of significant importance that were discussed.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

- C. THAT staff work with Tennis BC to acquire a feasibility study in 2010/2011 that will explore demand, business model and opportunities for partnerships for indoor tennis in Vancouver and report back to the Board so that the findings may be considered for inclusion in the 2012-2014 Capital Plan;**
- D. THAT staff proceed with the Pool Assessment Study in 2010/2011 in order to review and evaluate data for the existing pools in the Park Board system.**

- Carried Unanimously.

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

The Board adopted the following reports by Unanimous Consent:

Park Board Signing Authority

Fish House Restaurant -Rent Review

Bloedel Conservatory Update

Staff advised the Board that the original recommendations on the report were revised to reflect discussions that occurred earlier in the evening. Due to limited time staff was unable to post these recommendations online before the meeting.

Staff provided an overview of the Request for Proposal process and advised that the submission by Friends of the Bloedel Association and VanDusen Botanical Garden Association was the most feasible proposal received. This proposal was endorsed by the Services and Budgets Committee at the July 20, 2010 meeting. If the recommendations are approved by the Board the next steps would be to validate and finalize the business plan that was put forward,

develop the key terms and conditions of the partnership agreement and bring this to the Board by early November for approval.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Jim Brooks, VanDusen Botanical Garden Association (VBGA)
- John Coupar, Friends of the Bloedel Association
- Vicky Earle, Friends of the Bloedel Association
- Paul, Faoro, President, CUPE Local 15

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

- VanDusen Botanical Garden Association (VBGA) has 35 years of experience working with the Park Board via a collaborative model and a long history of accomplishments
- Extensive community involvement and voluntarism have been crucial in the success of this model
- The proposal builds on the history of this relationship and the Friends of the Bloedel Association is a very impressive and motivated group that would add to this relationship
- Would start working on this immediately if the proposal is approved
- On behalf of VBGA would like to state that they are confident they can do this
- Since the July 20, 2010 meeting Friends of the Bloedel Association has been connecting with organisations such as Gray Haven Bird Sanctuary, Young Nationals Club, Stanley Park Ecology Society and the Orchid Society to find ways of re-establishing the Conservatory as a destination for tourists and schools
- Does not see any potential for this partnership to negatively impact on the competitiveness of VanDusen Botanical Garden
- Thinks that VBGA and staff have collective expertise that can be shared with Bloedel which can expand the focus and find new opportunities for the conservatory
- Friends of the Bloedel Association is an energized and motivated group which is an asset to this partnership
- Proud of the work they have accomplished in such a short space of time
- The Board's acceptance of this proposal maybe the most important decision it has to make
- Thinks this is a historical decision
- Have worked diligently to put this approval in place
- Thinks this team has the commitment, dedication and expertise to make this venture a success and its approval would result in a fabulous collaboration between these two groups
- Without the Board's approval, the group lacks legal authority to work on this project
- Thinks the revised recommendation should have been made public before the meeting
- Want to thank Friends of the Bloedel Association and VBGA on behalf of CUPE for coming forward with this proposal
- CUPE supports this proposal and is committed to making this work
- Ask that the Union be allowed to have an input in staffing issues
- Look forward to having a long positive relationship with this group
- Concern about the Farmyard closure
- Appreciate all the work that has been done to keep Bloedel open for future generations
- Thinks the partnership with VBGA is a great development
- Hope they can proceed with their plan

The Board thanked the delegations for their comments.

Board members discussed the report. Several Board members expressed their support for the proposal. Board members thanked Friends of the Bloedel Association and VanDusen Botanical Garden Association for all their work in developing the proposal and working with staff to get this before the Board.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

- A. THAT the Board approve the joint submission by the Friends of the Bloedel Association and the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association (VBGA) to collaboratively manage and operate the Bloedel Conservatory in partnership with the Vancouver Park Board.**
- B. THAT the Board develop a business agreement with the VBGA to manage and operate the Bloedel Conservatory, subject to the successful completion of the Board's Business Plan validation/due diligence process, and the satisfaction of the General Manager by November 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.

Closure of the Children's Farmyard in Stanley Park

Board members received copies of a staff report dated September 10, 2010 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised the Board that the Request for Expressions of Interest issued for the Children's Farmyard failed to produce a proposal that would significantly reduce the annual operating deficit, which has led to this recommendation. New positions for the existing staff at the farmyard are being sought and the animals will be relocated to approved organizations that

have come forward. Every effort will be made to keep the animals together where possible. The closure is scheduled to occur after the 2010 Bright Nights Christmas event in Stanley Park.

Board members discussed the report. A Board member inquired, if funding would become available for the Farmyard, whether this would be brought back to the Board for consideration. Staff advised that several donors are willing to make contributions towards the capital expenditure; however the challenge has been attaining funding for the operating expenditure. If financing for the operating expenditure become available, staff would bring this matter before the Board for a decision.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Eleanor Hadley
- Raymond Greenwood

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

- Knows how much residents of Vancouver have done to create all these programs that are now being endangered
- Have come to protect the farmyard and would like to know what the Park Board intends to do with the land the farmyard currently occupies
- Fears the Aquarium is just waiting to move in on this land
- Would like to be reassured that there is no way the aquarium will be able to take possession of the land
- Thinks \$0.25 million to look after farm animals doesn't make any sense and would like to know where the money goes
- Would prefer to see this land go towards public use rather than commercial use
- Thinks the Farmyard needs to be better marketed
- The Unions should get involved to redevelop the space

The Board thanked the delegations for their comments.

Board members discussed the report. A Board member stated that, although staff did a Core Services Review, they would like the Board to look at what the public views as its Core Services, as this might give an entirely different perspective. A Board member stated that they sympathize with the staff at the farmyard. A Board member requested that the Board be informed of the new homes that are found for the animals. Staff advised that this will be done and assured the Board that the process will be transparent.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

- A. THAT the Children's Farmyard in Stanley Park close on January 2, 2011, following the end of the annual Bright Nights Christmas event.**
- B. THAT all the animals are relocated to approved organizations that have expressed interest in giving them safe and secure homes.**

Board members discussed the motion. Several Board members stated that this is a very difficult decision, but faced with the current budget constraints it seems like there is no other solution. A Board member commented that if the Park Board continues to subsidize the Farmyard money would have to be reallocated from other areas, such as community centre programs, which would be unfortunate.

The motion was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

Vancouver Historical Society - Interpretation Sign at Victory Square

Board members received copies of a staff report dated September 10, 2010 recommending that the Board approve the installation of an interpretive sign relating to the history of Victory Square.

Staff advised the Board that the cost of the sign will be covered by the Vancouver Historical Society. Staff further advised that this recommendation was endorsed by the Planning and Environment Committee at its September 09, 2010 meeting.

Bruce Watson, Vancouver Historical Society, requested to speak to the Board. Bruce advised the Board that the Vancouver Historical Society has installed several historical signs throughout the City. The Society focuses on engaging the public and this project is in line with its mission. The installation has the full support of the Friends of Victory Square and the Memorial Day Society. They aim to have the sign installed before Remembrance Day on November 11, 2010. Bruce advised that there is a need for a lot more historical markers like this in the City.

The Board thanked the delegation for its comments.

Board members discussed the report.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

That the Board approve the installation of an Interpretive sign relating to the history of Victory Square by the Vancouver Historical Society in Victory Square as detailed in this report.

- Carried unanimously

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A Board member commented that, with a number of recent staff retirements and movements, there are quite a few staff in acting positions and inquired whether there is any estimate of when these positions would be permanently filled. Staff advised that they are

currently looking at addressing this issue; however it is important to analyse the existing structure before this is done, to determine if it is the right one, so that possible adjustments could be made to achieve some stability. This process should be completed by January 01, 2011.

A Board member thanked the Director of Stanley District for resolving issues regarding the misuse of the Air India Memorial site at Stanley Park.

A Board member stated that they received a number of letters from angry residents near David Lam Park regarding outdoor concerts in the park. The Board member inquired whether residents are notified in advance of the events. Staff confirmed that residents are notified in advance when there is an event in the neighbourhood.

A Board member inquired into the status of the Marketing Committee. Staff advised that the terms of reference was approved by the Board and they are currently working on populating the Committee. Staff further advised that input from Commissioners would be sought on the development of the structure of the Committee and its priorities.

A Board member advised that residents in the Riverfront and Fraser River neighbourhoods are still concerned about late night drinking and vandalism and would like an update on the frequency of police patrol during the night. Staff will check in with the park rangers to get an update on this. The General Manager mentioned that he began discussions with Chief Jim Chu to gather information on how the Park Board can work with the Vancouver Police Department to address such issues and will keep the Board abreast of the developments.

A Board member mentioned that they received inquires from the community on when the Smoking Bylaw enforcement would be combined with other bylaw enforcement. Staff advised that this should be in place before December. Another Board member stated that there have been concerns about lack of signage on the Smoking Bylaw. Staff advised that there is a plan to address this and they are currently working with City staff on this.

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 pm.

Malcolm Bromley
General Manager

Commissioner Aaron Jasper
Chair