

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE VANCOUVER PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2009**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Raj Hundal
	Vice Chair	- Loretta Woodcock
	Commissioners	- Constance Barnes
		- Sarah Blyth
		- Aaron Jasper
		- Stuart Mackinnon
		- Ian Robertson
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Vancouver East District	- Liane McKenna
	Director of Planning & Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Stanley District	- Peter Kuran
	Director of Special Projects	- Jim Lowden
	Director of Olympics and Paralympics Operations	- Paul Henderson
	Manager of Recreation Services - Stanley District	- Thomas Soulliere
	Manager of Research and Planning	- Mark Vulliamy
	Arts and Culture Coordinator	- jil p. weaving
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, December 8, 2008 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on the December 15 Donor Recognition event in Stanley Park and the New Year's Day Polar Bear Swim.

City Council Report

The General Manager advised the Board that Park Board-related items on Council and Committee agenda this week are 2010 Winter Games: Amendments to the *Vancouver Charter* and Granville Loops Policy Plans.

STAFF REPORT

Stanley Park Hollow Tree Restoration Proposal

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 19, 2009 recommending that the Board approve Recommendations A and B.

Staff advised the Board that the engineering drawings for the stabilization of the Hollow Tree produced by Cascade Engineering Group were reviewed and considered achievable by the City Engineering Department. The Stanley Park Hollow Tree Conservation Society has indicated that their fundraising efforts were going well and they have raised enough funds to proceed with the project.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Lorne Whitehead, Stanley Park Hollow Tree Conservation Society
- Harold Kelman, Stanley Park Hollow Tree Conservation Society
- Eleanor Hadley
- Frank Barbeau

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

- thank staff for their report, the straightening of the tree will be done in two phases, fundraising is not complete, have enough funds to proceed with the project, will continue to raise funds for contingency, the project can begin by March 31 and be completed before the start of the tourist season on June 1, 2009;
- would like to see the tree restored to its original state, suggest buses be brought in than park around on the roadside, work on landscaping the area around the tree at the same time the Hollow Tree is being straightened, consider having an interpretative board to tell the story of the Hollow Tree, the Heritage Committee would like a commitment from the Park Board that the Hollow Tree will be maintained and taken care of, requests a link from the Park Board web page to the Stanley Park Hollow Tree Conservation Society's fundraising site;
- keep Stanley Park in its natural state, happy to see the staff recommendation, happy to see professionals donate their time and expertise to save the Hollow Tree which is part of history;
- extends support to keep the Hollow Tree.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

- A. THAT the Board approve the attached design by Cascade Engineering Group for the realigning and permanent stabilizing of the Hollow Tree in Stanley Park.

- B. THAT the Board encourage the Stanley Park Hollow Tree Conservation Society to complete their fundraising for the Hollow Tree stabilization.

Board members thanked the Stanley Park Hollow Tree Conservation Society for their hard work to keep the Hollow Tree, an iconic symbol for our city. A member of the Board stated that he would like to amend the motion to include an end date to the fundraising by the society.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

THAT “by May 31, 2009” be added to the end of recommendation B.

Board members discussed the amendment motion and were advised by the General Manager that if the fundraising efforts will cease on May 31, 2009, restoration work will not begin until June 1, 2009. Members of the Hollow Tree Conservation Society assured the Board that they had the funds to begin the restorative work and the ongoing fundraising was to create a contingency fund.

The amendment motion was put forward and it was DEFEATED UNANIMOUSLY.

Board members discussed the main motion and commended the community for coming together to work on this project. This project will be at no cost to the Board. A member of the Board stated that the Hollow Tree should be laid to rest with dignity and should not be propped up with iron braces.

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

2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (“Games”): *Vancouver Charter* Amendment Proposals

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 5, 2008 recommending that the Board approve the Proposed *Vancouver Charter* amendment. Staff advised the Board that currently Park Board legislates advertising and signage in parks under section 491(c) of the *Vancouver Charter*. The Board controls event signage by guidelines in the Special Event Policy and operators through agreements and leases. An amendment to the *Vancouver Charter* relating to Park Board’s powers to regulate advertising and signage in parks will better define the Park Board’s ability, through by-laws, to specify requirements for signs and advertising in parks and to relax sign requirements in specific circumstances. The amendments will also clarify Park Board’s operations and obligations for 2010 Winter Games to allow celebratory and way finding signage.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Laura McDiarmid
- Jamie Lee Hamilton
- Barry Sharbo
- Jim Hamm
- Lenore Herb
- Isabel Minty
- Edouardo Sousa

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

- understand need amendments for the Olympics;
- need to define Charter to make policies and by-laws;
- does not support the amendments if in future there could be potential problems;
- the amendments give too much authority to the Board and staff;
- the amendments will open a back door for signage and commercialization;
- keep corporate entity out of the parks, already overwhelmed with advertising;
- the public do not want the commercialization of parks and bombarded with signs;
- signs on Hastings Park should not be there;
- the billboard at Hastings and Cassiar has still not been removed;
- the Charter amendments could be the corporate agencies dream;
- public deserved to involved on the implications of these changes;
- why is this necessary, when the Board is approving the signs now;
- it seems VANOC is driving the changes;
- further commercialization of the parks is not acceptable;
- there should be strict time lines and should be only for the Olympics;
- the title does not reflect the nature of the report;
- amendment is carte blanche for advertising;
- there is no reason to allow advertising in parks;
- this is a political social environmental issue;
- there are too many holes in the documents, not enough information is provided;
- the Board should defer the report to seek more clarification;
- Park Board has done a good job in regulating signage;
- the positive of this report is the installation of way finding signage;
- concerned with the negative element of creating commercialization of park space leading to the Olympics;
- the proposed Charter amendment does not have a time frame;
- the wording in the amendment needs tightening up.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

THAT the Board approve the proposed *Vancouver Charter* amendment generally in accordance with Appendix A.

Board members discussed the report and concluded that more information was required with regard to the proposed Charter amendments and a member of the Board suggested that the report be deferred to a future meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

THAT the staff report on the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (“Games”): *Vancouver Charter* Amendment Proposals be deferred to a future meeting.

-Carried.

(Commissioner Robertson contrary)

Potential Skateboard Park in Kensington Park

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 6, 2009 recommending that the Board direct staff to conduct a public consultation process with respect to the installation of a skateboard park in Kensington Park.

Staff advised the Board that the objective to develop a skatepark in Southeast Vancouver was processed by staff and Kensington Park was one of the locations identified for a skatepark similar to the ones at Quilchena and Strathcona. An expanded public consultation process is proposed which will entail project notification where interested parties will be advised via signage on-site, media advisory and advertising, direct email to identified park and activity stakeholders, and flyers to surrounding residents. An open house will be held at the community centre and the open house presentation will be made available online via the Park Board website for review and comment by interested parties.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Brad Tamplin
- Mary Sutherland
- Jeff Cole
- Jeff Chan
- Kevin Kelly

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

- project was brought to the Kensington board in late October, and there has been no opportunity to meet and discuss in detail;
- Kensington does not have a Youth Worker, therefore would not meet the criteria for locating a skatepark;
- the proposed location was the site of a former garbage dump;
- area would need to be fenced as vehicles often drive on to the park;
- the area cannot be viewed from the community centre;
- would need a surveillance system to watch the skatepark;
- does not see how the community centre can be a support facility;
- no one is against the project, one of the problems is there is no Youth Worker;
- the proposed location is next to a children's playground;
- the skatepark will not be visible from anywhere, already have problems to monitor parking lot after hours;
- the area used to be a garbage dump and is the location of a head water;
- other skateparks are on flat land;
- request the Board defer until the Kensington Community Association Board has had the opportunity to discuss it further;
- not against the project, but want the people in the community to provide input;
- skateboarding is one of the fastest growing sports and one of the top 10 sports in Canada;
- there is a need for more skateparks;
- the location proposed at Kensington Park is good as the heavy traffic nearby will mitigate the noise from the skateboards;
- this facility is needed because the closest skatepark is at China Creek and not conducive for young people to have to take the bus for a half-hour to get to the park;
- a skatepark should serve the entire community not only entry level;
- it would be good to have a facility where the youth can walk to;
- important to have a Youth Worker at all community centres;
- this location may not be ideal but any additional skatepark is good;

- address aesthetic concerns with different materials available and landscape the area so that it does not look like a blob of cement in the middle of a park.

Board members thanked the delegations for providing their input and stated that the concerns raised could be addressed during the consultation process.

Moved by Commissioner Blyth,

THAT the Board direct staff to conduct a public consultation process with respect to potential installation of a skateboard park within Kensington Park.

- Carried Unanimously.

BMX/Mountain Bike Jump Park

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 9, 2009 recommending that the Board approve a public consultation process with respect to a proposed BMX/Mountain bike jump park in Vanier Park.

Staff advised the Board that a site within Vanier Park has been identified for a BMX/mountain biking trail. This location is supported by the BMX bike users who are looking for a replacement to the informal dirt jump terrain they developed at Oak Meadows Park. A set of guiding principles with respect to the proposed installation have been established to address user and spectator safety, environmental sensitivity and compatibility with other uses. The concept for the BMX/mountain bike jump park at Vanier Park will be subject to review and input from potential users and other park stakeholders, City and Park Board staff and the general public. Staff will report back after the consultation with a summary of inputs received and with a recommendation for the Board's consideration.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Chris Young
- Jay Miron

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

- it is time to build a BMX/mountain bike trail where parents can bring their children to teach them to ride;
- miss the trail at Oak and 37th ;
- the Vanier Park location is ideal with two bike trails leading to it and a paved road for emergency;
- this will not address the BMX/mountain bike need, but it is a good start;

- BMX bike riding is a very exciting sport and there is a possibility that BMX freestyle might be included in the 2012 Olympics;
- need proper facilities for athletes to train.

Board members discussed the report and stated that this was a good proposal and are excited to see a BMX/mountain bike jump park.

Moved by Commissioner Blyth,

THAT staff conduct a consultation process with the public, the BMX/mountain biking community and other stakeholders with respect to a proposed BMX/mountain bike jump park in a section of Vanier Park, as shown in Appendix A to this report.

- Carried Unanimously.

Emery Barnes Park Phase 2, Environmental Site Investigation Consultant

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 6, 2009 recommending that the Board approve Recommendations A to D.

Staff reviewed the plans for the Phase 2 project for Emery Barnes Park with the Board. A consultant contract for further environmental site investigations for the Emery Barnes Park Phase 2 project is recommended to review the existing reports and carry out further investigations in compliance with BC Ministry of Environment laws, regulations and standards to ensure the contaminated material is properly characterized and remediated.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Ivan Doumenc
- Emily Jubenvill

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

- asked Board to include a community garden in any new development;
- Nelson Park has a community garden around the dog off-leash area, a similar one could be considered for Emery Barnes Park;
- community gardens are about community, it empowers them to have equity in the community;
- it is educational and can teach children about human's link with nature;
- a community garden is an essential complement to the expanded playground;

Board members discussed the delegation's request for a community garden and were advised by staff that the people who attended the open house on Phase 2 of Emery

Barnes Park did not consider this a priority. A member of the Board thanked the previous Board for creating an amazing space in Emery Barnes Park.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

- A. THAT, subject to Recommendations B, C and D, the Board enter into a contract with SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd. in the amount of \$32,980.00 plus GST, for environmental engineering services for Phase 2 of Emery Barnes Park as detailed in this report;**
- B. THAT the contract be on the terms and conditions outlined in this report and on such other terms and conditions as are approved by the General Manager of the Park Board in consultation with the Director of Legal Services;**
- C. THAT, upon approval of the contract by the General Manager of the Park Board in consultation with the Director of Legal Services, the General Manager of the Park Board be authorized to execute the contract on behalf of the Board;**
- D. THAT no legal rights shall arise hereby, and none shall arise until execution of the contemplated contract, and the Board reserves the right to rescind this resolution at any time up to the execution and delivery of the contemplated contract by the General Manager of the Park Board.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Olympic Games Related Public Art – Update

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 7, 2009 recommending that the Board receive the report for information.

Staff advised the Board that the Olympic and Paralympic Public Art Plan offers a broad range of art opportunities through three streams, two of which have implications for the Park Board, one will be at the Georgia Street entrance to Stanley Park and the other will be at the Olympic Village Plaza in Southeast False Creek. Staff is also working with the Vancouver 2010 Aboriginal Art Program to initiate artwork to be located adjacent to Trout Lake, Killarney and the Vancouver Olympic Centre. The development of public art intended for sites under Park Board jurisdiction will need to align with existing practices between City and the Park Board according to the Park Board's Acceptance Guidelines for Long-Term Gifts of Public Art as well as any other policies and practices.

Board members discussed the report and stated that they were excited to see more art in the city.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

THAT the Board receive this report for information.

- Carried Unanimously.

Jervis Forcemain No. 2 Sewer: Vanier and Seaforth Parks

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 8, 2009 recommending that the Board approve Recommendations A to D.

Staff advised the Board that the second phase of the Jervis Forcemain project affects Vanier and Seaforth Parks. Staff have discussed the alignments of the new Forcemain with Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD) and are satisfied that the proposed route out of Vanier Park from the first phase connection point to Chestnut Street is best from both technical and park impact perspectives. Seaforth Park is designated as permanent public park, and therefore approval of a statutory right-of-way over the park for the Forcemain Project is required.

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

- A. THAT the Board approve the proposed alignment of the Jervis Forcemain No. 2 Extension (Appendix A), to be constructed by the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD) through Vanier Park and Seaforth Park, as described in this report.**
- B. THAT the Board approve temporary access by GVS&DD to Vanier Park and Seaforth Park, as shown in Appendices B and C, for the purpose of construction of the Jervis Forcemain No. 2 with final arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.**
- C. THAT the Board consent to the granting of statutory rights-of-way in favour of the GVS&DD and the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) where required to protect new and existing sewer and water infrastructure in Vanier and Seaforth Parks (shown in Appendices B and C) subject to legal documents prepared to the satisfaction of the General Manager in consultation with the Director of Legal Services.**

- D. THAT the Board approve the granting of a statutory right-of-way in favour of the City of Vancouver where required in Seaforth Park for future public utility purposes, as detailed in this report, subject to the legal documents being prepared to the satisfaction of the General Manager in consultation with the Director of Legal Services.**

- Carried Unanimously.

MOTIONS

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

WHEREAS the Playing Field Renewal Plan approved by the Park Board in 2002 called for six artificial turf fields to be constructed in Vancouver and;

WHEREAS the residents of Vancouver approved the 2009-2011 Capital Plan which included \$5,500,000 for the construction of artificial turf playing fields;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board direct staff to work with the Vancouver Field Sports Federation and report back by April 6, 2009 with a shortlist of sites to be considered for the construction of two or more artificial fields to be funded from the 2009-2011 Capital Plan and other sources.

Board members discussed the motion and stated that they need to move forward with the addition of two artificial turf fields in the city.

The motion was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

WHEREAS Vancouver Civic buildings, with the exception of libraries, do not have wireless internet services;

WHEREAS many North American metropolitan areas now have extensive public wireless high-speed internet coverage;

WHEREAS Vancouver Park Board has 22 community centre Association partners throughout the city that offer affordable public services;

WHEREAS community centres offer public areas to network and be active in a variety of activities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Park Board staff work with Community Centre Associations on the feasibility of providing wireless high-speed internet coverage and report back with an implementation plan to provide free wireless at community centres.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Jason Baumer
- Robert Haines

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

- lots of people will be excited to have free wireless high-speed internet connection at community centres;
- many youth and students cannot afford to have an internet connection;
- this will open up the community centres for a different type of activity;
- the Association Presidents Group supports the motion, would like the Community Associations to be involved in the process;
- used to have computers available in the front lobby at Kitsilano Community Centre, these were monopolized by high school students.

Board members discussed the motion and enquired on the time line of a report back to the Board. The General Manager advised the Board that this will take time as staff will be working with Community Associations to ensure that each Association has time to review and comment.

The motion was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

IN-CAMERA MEETING

Moved by Commissioner Jasper,

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:

- (i) the receipt of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.**

- Carried Unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Raj Hundal
Chair