

**Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation
Planning & Environment Committee Meeting
Held at the Vancouver Park Board Office on
Thursday, September 10, 2009**

ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners

Sarah Blyth, Chair
Constance Barnes
Raj Hundal
Aaron Jasper
Ian Robertson
Stuart Mackinnon

Park Board Staff

Liane McKenna	Director, Vancouver East District
Peter Kuran	Director, Stanley District
Danica Djurkovic	Manager, Facility Development
Kate Davis-Johnson	Manager, Park Development
Thomas Soulliere	Manager, Recreation Services, Stanley District
Mark Vulliamy	Manager, Research and Planning
jil weaving	Co-ordinator, Arts and Culture
Shala Hay	Recorder

Delegations:

- Ewen Cameron, Director, Dunbar Soccer Association
- Gordon Johnson, Vancouver Youth Soccer Association
- Craig Woods, President, Vancouver Field Sports Federation
- Kate Perkins, Vice President, Trout Lake Community Centre,
and Chair, Trout Lake Building Committee

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm, with the following Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of July 9th, 2009
2. Komagata Maru Memorial
3. Synturf Site Selection
4. Trout Lake Community Centre Development Permit Submission/
Design Concept
5. Biennale Returning Artwork/Donation
6. Capital Project Overview
7. Community Meetings

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Environment Committee held on Thursday, July 9th, 2009 were adopted as circulated.

2. Komagata Maru Memorial

Staff informed the Committee that on August 21st, 2009, they met with the Khalsa Diwan Society, along with Commissioner Hundal and Commissioner Jasper, to discuss the installation of a Komagata Maru Memorial on Park Board land. The guidelines for this type of project along with the required public consultation process were discussed at the meeting. A letter from the Board was later sent to the Society expressing the Board's support to move forward with the evaluation process and requesting the development of conceptual designs for review. Once the design stage is completed the evaluation process will commence. The outcome of the evaluation would then be brought before the Board for consideration. The project will be financed by funding from the federal government.

Discussion:

A member of the Committee inquired into the exact location where the ship was anchored. Commissioner Hundal informed the Committee that there are varying accounts on this and it may be necessary to seek advice from a historian. He further stated that a specific site was not requested, but rather a suitable location in view of where the ship was anchored. Two members of the Committee stated that they think the ideal location would be close to the anchoring point of the Komagata Maru.

A member of the Committee inquired as to whether other locations outside of the Park Board's jurisdiction are being considered. Commissioner Hundal stated that the Park Board was approached with the intention to utilize a park site for the memorial. Stanley Park has always been preferred, but there is no fixation on any particular location.

A member of the Committee inquired whether funding from the Board was requested. Commissioner Jasper informed the Committee that funding from the Board was not requested and it is hoped that the letter would assist in obtaining funding for the design concept, so that the public consultation and evaluation process can move forward.

The letter from the Board was recently issued and staff is now awaiting a response, so that the next steps can be determined.

Commissioner Hundal had to leave the meeting at this time.

3. Synturf Site Selection

Staff informed the Committee that in April 2009 the Board approved three sites for technical review and public consultation into their potential for artificial turf installation (Rupert Park, Beaconsfield Park and Memorial South Park). Following discussions with the Vancouver

Field Sports Federation and concerns raised by the Board, it was determined that there was an imbalance in the site locations and three additional sites at the westside of the city were added for consideration (Prince-of-Wales, Camosun and Jericho Park). One of the issues with the selected sites is that most of them are quality grass fields, which share the locational criteria for synthetic turf sites, and this may lead to a divided opinion amongst field sports groups. Public consultation will be conducted during the period September 23rd to October 1st, 2009. Notification goes out to communities two weeks prior to the open house via: fliers, signage, emails and advisories on the Park Board website. A Punjabi interpreter will attend the consultation at Sunset Community Centre, as there is a large Punjabi population in the area around Memorial South Park.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Committee:

- Ewen Cameron, Director, Dunbar Soccer Association
- Gordon Johnson, Vancouver Youth Soccer Association
- Craig Woods, President, Vancouver Field Sports Federation

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

- Strongly support keeping Jericho Park and Camosun on the list to gather public feedback and look for ways of overcoming any objections
- Historically, Dunbar Soccer Association has worked with the Board to successfully promote field development
- There is a strong demand for soccer fields throughout the city and this should be a collective decision by the whole city
- Although there are technical issues with the site at Camosun, would like to know how these can be addressed and the cost involved
- There are drawbacks to grass fields, as they pose challenges for users and parents, and synthetic fields would be able to overcome some of these
- Think Vancouver, as a city, is behind in the introduction of this technology
- This project should be on the Capital Budget for next year and should be given priority
- The Vancouver Field Sports Federation (VFSF) is excited to get this project underway
- The Federation hoped to have their review completed, to have been able to provide a recommendation before the consultation process began
- VFSF will still provide a recommendation to the Board based on the six sites selected.

Discussion:

A member of the Committee inquired whether these are the only locations in which it would be feasible to install synthetic fields, without incurring significant costs. Staff stated that the list is not exhaustive. There are other sites that currently have potential but would have to be acquired or cannot be developed at this point in time. Some of these sites could be considered in the future. A Committee member stated that hopefully the list could be narrowed down further, after the evaluation process. Members of the Committee stated that there should be a focus on areas that are close to public transportation.

A member of the Committee asked whether there was strong public opposition when the site at Prince-of-Wales School was being considered in the past. Staff stated that out of all the

sites that were considered at the time, Prince-of-Wales received the largest opposition from neighbouring residents, although a majority of those consulted, including field users and the school community, supported the installation.

A member of the Committee asked, as there are lots of pluses for Beaconsfield, whether it was taken into consideration that there is a nearby seniors' residential care facility. Staff informed the Committee that the field is currently a lit all-weather field that is intensively used for practice to the same level as it would be if converted to synthetic turf.

The Committee directed staff to come back to the next Planning and Environment Committee on October 8th with the results on the consultation, as the last open house is scheduled for October 1st. Staff informed the Committee that more time may be required for analysis and to resolve any issues before bringing a final report before the Board.

The Committee expressed their support of proceeding with all six identified sites in the upcoming consultation. Staff noted that the School Board would have to be in support of consultations regarding the two sites on its property, and that they would make inquiries in this regard.

The Committee called a five minutes recess at 7:24 pm

The meeting reconvened at 7:31 pm.

4. Trout Lake Community Centre Development Permit Submission/ Design Concept

Staff informed the Committee that the ice arena has just been completed and the community is excited about the new community centre. Construction of the community centre is scheduled to commence in April 2010, just after the Olympics. There will be an open house next Tuesday, the results of which would be brought to the next Board meeting. There is a focus on connecting the new community centres being developed with the nearby parks. The centre will maximise the flow of natural sunlight, reducing the use of artificial light. There would also be several other 'green' aspects, which include ample green spaces and the utilization of certified wood (reused/ logged under certified conditions). The project is targeting the Leed Gold Certification. The facility will have 32,000 square feet of previously approved area, with a 2000 square feet expansion space designed to be separately priced by the contractor, at which point the Park Board will be able to make a final decision.

Discussion:

A member of the Committee inquired whether there would be external access to the washrooms, which was present in the former structure and is a concern of the nearby farmer's market. Kate Perkins, Vice President, Trout Lake Community Centre, and Chair, Trout Lake Building Committee, informed the Committee that stakeholders were invited to review the plans, and they have been working with members of the farmer's market. Although there will not be external access to the washrooms, they are located close to the

entrance and field users and visitors to the farmer's market will have access to them. The idea behind the layout is to integrate the washroom with the rest of the facilities.

A member of the Committee inquired into whether it is anticipated that there would be another open house. Staff informed the Committee that the public has been notified by way of fliers, email, signage within a two block radius and a posting on the Park Board's website. Providing that there are no issues, there may not be a need for a subsequent open house.

The official opening of the ice arena will be on Thursday September 24th, 2009.

5. Biennale Returning Artwork/Donation

Public Art Donation

Staff presented a proposal for the installation of a donated artwork at Kitsilano Beach, from the artist, Michel Goulet. Feedback from the public consultation was very positive. There were a few minor concerns which included whether it would occupy space that is available for public use and some thought the space should be left natural. The artist is in favour of persons sitting on the chairs and the artwork requires little maintenance, with a long life expectancy. The donation of the artwork would be brought before the Board for approval at the next Board meeting.

Discussion:

A Committee member asked how long the piece is expected to last and what would happen if the maintenance funds were exhausted. Staff stated that a piece like this can have a very long lifespan and it is anticipated that the maintenance reserve would grow much faster than its demand. Minor regular maintenance would fall under general upkeep of the area.

Biennale Returning Artwork

Staff presented to the Committee the artwork by Magdalena Abrakanowicz, entitled *Walking Figures*, which is recommended to be displayed at English Bay during the period September 2009 to March 2011, as part of the Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale. This recommendation would be brought before the Board for approval at the next Board meeting.

6. Capital Project Overview

Facility Projects:

Staff provided an overview of the following facility projects:

Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Centre:

The curling site is completed and has been used for demonstration events. The pools are completed and the water is currently being tested.

Trout Lake Ice Rink:

The rink is completed and is currently being utilized. The official opening is on September 24th, 2009.

Trout Lake Community Centre:

This project is at the development permit submission stage.

Killarney Ice Rink:

The rink is completed and is currently being utilized. The official opening is on September 25th, 2009.

South East False Creek Community Centre:

The Centre is expected to be substantially completed by the end of September 2009. The Green-roof is installed and work is currently being done on the rest of the landscape. The Commissioners have been invited for a tour of the site in October.

Renfrew Pool Change Rooms Upgrade:

Renovation to the entry area and upgrades to the change rooms are being carried out. New equipment and fixtures will be introduced such as group shower fixtures and glass lockers with a special keying system.

Oppenheimer Field House and Park:

This project is at the construction stage. Completion of the park and fieldhouse is targeted for February 2010. The community is very excited and eager to move in.

Brockton Point Washroom and Retail Addition:

This project is also at the construction stage and excellent progress is being made.

VanDusen Visitor's Centre:

This project is at the development permit stage. A report on this will be presented at the September 21st Board Meeting.

Discussion:

A Committee member inquired how much money is needed for the VanDusen Visitor's Centre. Staff stated that close to \$7 million is needed; a portion of this may come from funding through the federal and provincial government.

Park Projects:

Staff provided an overview of the following park projects:

South East False Creek –Hinge Park and Plaza:

This is scheduled to open to the public after the Olympics but most of it may be completed by November 2009.

Oppenheimer Park:

The growing medium has just been installed and the next stage would be irrigation. The rest of the park under construction includes the basketball court, playground, pathways and seating areas.

Grandview Park:

There was a public consultation in July 2009 and the neighbours were extremely positive. There will be another one on October 3rd, 2009 in the park and there is a focus on drawing kids to the meeting.

Norquay Park:

Public consultation will commence in the next few months. Depending on the outcome of the consultation, implementation of the upgrades is intended to be initiated in 2010.

Prospect Point:

The project is completed, with the exception of the railing. The occupancy permit will be obtained in the next week or so.

Trillium Park Site:

The City of Vancouver Environmental Protection Department has requested further investigation of the northern area of Trillium. Keystone Environmental has been retained to carryout the borehole investigation. Results should be available in approximately one month.

Tecumseh Park:

This project was brought forward from 2008. The terrain is difficult to work with due to the high presence of peat. Staff and geo-engineers have developed the site to provide a new playground area, tai chi surface, walkways and wetlands as part of this upgrade.

Maclean Park Playground:

The playground is completed. The design focused on incorporating gathering spaces brought about by enthusiastic community input and excellent in-house design.

Charleson Tennis Courts:

This project was selected as a priority through the sports groups. It is located over a parkade, the roof of which is in poor condition.

Kensington Park –Skateboard Facility:

The public consultation process has just concluded and responses to the terms of reference are currently being received from skateboard park designers.

Vanier Park –BMX Park:

The archaeological report, which was required before the planning and design process could proceed, is now available and the results will be presented at the Board meeting on September 21st.

(Non-Capital Projects)**Emery Barnes – Phase 2:**

The landscape designer will start work on the project next week. The site design which is heavily programmed includes a large dog offleash area. Demolition of the last building on Seymour Street is taking place.

Tisdall Park Seniors' Fitness Circuit:

The park was funded by the BC government through the Act Now BC program. The official opening was on July 25th, 2009. The design, which was done in-house, includes a seating area surrounded by planting beds. The Park Board made a \$58,000 contribution to this exercise area in order to provide some required seating.

Sunset Community Centre Playground:

This project was recently completed. It is located at the back of the community centre at the daycare/after-school care facility. It was funded by the centre. The design work was carried out in-house, inclusive of construction installation and review.

Gateway Project:

This project will enhance the visual appeal of Granville and Oak Streets for visitors during the Olympics. A third of it will be funded by the Park Board.

Pioneer Place/Pigeon Park:

This will be completed by the end of October. The idea was to transform it into a type of outdoor living room that would be more accommodating to users.

Jericho Wharf:

Staff is currently working on a second public consultation, enhanced with ideas from current designers on the project.

Discussion:

A Committee member asked what is the official name given to Pioneer Place/Pigeon Park. Staff stated that it was known by the local community as *Pigeon Park*. Members of the Committee asked about the details of the naming process. Staff will follow up.

A Committee member inquired whether everything is back on track with the work at Nelson Park dog area. Staff stated that they are still working on the wheelchair access and the rest of the site development.

7. Community Meetings

Staff informed the Committee that there are only three Planning and Environment Committee meetings left for the year. If the Committee is considering having at least one of these meetings relocated to a community centre, sufficient notice should be provided, as this may affect the regular programs at the centre. Staff suggested that the Committee also consider utilizing other Park Board facilities such as VanDusen Botanical Gardens or one of the golf courses.

Discussion:

A member of the Committee stated that they would be content with just one community meeting before the end of the year. One Committee member inquired into the cost implications. Staff stated that it costs approximately \$2,500 to hold the Board meetings in the community. Without incurring many of these costs, the level of technical setup that is available at the Park Board office would not be possible. Two Committee members stated that although they are in favour of going out to the communities, in times of financial cutbacks it would be difficult to justify these additional costs.

The Committee concluded that, as it is important for the Planning and Environment Committee to go out to the communities since it is often difficult for members of the public to be present at these meetings, this matter would be looked into when the 2010 budget is being reviewed in November. Consideration would also be given into whether some Community Committee Meetings could be substituted for Community Board Meetings. The Committee would also look into scheduling the Planning and Environment Committee meetings at a later time.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49pm.

Liane McKenna, Director,
Vancouver East District

Commissioner Sarah Blyth,
Chair