

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2010**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Aaron Jasper
	Vice Chair	- Sarah Blyth
	Commissioners	- Constance Barnes
		- Raj Hundal
		- Stuart Mackinnon
		- Ian Robertson
		- Loretta Woodcock
	On Behalf of Acting General Manager	
	Peter Kuran	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Corporate Services	- Anita Ho
	Senior Business Analyst	- Meg Elliot
	Co-Acting Director of Stanley District	- Philip Josephs
	Co-Acting Director of Stanley District	- Thomas Soulliere
	Supervisor of Business Services	- Alison Dempsey
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Hart Nijjar

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, December 14, 2009 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on recent events: the community event marking the taking down of the fences at Pigeon Park; the Federal government infrastructure funding announcements for VanDusen Botanical Garden, Stanley Park, QE Park, the Seawall and other projects; the 90th annual Polar Bear Swim at English Bay, and official opening of the new Mount Pleasant Community Centre.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The last Planning and Environment Committee meeting was held on Thursday, January 7, 2010, and on the agenda was: Dog Off-leash Areas. The next meeting will convene on March 4, 2010.

The last Services and Budgets Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, December 8, 2009, and on the agenda were: Procurement Policy; 2009/2010 Operating Budget Update; and 2010 meeting schedule. The next meeting will convene on January 19, 2010.

STAFF REPORTS

2010 Operating Budget

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 04, 2010 and a revised report dated January 18, 2010 recommending that the Board approve the proposed 2010 Park Board Global Budget of \$60,293,535 including the \$58,474,235 Basic Budget, and \$1,819,300 for 2010 Added Basic costs.

The Park Board 2010 Global Operating Budget was approved by Council on December 18, 2009. The budget does not include the nominal allocation of \$3,183,907 in shared services savings or reflect the adjustment for exempt staff salaries also approved by Council at the December 18, 2009 meeting. However, the budget provides for the Board to operate new and expanded facilities and includes a service reduction plan which will maintain core services while helping achieve the budget target.

The following delegation requested to speak to the Board:

- John Coupar, Friends of the Bloedel

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

- The Bloedel family is upset by the closure of the Bloedel Conservatory and hope the building will continue to operate as a Conservatory
- Bloedel is a symbol of conservation
- The Conservatory has high educational value
- There is a desire to re-invent the Conservatory
- Commissioners should consider rescinding the two motions passed
- Attendance at the Conservatory has increased dramatically
- Eden project in the U.K. could be a model for the Conservatory

The Board thanked the delegation for his comments.

The Board discussed the report. A Board member inquired whether any money was saved due to the Park Board receiving Federal infrastructure funding and whether saved dollars could be re-allocated towards keeping the Bloedel Conservatory open. Staff replied that the money received from the Federal grants has not freed further funds, since the Federal contributions had to be matched by municipal contributions.

The Board asked for clarification in regards to when the Requests for Expressions of Interest (REOI) regarding the Conservatory will go out. Staff replied that the REOI's for Bloedel will go out by the end of January. Expressions of interest will be received for a one month period, with a deadline for submissions in the second half of March, after which point next steps will be determined.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

THAT the Board approve the proposed 2010 Park Board Global Budget of \$60,293,533 including the \$58,474,235 Basic Budget and \$1819300 for 2010 Added Basic Costs.

- Carried.

(Commissioner Robertson, Commissioner Mackinnon, and Commissioner Woodcock contrary)

2010 Winter Games Parks Control By-law Enforcement

The Board received a staff report dated January 05, 2010 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to C.

During the 2010 Winter Games period, a by-law enforcement plan will be put in place to ensure that public safety issues, urban domain issues, and aesthetic issues can be addressed by enforcement staff. The enforcement plan will not target basic rights such as freedom of speech, instead focusing on controlling unauthorized commercial activities. Funding for the plan, including labour costs, has been secured through the Province. Enforcement will be conducted by field teams which will include Park Rangers.

By-laws will be enforced through the use of a Municipal Ticket Information (MTI) ticketing system. In order to prosecute using MTI's a by-law must be enacted by the Park Board designating the particular offences for which staff can issue MTI's. It is recommended that the Board approve the enactment of a Park Board Ticket Offences By-Law for this purpose, applicable only during the 2010 Winter Games period.

The Board discussed the report. A Board member asked about the process involved if an individual chooses to contest a ticket issued to them and who will account for a Park Ranger's time if their presence is required in court. Staff replied that the co-ordinator of the program will have to determine who funds the time that Rangers have to be in court. Staff also noted that all enforcement staff will be given appropriate communications training and will only ticket offences outlined in Appendix A. Furthermore, a warning system will be put in place so that first-time offenders are made aware of the MTI system.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

A. THAT the Park Board support a collaborative approach to enforcement of City Bylaws and the Parks Control Bylaw during the 2010 Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Games (the "Games") as outlined in this report;

B. THAT the Park Board approve the proposed by-law as provided in Appendix A, in order to permit enforcement of the Parks Control By-law during the Games by way of a Municipal Ticket Information system;

C. THAT the General Manager instruct the Director of Legal Services to bring forward for enactment the proposed by-law, generally in accordance with Appendix A.

- Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

THAT the Park Board Ticket Offences By-law be given first reading.

- Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

THAT the Park Board Ticket Offences By-law be given second and third readings and the presiding officer and the General Manager be authorized to sign the by-law.

- Carried Unanimously.

Concept Plan Approval – Kitsilano Beach Park Playground

Board members received a staff report dated January 05, 2010 recommending that the Board approve the concept plan for the proposed upgrade of the Kitsilano Beach Park Playground.

The playground will be developed in partnership with Shane's Inspiration, Legacies Now Society, the Province, Ronald McDonald House Charities Canada, and the Rick Hansen Foundation. Two open house workshops were conducted in November and December of 2009 to receive input from the community and other stakeholders in regards to the project's design. Input from these consultations was incorporated into the design concept, which has also been approved by the Legacies Now Society. HB Lanarc will be responsible for further development once the concept plan is approved.

Board members discussed the report. A Board member inquired whether the location of the existing playground will be restored to green space, as the location of the new playground will take away green space. Staff noted that the future of the space has not been determined. Returning the location to green space is one option that is being considered and it, as well as other options presented, will be brought forward to the Board for approval.

A Board member asked what features of the playground will cater to users with visual impairments. Staff responded that a tactile wall will provide sensory stimulation for this user group and noted that the plan being presented is a concept plan, so staff is open to suggestions for other features. Staff introduced Steve Clarke of HB Lanarc to speak to other features that could be included in the park. Mr. Clarke noted that additional include tactile maps of the park and high contrast colours in park features.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board approve the concept plan for the proposed upgrade of the Kitsilano Beach Park Playground as described in this report and illustrated in Appendix 1 and 2.

- Carried Unanimously.

2010 Capital Budget

Board members received a staff report dated January 13, 2010 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff will be undertaking thirteen time sensitive projects, and as such have requested the approval of \$54.76 millions in advance of the 2010 Capital Budget plus the inclusion of \$9.39 million of unspent funding approved in previous Capital Budgets. Twelve of the projects have received Federal infrastructure funds with the stipulation that the projects be completed by March 31, 2011. The other project involves the renewal of Trout Lake Community Centre. The objective of this project is to have the community centre open for public usage by the fall of 2011 and staff has asked that the money dedicated to the project be released in advance of the 2010 Capital Budget so that a construction contract can be awarded. It is anticipated that construction on the Community Centre will commence in April.

Board members discussed the report. A Board member asked whether work on the projects will be done by Park Board employees or if it will be contracted out. Staff replied that the aim of the Federal grant received is to create jobs, so the majority of the work will be contracted out. The Board thanked staff for their hard work in securing funding.

Moved by Commissioner Blyth,

A. THAT, subject to Council approval, the Board approve a budget of \$45,400,000 for projects receiving Federal infrastructure funding, as described in this report and shown in Appendix A, with the following funding sources:

- **\$36,010,000 in advance of the 2010 Capital Budget, consisting of:**
 - **\$17,527,000 in funding from the Municipal government;**
 - **\$15,533,000 in funding from the Federal government; and**
 - **\$2,950,000 in funding from other sources.**

- **\$9,390,000 in unspent funding approved in previous Capital Budgets, consisting of:**
 - **\$5,640,000 in funding from the Municipal government; and**
 - **\$3,750,000 in funding from other sources.**

AND THAT the Board approve the transfers and reallocations of Capital funds to projects receiving Federal infrastructure funding, as described in this report and shown in Appendix B.

B. THAT, subject to Council approval, the Board allocate \$18,750,000 in Capital from borrowing authority (debenture funding) in advance of the 2010 Capital Budget in order to proceed with the renewal of Trout Lake Community Centre.

- Carried Unanimously.

Contract Award - Fraserview Park Upgrade Consultancy

Board members received a staff report dated January 06, 2010 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to D.

Fraserview Park is a 1.27 hectare park located on the east side of Vancouver and has been scheduled for an upgrade in 2010. In December 2009 a number of landscape firms were asked to respond to a Terms of Reference for the upgrade of the park. Eight submissions were received in total. The landscape architecture firm van der Zalm + associates is recommended for the award due to the strength of their proposal in the areas of project understanding and project management. Although the firm did not submit the lowest bid, staff believes the firm is a good fit for the project and noted that the lowest bidder's fee did not include the cost of sub-consultants.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

A. THAT, subject to Recommendations B, C and D, the Board enter into a contract with van der Zalm + associates Developing and Consulting Inc. in the amount of \$49,126.00, plus GST, for the upgrade of Fraserview 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.

Parking Rate Changes due to Tax Increases

Board members received a staff report dated January 08, 2010 recommending that the Board approve the parking rates detailed in Appendix A.

In October 2009, Translink's Mayor's Council approved a 14% increase in the parking sales tax (PST) rate effective January 1, 2010 and applicable to the purchase of parking rights within the Translink transportation service region. The increase was not generally publicized beforehand, so was not reflected in the parking rates approved by the Park Board in December 2009. However, the increase will change the PST rate from 7% to 21% and combined with the new HST, will increase the percentage of taxes paid by the Park Board from 12% to 35.52%. Therefore, it is recommended that the Board increase parking rates to recover the additional tax payable by the Board on parking from January 1, 2010. Staff is displeased to be recommending an increase, however attempts will be made to mitigate the effect of the increase by spreading the cost across various facilities.

Board members discussed the report. A Board member asked staff whether they have an estimation of customer drop off due to the increase. Staff estimated that there will be a 5% decrease in the use of parking lots. A board member asked whether tour bus companies will be able to save on the cost of the HST by buying yearly parking passes before the HST takes effect. Staff noted that the cost associated with the HST has already been calculated into the cost of yearly passes.

Moved by Commissioner Hundal,

THAT the Board approve the parking rates detailed in Appendix A, to be effective immediately, to recover additional tax payable as a result of the increase in the Translink parking sales tax.

- Carried Unanimously.

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

Empire Fields

A member of the Board referred to the recent announcement by City Council to reallocate the use of the Empire Bowl, and stated that as amateur sports groups will be displaced due to this reallocation, City Council, PNE, and PAVCO should provide support and resources to Park Board to locate and to upgrade if needed, alternative facilities to support displaced sports groups while the Empire Fields are unavailable for public use.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

Whereas on December 21, 2009 a public announcement outlined plans that a temporary stadium with synthetic turf will be erected in 2010 by the PNE and the BC Pavilion Corporation at Empire Bowl in Hastings Park;

Whereas the surrounding community, amateur sports groups across the city, and the Park Board which maintains and programs Empire Fields, were not consulted prior to this agreement being confirmed;

Whereas a number of local and city-wide amateur sports teams that use Empire Bowl will be displaced, including MoreSports, Vancouver Youth Soccer Association, Vancouver Metro Men's Soccer League, Metro Women's Soccer League, Old timer's Soccer League, Crosstown Slo Pitch, Vancouver Advertising Slo Pitch, Citywide Sports Softball and others;

Whereas on January 21, 2010 City Council will be endorsing the development of a temporary stadium at Empire Bowl and approving a public consultation process within the timetable available, to identify and mitigate where possible, the operational impacts of the temporary stadium on the surrounding neighbourhood, including those impacts related to traffic, noise, parking and lighting;

Be It Resolved that City and it's Empire Bowl partners PNE and PAVCO provide support and resources to Park Board to locate and to upgrade if needed, alternative facilities to support displaced sports groups while the Empire Fields are unavailable for public use.

Board members discussed the motion. A member of the Board noted that although the announcement regarding the reallocation was surprising, Park Board staff is now working on the issue and there is acknowledgment by City Council that the Park Board will need financial support and creation of legacies for the neighbourhood will need to be a priority. Staff confirmed that they are working with the PNE to accommodate current sport field users in conjunction with professional sports groups for use of the new pitch after it is installed. Difficulties have been experienced in re-locating softball groups due to limited fields, but the Park Board expects to receive funding to aid in mitigating impact on users.

A Board member acknowledged the importance of the motion in showing field users that the Park Board sympathizes with the frustration they are feeling in regards to the short notice of the recent announcement and concern of the community regarding the lack of consultation.

The motion was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

Sexsmith School

A member of the Board referred to the recent announcement regarding the proposed redevelopment at Sexsmith School, noting that the field sports community and neighbourhood were not consulted appropriately regarding the loss of the playing field located on school grounds. Therefore, the Director of Planning should be urged to delay the issuing of a development permit until all the affected stakeholders can be consulted.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

Whereas the proposed redevelopment at Sexsmith School will sacrifice a full-size playing field of about 2 acres in order to retain the current structure, and;

Whereas the Park Board is responsible for programming the field for field sports use, and;

Whereas the field sports community and the neighbourhood-at-large has not been fully consulted regarding the development and potential impact;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Park Board urges the Director of Planning to delay the issuing of a development permit until all the affected stakeholders can be consulted.

Board members discussed the motion. A member of the Board acknowledged the importance of the motion in demonstrating the Park Board's role in advocating for field users and fields in the City. A member of the Board asked staff how much consultation has occurred to date. Staff replied that it was not made aware of any stakeholder discussions.

The motion was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

Changes to 2010 Park Board Meeting Schedule

Moved by Commissioner Mackinnon,

THAT the changes to the 2010 Park Board Meeting Schedule for May (03, 17) and June (07, 21) be approved.

- Carried Unanimously.

New Business

A member of the Board acknowledged that today is Martin Luther King Day, an important day for the civil rights movement in the United States.

A member of the Board requested that all future reports pertaining to contracts allow for transparency and consistency by publishing all bids, winning and losing, be published where appropriate.

A member of the Board asked staff to provide the Board with a briefing regarding accommodation of field users at Empire Bowl as information is received.

A member of the Board requested information regarding the breakdown of the budget of operations at Sunset Nursery with the view of potentially expanding it to a retail operation in the future, similar the City of New Westminster.

A member of the Board asked for staff confirmation that the policy report on public washrooms will remain on schedule in light of the infrastructure projects being undertaken. Staff confirmed that the report will be brought forward in 2010.

A member of the Board noted that Leaside is now officially operated by the Park Board. Previously, it was operated by the Engineering Department.

In-Camera Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

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:

(c) **labour relations or other employee relations;**

-Carried Unanimously.

In-camera session

The Board exited the in-camera meeting and the regular meeting reconvened at 9:58 p.m.

It was announced that Commissioner Blyth was chosen by the Board to be nominated as the Park Board's representative to the PNE Board of Directors.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Piet Rutgers
On behalf of Acting General Manager
Peter Kuran

Commissioner Aaron Jasper
Chair