

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2010**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Aaron Jasper
	Vice Chair	- Sarah Blyth
	Commissioners	- Constance Barnes
		- Raj Hundal
		- Stuart Mackinnon
		- Ian Robertson
	General Manager	- Malcolm Bromley
	Deputy General Manager	- Peter Kuran
	Acting Director of Corporate Services	- Meg Elliott
	Acting Director of Vancouver East District	- Terry Walton
	Acting Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Diane Murphy
	Manager of Recreation Services	- Thomas Soulliere
	- Stanley District	
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Shala Hay

Commissioner Woodcock was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, November 15, 2010 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on several community events that occurred over the past weeks: 541st Birthday celebration of Guru Nanak, founder of the religion of Sikhism, commemorated with a proclamation at City Hall; ParkPartners Brunch, recognizing the contribution of volunteers towards neighbourhood parks; 2010 Mayor's Arts Awards; Opening of the Bright Nights event in Stanley Park; and third annual Vancouver Sport Summit.

The Chair acknowledged the passing of David Lam, former British Columbia Lieutenant Governor, and devout advocate for parks and recreation.

The Chair also mentioned that December 01 is World AIDS Day and in recognition of this the lights at Elm Grove, English Bay, will be left on for 24 hours.

COMMITTEE REPORT

The Planning & Environment Committee has not met since the last Board meeting. The next meeting has been postponed to December 09, 2010, to accommodate a Council meeting on the 2011 Operating Budget that will be held on December 02, 2009.

City Council Report

The General Manager advised the Board that at its next regular meeting Council will receive reports on: 2011 Operating Budget (staff will be delivering a presentation to Council on the budget); 2011 Sustainable Communities Conference; and Downtown Eastside Capital Budget Funding Allocation – Oppenheimer Park Improvements. The Planning and Environment Standing Committee will receive a report on Hastings Park/Pacific National Exhibition Master Plan at its next meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

2011 Operating Budget Initiatives

Board members received copies of a staff report dated November 24, 2010 recommending that the Board approve the proposed 2011 budget initiatives as outlined in the attached report.

The Chair advised that a motion will be put forward to defer this decision to the next Board meeting, as the report only became available to the public a few days ago. Based on the feedback received from the public, many felt that they did not have sufficient time to process the information and a lot of people are not even aware that there is a meeting on the budget tonight. A few Board members expressed concern as they were unaware that the item was going to be deferred.

Staff advised the Board that on October 19, 2010 Council received a report outlining the City's projected budget gap for 2011. The City's 2011 Operating Budget will be presented to Council on November 30, 2010. The Park Board's portion of the City's savings target to fill the gap is \$1.03 million. Staff provided a breakdown of the service adjustments proposed to achieve the savings in the coming year. The latest date for the Board to make a decision on the budget initiatives is December 13, 2010.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Paul Faoro, President, CUPE Local 15
- Angela Crampton, John Henderson School PAC and Neighbours for a Sustainable Future
- Kristen Vogel, Sunset Community Association
- David Sexton, Renfrew Park Community Association

- Gayle Uthoff, Renfrew Park Community Association

The following comments were put forward by the foregoing delegations:

- Thankful for the opportunity to speak on this issue
- Thinks it is important that the public get an opportunity to voice their opinions
- Appreciate that the Board has to make a tough decision
- The service provided and facilities operated by the Park Board are important to residents and for health and safety reasons and the image of the Vancouver park system, asks that the Board reconsider these cuts
- The results of the public consultation survey indicate that the majority of residents are satisfied with the service provided by the Board and think it is a good use of their money
- This satisfaction indicates that they are not in favour of service cuts
- The last Board approved the creation of several managerial positions and this has had a negative financial impact on the organization
- Glad to see the Board is trying to work on this and cut some managerial positions as the Park Board is over managed
- Thinks next year the Board needs to start the public consultation process much earlier, to engage citizens in the budget decisions
- Pleased to hear the Board will be at the Council meeting and hope they continue to stand up for the Park Board
- Thinks citizens might even be willing to pay a little bit more to avoid service cuts
- Was recently told that Sunset Park redevelopment has been delayed, despite its current condition the park is heavily used
- Understands that funding is tight, but deeply disappointed that this project has been put on hold, as it has been on the table for a long
- The Board promised to start the park redevelopment at the beginning of 2010, then a letter was sent stating that it will be delayed to later in 2010, now staff has said that there is no money in the budget for the plan
- Sunset is a community in need with a large percentage of children, many of which are at risk
- Thinks the Park Board has a responsibility to begin the planning process for Sunset Park redevelopment in 2011
- Renfrew Park Community Association is concerned about the recommendation to introduce a “twin management” system at community centres as part of the budget savings initiatives
- Renfrew Community Centre has been historically low on funding and when the Memorandum of Understanding was signed the Board promised that funding would be increased
- Would like clarity on the community centres that are being considered for “twin management” (staff advised that Renfrew is not being considered for this initiative)
- Understand the difficulty of this decision –urge the Board to make Council understand that the Park Board can not withstand another cut
- Thinks for health reasons washrooms should not be cut
- Thinks the lack of washrooms would result in the public eliminating in the bushes, which will have health implications
- Vancouver residents are proud of their parks and leaving green spaces unmowed would be saddening to them.

The Board thanked the delegations for their comments.

Board members discussed the report. A Board member inquired into the proposed twin management responsibility. Staff advised that in determining which facilities may be suitable for twin management responsibility, thorough analysis would be done and the size of the facilities would be taken into consideration. The aim would be to spread out resources in a manner where each area will still get the level of supervision needed to operate efficiently. If a facility is being considered for this model, the community centre association will be included in the discussions before a decision is made.

A Board member inquired into the reduction in the mowing of green spaces. Staff advised that this will be considered for areas with very low traffic flow and those that are difficult to access which have to be cut manually, such as slopes and areas with a high tree density. Staff further advised that this is a more environmentally sustainable option.

Moved by Commissioner Barnes,

THAT the approval of the proposed 2011 budget initiatives as outlined in the attached report be deferred to the next Board meeting.

-Carried Unanimously.

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A Board member announced that there will be a soccer tournament between the Street Soccer League and the City of Vancouver staff, on Saturday December 04 at the newly completed Memorial South turf field.

A Board member sought clarification on the policy regarding advertising in community centres, as they were informed by a member of the public that one community centre permitted advertising while another refused. Staff advised that advertising is not currently permitted in community centres, based on direction received by a previous Board.

A Board member mentioned that the official opening of the fully accessible playground at Kitsilano Beach will take place on December 11, 2010.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Malcolm Bromley

Commissioner Aaron Jasper

General Manager

Chair