

MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD IN THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1995

PRESENT:

Chair	David Chesman
Vice-Chair	Duncan Wilson
Commissioners	Malcolm Ashford Allan DeGenova Alan Fetherstonhaugh Tim Louis Donna Morgan
General Manager	Vic Kondrosky
Director of Administrative & Revenue Services	Philip Josephs
Director of Finance	Doug Holden
Director of Operations	Liane McKenna
Director of Planning	Jim Lowden
Director of Recreation	Allan Argent
Manager -Wildlife Services	Mike Mackintosh
Manager - Public Affairs	Terri Clark
Recording Secretary	Julie Chiu

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, December 04, 1995 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Commissioner Chesman stated that it was customary for the Board at its first meeting in December to re-examine its Chair and Vice-Chair responsibilities. According to the Procedure By-law the election of Chair and Vice-Chair should have been done at the last meeting, however, due to the absence of two Commissioners it was deferred to this meeting.

Commissioner Chesman stated that when he took the Chair on December 5, 1994, he announced two major initiatives which were procedural exchanges to make the Board better responsive to the community. These changes have worked well and improved communications with the community. A major priority for the Board is the Hastings Park initiative, which is creating at Hastings Park a true green space park. One of the features this past year has been the community based planning of this park. Other initiatives such as the Stanley Park Transportation Plan and the Stanley Park Re-landscaping plans are likely to be before the Board for approval

early next year. The phasing out of the old zoo has begun. This past year under the leadership of Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh the Corporate Sponsorship Guidelines, sensitive to the needs of the community were approved. The Joint School Board and Park Board committee is working on developing ways by which each Board could use the other's facility at no extra cost to the taxpayer. Commissioner Chesman thanked the Commissioners for their courtesy and support through the year.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

In accordance to the Board's Procedure By-law, the General Manager, acting as Chair pro tem, called for nominations for Chair of the Board for 1996.

Commissioner Ashford nominated Commissioner Chesman. Commissioner Wilson seconded the nomination.

There were no other nominations. The General Manager counted the ballots.

Chesman	Chesman	Chesman
Chesman	Chesman	twospoiled ballots

Commissioner Chesman was declared Chair of the Board for 1996.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

The Chair requested nomination for the position of Vice-Chair.

Commissioner DeGenova nominated Commissioner Wilson. Commissioner Ashford seconded the nomination.

There were no other nominations. The General Manager counted the ballots.

Wilson	Wilson	Wilson
Wilson	Wilson	two spoiled ballots

Commissioner Wilson was declared Vice-Chair of the Board for 1996.

Commissioner Morgan enquired if Commissioner Wilson, who is a Liberal candidate, will resign as Vice-Chair at the time of the Provincial Elections. Commissioner Wilson stated that once an election is called he will step down as Vice-Chair.

PLANNING/ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES/OPERATIONS

New Brighton Park

Board members received copies of a staff report dated December 1, 1995 recommending that the Board approve the land compensation arrangements for the construction of the Port Roadway Connector project as outlined in the report.

Moved by Commissioner DeGenova,

THAT the Board approve the land compensation arrangements for the construction of the Port Roadway Connector project as outlined in this report.

Commissioner Morgan stated that representatives from the Hastings Community Association would like their Board to review the report at its meeting on Thursday, December 14, 1995.

Moved by Commissioner Morgan,

THAT the Board refer the matter on New Brighton Park - Port Roadway Connector project to Friday, December 15, 1995.

Commissioner Ashford enquired what the timeline of the project was and what were the implications should a delay occur. Dave Rudberg stated that it would place the project in jeopardy in the area of funding as senior levels of government share this project. Two one year extensions have already been received and indications are a third extension would not be possible. The other issue relates to the fill which must be done at the end of March.

Commissioner Ashford asked if the Liaison Commissioner for Hastings Community Association could advise the community centre board of Mr. Rudberg's comments.

The amendment motion was put as follows:

THAT the Board defer the matter on New Brighton Park - Port Roadway Connector project to Friday, December 15, 1995.

- Carried Unanimously.

Wildlife in the City Workshop Report

Board members received copies of a staff report dated November 30, 1995 recommending that the Board receive the accompanying Wildlife in the city workshop report and that the Board approve in principle the retention of the existing service level for wildlife management in the City of Vancouver park system subject to the availability of funding.

Daphne Solecki, Vancouver Natural History Society and advisor to the Stanley Park Ecology Society stated that she supports the recommendation. Ms. Solecki stated that the level of service should be raised to at least two full-time positions. Preserving wildlife in the city is very important and the Board is in a position to provide the coordination of a cohesive city-wide plan.

Susan Campbell, Naturescape British Columbia, advised the Board that she participated in the wildlife in the city workshop. Ms. Campbell stated that the concept of the report reflects the philosophy and concept embraced by members of the Naturescape Committee. As urbanisation spread farther and densities increase more community green space is valued which enhances the air, water and soil of the environment. Along with the public's desire to enjoy wildlife in the city parks comes a need to manage

the wildlife and the habitat resources. The formulation and execution of an urban wildlife and habitat management plan is important.

Dr. Bert Brink, Vancouver Natural History Society, stated that he endorsed the presentation made by Ms. Solecki and Ms. Campbell. Dr. Brin stated that he supports the wildlife in the city workshop report and the proposed initiatives.

Kristine Webber a graduate student on urban wildlife stated that there is an overwhelming support for urban wildlife. Ms. Webber stated that she supports the report which addresses and provides a coordinating body to facilitate the many needs of wildlife management.

Moved by Commissioner DeGenova,

1. THAT the Board receive the accompanying Wildlife In The City workshop report.
2. THAT the Board approve in principle the retention of the existing service level for wildlife management in the City of Vancouver park system subject to the availability of funding.

- Carried Unanimously.

VanDusen Gift Shop Study

Board members received copies of a staff report dated November 29, 1995 recommending that the Board endorse the proposal presented by staff and the VBGA to fund a study of the Vandusen Gift shop at the VBGA's initial cost of \$16,500 plus taxes; that the Board approve the repayment of the Study costs to the VBGA from improved Gift Shop net revenues above 1995 levels inflated; that the Board endorse the implementation of the Study's short term recommendations where funding is available and; that the Board direct staff to report further on any Study recommendations for which funding is not available.

Dr. Phil Ashmore, President, VanDusen Botanical Gardens Association appeared before the Board regarding the VanDusen Gift Shop Study. Dr. Ashmore advised the Board that revenue from the gift shop has not kept pace with the increase in visitor attendance. There is a great potential for the gift shop to improve its revenue potential. A consultant with specialized expertise in the management, marketing and merchandising of a retail area in a specialized facility such as VanDusen will provide both the Park Board and the VBGA with recommendations on specific actions to be taken over the next two years in order to significantly increase the Gift Shop's revenue.

Moved by Commissioner DeGenova,

1. THAT the Board endorse the proposal presented by staff and the VBGA to fund a study of the Vandusen Gift Shop at the VBGA's initial cost of \$16,500 plus taxes;
2. THAT the Board approve the repayment of the Study costs to the VBGA from improved Gift Shop net revenues above

1995 levels inflated;

3. THAT the Board endorse the implementation of the Study' short term recommendations where funding is available and;
4. THAT the Board direct staff to report further on any Study recommendations for which funding is not available.

- Carried Unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Seasonal Adjustment of Aquarium Admission Rates

This matter was referred from the meeting of the Board held on Monday, December 4, 1995. Board members received copies of a letter date November 21, 1995 from Dr. John Nightingale, Executive Director, Vancouver Aquarium, requesting Park Board approval for a seasonal fee structure.

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

THAT the Board accept the Aquarium's request for a fee increase.

Commissioner Wilson stated that the consideration of the Aquariums' request for a fee increase should be on the condition that the increase will not affect the Leisure Access Cards.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson,

1. THAT the Aquarium continue to accept the Park Board Leisure Access Card.
2. THAT this increase will have no impact on the admission fee for leisure access card holders.

- Carried Unanimously.

Commissioner Morgan stated that when the Board approved a temporary increase in June, it was to cover the extraordinary costs associated with the death of the killer whale last spring and the filtration plant. The financial emergency of last summer no longer exists. It seems the reason for not releasing captive whales is that there is not enough scientific information. Commissioner Morgan stated that an amendment to the motion requesting the Aquarium to put aside one dollar of the two dollar increase could be put towards a program to develop options to avoid any further situation where a lone whale needing a companion.

Moved by Commissioner Morgan,

That \$1 of the \$2 seasonal increase be placed in a fund to study the release of whales from captivity.

Commissioner Louis stated that he was in favour of the amendment motion which would allow the money to be spent on scientific studies and investigate the possibilities of the release of the whales.

Commissioner Chesman stated that he would favour the Aquarium joining in a free Willy type program. He is against whales in captivity although he understands that these whales cannot be released yet. Commissioner Chesman stated that he could not support the motion because it appears to be an intrusion into the autonomy of the Aquarium.

The amendment motion was put as follows:

That \$1 of the \$2 seasonal increase be placed in a fund to study the release of whales from captivity.

-DEFEATED.

(Commissioners Ashford, Chesman, DeGenova, Fetherstonhaugh and Wilson contrary)

The main motion was put as follows:

THAT the Board accept the Aquarium's request for a fee increase.

1. THAT the Aquarium continue to accept the Park Board Leisure Access Card.
2. THAT this increase will have no impact on the admission fee for leisure access card holders.

- Carried.

(Commissioners Morgan and Louis contrary)

Special Events for 1996

This matter was referred from the meeting of the Board held on Monday, December 4, 1995. Board members received copies of a staff report dated November 23, 1995 recommending that the Board approve the 1996 Calendar of Major Events as described in the report.

Commissioner Chesman left the room at this time, Commissioner Wilson took the Chair.

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

THAT the Board approve the 1996 Calendar of Major Events as described in this report, with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

Commissioner Morgan stated that the Board should not be associated with products that could cause health problems.

Moved by Commissioner Morgan,

THAT the Molson Indy and Symphony of Fire events be removed from the Calendar of Events for 1996.

-DEFEATED.

(Commissioners Ashford, DeGenova, Fetherstonhaugh and Wilson contrary)

Commissioner Chesman returned to the meeting.

Commissioner Morgan stated that when the Walk for Jesus event was discussed at Council a year ago, the community felt their concerns such as the parade route were not heard. In order to avoid any confrontation, the Walk for Jesus event should be conditional on the holding of a community meeting at Carnegie Centre.

Commissioner Wilson stated that the concerns of the community regarding the parade route should be forwarded to the FEST committee and the City. He agreed with Commissioner Morgan's comments to have a community meeting at Carnegie Centre.

Moved by Commissioner Morgan,

THAT the Walk for Jesus event be approved on the condition that a community meeting be organised jointly with the FEST committee to be held at Carnegie Centre.

- Carried.

(Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh contrary)

The main motion was put as follows:

THAT the Board approve the 1996 Calendar of Major Events as described in this report, with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager;
and,

THAT the Walk for Jesus event be approved on the condition that a community meeting be organised jointly with the FEST committee to be held at Carnegie Centre.

- Carried.

(Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh contrary)

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION/HUMAN RESOURCES

Annual Waste Disposal Contract

Board members received copies of a staff report dated December 7, 1995 recommending that the Park Board award the Annual Waste Disposal contract to low bidder McRae Waste Management Ltd. for 1996.

Commissioner Chesman removed himself from the meeting and handed the Chair to Commissioner Wilson on the basis that he has a potential conflict

on this matter.

Moved by Commissioner Ashford,

THAT the Park Board award the Annual Waste Disposal contract to low bidder McRae Waste Management Ltd. for 1996.

- Carried.

(Commissioners Louis and Morgan contrary)

Expenditure Warrants

Moved by Commissioner Ashford,

THAT the Board authorize the General Manager to draw warrants pursuant to Section 493 of the City Charter for the twelve month period of 1996.

- Carried Unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Chesman advised the Board that the General Manager will update the Board on Council's deliberations on property tax increases as they may affect the 1996 operating budget.

The General Manager advised the Board that Council at its meeting on November 7, 1995 approved the resolution that in establishing the 1996 Operating Budget staff be instructed to develop the 1996 departmental budget targets on the basis of a 0%, 1% and 2% tax increase. In keeping with Council's instruction all City departments are required to develop a listing of program expenditure cuts at each of the three budget target levels.

Board members discussed the matter and Commissioner Ashford stated that he did not object to receiving a listing, however, it should be made clear to Council that the Board is in favour of a tax increase up to the inflation rate and is not prepared to have a zero tax increase requiring programs to be cut.

Commissioner Ashford put forward the following notice of motion:

THAT the Park Board communicate to City Council its motion of November 6, 1995 wherein the Board encouraged City Council to entertain a tax increase equivalent to the cost of inflation rather than a zero percent increase;
and,

FURTHER, THAT the Board authorize the General Manager to prepare a list of either budget cuts or revenue increases and their indicated impacts;
and,

FURTHER, THAT this will in no way bind the Board to the proposed cuts and/or revenue increases.

ENQUIRIES

Commissioner Morgan asked when the Langara Clubhouse would be demolished. The General Manager advised the Board that the demolition is estimated to take place at the end of the week.

Commissioner Morgan requested an itemised cost of the two public information meetings on the Aquatic Task Force and the Stanley Park Transportation Plan.

Commissioner Wilson referred to a letter received from the Fraser Golf and Country Club on freedom of information. The Director of Administrative and Revenue Services will be replying to this letter.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Approval of Warrants
Warrant #52 in the amount of \$755,624.91, Warrant #53 in the amount of \$143,068.65, Warrant #54 in the amount of \$548,436.86.
2. International Village - Rezoning Pay-in-lieu Contributions
Administrative report dated December 4, 1995 from the Deputy City Engineer to City Council on the above was mailed to Board members.

V. Kondrosky
General Manager

Commissioner David Chesman
Chair