

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD IN THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 1996**

PRESENT:	Chair	- David Chesman
Vice Chair	- Alan Fetherstonhaugh	
	Commissioners	- Malcolm Ashford
		- Allan DeGenova
		- Tim Louis
		- Donna Morgan
	General Manager	- Vic Kondrosky
	Director of Administrative & Revenue Services	- Philip Josephs
	Director of Corporate Services	- Doug Holden
	Director of Operations	- Liane McKenna
	Director of Recreation	- Allan Argent
	Manager - Public Affairs	- Terri Clark
	Recording Secretary	- Julie Chiu

The Chair advised the Board that Commissioner Wilson was away on business.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, July 29, 1996 were adopted as circulated.

The minutes of the special meeting of the Board held on Wednesday, July 31, 1996 were adopted as circulated.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

COMMUNITY CENTRES UPGRADING

Commissioner Chesman advised the Board that a request was received from Kathleen Bigsby on behalf of the Association Presidents for funding a project to gather information to demonstrate the significant role the community centres play in the life of the City and their urgent need for facilities upgrading. This information will be assembled by Jim Peacock of Peacock Public Relations, the estimated professional fees and expenses incurred will be approximately \$6,000.

Rob Haines, representing the Community Centre Association Presidents, appeared before the Board and stated that the presidents of community associations will ask Vancouver City Council to add \$2 million to the Park Board allocation in the city's 1997-99 Capital Plan to provide funds

for additional community centre facilities development. They would also ask Council to support a Park Board plan for a full restoration of community centre facilities over the longer term, with funding through a 1999 plebiscite that is specific to community centre capital.

Moved by Commissioner Chesman,

- THAT the Board provide \$6,000 for the Community Associations to retain a consultant to prepare a report on:
 - A. The role the Community Centres play.
 - B. Future Community Centre program requirements.
 - C. Community Centre major maintenance and upgrading/improvements requirements.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. SEPTEMBER 16, 1996 SPECIAL MEETING PROCEDURES

Commissioner Chesman stated that the Vancouver Aquarium issue has been misunderstood, misperceived and ultimately misreported by the media to the detriment of the initiative the Board has undertaken in this regard.

It is his view that it was too early for the animal rights activist to claim victory through the media. The Board stated three things in its motion, i) a draft by-law concerning whales in parks for consideration, ii) a proposal from the Aquarium has been requested concerning the phase out of whales in our parks, iii) we have also asked for proposals from animal rights activist concerning the phase out of whales in our parks. The last two portions of the motions are the most important and least understood and least reported. Commissioner Chesman stated that on the day following the special meeting of the Board on July 31, the media reported that the Board voted for the release of the whales from captivity from the Aquarium. This Board did not and has no intention to vote for the release of the current whale population. Commissioner Chesman stated that he would like to remind the media that the motion was a bi-partisan motion and was supported unanimously. This issue is undertaken with great seriousness without a view to the polls.

The relationship historically between the Aquarium and the Park Board has not been a healthy relationship. Since the last three years there have been a number of meetings occupied by Aquarium issues. Generally those meetings were occasioned by complaints from animal rights group that the Aquarium has in some fashion breached its lease with the Park Board. It seems that after observing this for a year that the Park Board is nothing but a media battleground for this issue. The Aquarium has a lease with the Board at \$1 a year and roughly calculated 25% of our regular Board meeting time has been devoted to this issue. There are a

lot of issues that require the Board's attention such as community centres renovation, funding for youth at risk projects, restoration of Hastings Park and a transportation plan for Stanley Park etc.

Commissioner Chesman stated that his motivation in pursuing this matter albeit in an election year, is not for election purposes but for the Park Board, as he sees it being undermined in the public mind by an issue over which we have little control. Commissioner Chesman stated that in order to solve this the Board should be a proactive and constructive mediator between the animal rights group and the Aquarium. There has been a measure of success in the proactive mediative role. Through this process the Aquarium has indicated in public session a preparedness not to take whales from the wild into captivity; and the animal rights group have indicated that they are not longer looking for the release of the current whale population from the Aquarium. At the special meeting on July 31, 1996 the Board passed a resolution which will put on the table proposals for the resolution of what remain as issues between the Aquarium and animal rights groups. Commissioner Chesman stated that he hoped his explanation of the issue will remedy the misreporting in the media. This is a complex issue of a moral, economic and political kind.

Commissioner Chesman referred to the procedure for the special meeting on September 16, 1996 and stated that he has been advised by both the Aquarium and the animal rights group that there will be substantial, detailed proposals dealing with the future of whales in captivity and other issues as delineated in the motion.

It is expected that each presentation will be one hour and an hour of question and discussion by the Board. It would be impractical to receive public input on those proposals on that night. It is suggested that public input be received at a subsequent meeting.

4. **CONCERTS AT NAT BAILEY STADIUM**

Board members received copies of a report regarding the noise measurement survey for the Steely Dan concert held at Nat Bailey Stadium is submitted for the Board's information.

Commissioner Chesman stated that the noise level at the Steely Dan concert exceeded the 65 decibels and he recommended the cancellation of the concerts scheduled for September 14 and 15.

Moved by Commissioner Chesman,

- THAT in view of the noise exceeding the by-law requirements at the concert held at Nat Bailey Stadium on August 16, 1996, the concerts scheduled for September 14 and 15, 1996 be cancelled.

Richard Hopkins, a resident, appeared before the Board and stated that the 60 decibels level was not kept by the concert organizers. There were people outside the stadium drinking and smoking which was quite

disturbing. Mr. Hopkins asked the Board to cancel the concerts scheduled for September 14 and 15.

Brent Imlach, General Manager, Vancouver Canadians, appeared before the Board and stated that the concerts provide revenue to the ball club. The concerts have been a good exposure tool for Nat Bailey Stadium. A lot of people are now aware of the beautiful setting of the ball park. This awareness could bring about an increased attendance at the ball game. On the part of the Vancouver Canadians, the traffic during the concerts was well directed and the parking lot was cleared very quickly.

Brian Low, MCA Concerts, appeared before the Board and stated that even though they were able to achieve a lower noise level at the Steely Dan concert, it was marginally in excess of the 60 decibels. With the experience gained from the two previous concerts, they will now be able to bring down the noise level by placing the speakers differently.

Board members discussed the matter and Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh stated that he will not support the motion as MCA concerts have been attempting to reduce the noise level and they should be commended for trying to accommodate the request of the Board. Commissioner Louis stated that he was concerned that the organizers of the concerts may not be taking the Board' s request seriously regarding the need to reduce the noise level. Commissioner Chesman stated that he had mentioned earlier that if there was another breach, he would vote to cancel the concerts. Commissioner Chesman stated that he realises that Riley Park Community Centre are in need of funding, however, he must keep his word.

The motion was put as follows:

Moved by Commissioner Chesman,

- THAT in view of the noise exceeding the by-law requirements at the concert held at Nat Bailey Stadium on August 16, 1996, the concerts scheduled for September 14 and 15, 1996 be cancelled.

DEFEATED (Tie Vote)

(Commissioners Ashford, DeGenova and Fetherstonhaugh contrary)

Moved by Commissioner DeGenova,

- THAT due to the concerns of the local residents and the proximity of the venue to the neighbourhood; except for the two remaining concerts on September 14 and 15, 1996, no further concerts or amplified music be permitted at Nat Bailey Stadium unless there is assurance the limitations of the noise by-law will be met.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PLANNING/ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES/OPERATIONS

5. PARK BOARD 1997-99 CAPITAL PLAN

Board members received copies of a staff report dated August 29, 1996 recommending that the projects listed in Appendix A and amounting to \$24.5 million be approved for the 1997-99 Capital Plan.

Rick Evans, President, Killarney Community Centre Society, appeared before the Board, to urge the Board to reconsider the Capital Plan. Mr. Evans stated that he supports the Association Presidents request for additional funding for facility development from City Council. However, this plan does not address the serious problem faced by Killarney Community Centre. The safety of the centre in the event of an earthquake is a major concern. These concerns were raised by a professional architect and structural engineers and in the staff report of October 13, 1995. Mr. Evans suggested that the Board reallocate funding from the park acquisition fund towards the renovation of Killarney.

Eleanor Hadley appeared before the Board and stated that there is already a lack of parkland . The Board was responsible for this lack of parkland due to the cash-in-lieu of parks and the designation of bike routes in the parks. She was opposed to the reallocation of money from the zoo redevelopment for Sunset Ice Rink.

Commissioner DeGenova stated that he would like the Planning Committee to review the Capital Plan and would defer the matter to the next special meeting of the Board.

Moved by Commissioner DeGenova,

- A. THAT the 1997 -99 Capital Plan be referred to the Planning Committee on Thursday, September 12, 1996 for review; and
- B. THAT the 1997-99 Capital Plan be deferred to the Special Meeting of the Board on Monday, September 16, 1996 at 6:00 P.M

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. LUBAVITCH CENTRAL ORGANIZATION FOR JEWISH EDUCATION - REQUEST FOR FREE ADMISSION TO VANDUSEN GARDENS

Board members received copies of a staff report dated September 5, 1997 recommending that the Lubavitch Central Organization for Jewish Education be charged admission to VanDusen Gardens on September 15, 1996.

Rabbi Wineberg, Director, Lubavitch Central Organization for Jewish Education, appeared before the Board to request free admission to VanDusen Gardens for the purpose of conducting a prayer service. Rabbi Wineberg advised the Board that many of the members who will be

attending the prayer service hold membership to the VanDusen Gardens. However, due to religious reasons they are not able to carry their membership cards , handle money, pay for anything or accept payment during the feast of Rosh Hoshana. Rabbi Wineberg stated that the prayer service will be about thirty minutes.

Board members discussed the matter and Commissioner Louis suggested that the group could make an advance payment of the admission fees and members who hold membership to VanDusen may identify themselves in order to receive free admission.

Moved by Commissioner DeGenova,

- THAT the Lubavitch Central Organization for Jewish Education be charged admission to VanDusen Gardens on September 15, 1996.

Commissioner Chesman stated that the he would be willing to accept the delegation' s request on a one time basis and will vote against the motion.

The motion was put as follows:

- THAT the Lubavitch Central Organization for Jewish Education be charged admission to VanDusen Gardens on September 15, 1996.

CARRIED

(Commissioners Ashford and Chesman contrary)

Commissioner Ashford left the meeting at this point.

• CONTRACTING OUT FOOD SERVICES AT GOLF COURSE CLUBHOUSES

The Chairman advised the Board that CUPE Local 15 through their memo dated September 9, 1996 has postponed their presentation.

Ed Janowicz, Park Board Employee, appeared before the Board regarding Food Service Operations at the Golf Course Clubhouses. Mr. Janowicz presented a brief to the Board regarding the management of Langara and McCleery clubhouses. The brief listed a number of areas requiring improving along with recommendations on how this could be achieved. It also called for the Board to establish a three member team to oversee the operation of the Golf Course Clubhouses. Mr. Janowicz stated that on-site and off-site managers never had the opportunity to work together. The employees at the clubhouses have ideas on how to improve the operations but were never consulted. Mr. Janowicz stated that the Golf Course Clubhouses were public assets and it is premature to offer these facilities to an external interest until all reasonable internal options for profitability have been explored.

Commissioner Chesman thanked the delegation and stated that he will put forward a motion at the next meeting regarding this issue.

• BETTER USE OF BOARD FUNDING FOR SERVICE DELIVERY

Ken Davidson, President, CUPE 1004, Dave Ferri and Bob Fraser presented a brief to the Board regarding the critical issues of management to the Park Board outside workforce. Mr. Davidson reviewed the summary of critical issues of management with the Board. Many of the issues have already been raised with senior Park Board management to which they receive the response that the Operating Budget is dictated by City Council and does not give Park Board any options. Mr. Davidson stated that it was time for the Park Board to reassess its management philosophy and to be more assertive in dealings with City Council in the budgeting process because a big crisis is brewing within the Park Board system and their members see themselves and the public as the victims and losers. Mr. Davidson invited press and members of the Board to a tour of Evans Yard on Saturday, September 28 beginning at 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Board members discussed the matter and requested staff to prepare a response to the brief presented by Mr. Davidson, before September 28, 1996.

• **TENDER T-96-15 - PURCHASE OF TREES**

Board members received copies of a staff report dated September 5, 1996 recommending that the Board approve the award of these contracts.

Moved by Commissioner DeGenova,

- THAT the Board award the tree supply contracts as listed in the report dated September 5, 1996 , Tender T-96-15 - Purchase of Trees.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

INCOME OPERATIONS/MARKETING/PUBLIC AFFAIRS

• **FOOD SERVICE CONCESSIONS - RENOVATIONS PROGRAM**

Board members received copies of a staff report dated August 29, 1996 recommending that the Board approve the concessions' upgrading concept as described in the report; that the Board approve the renovations of the Spanish Banks East concession, as the first upgrade under the new concept; and that the Board allocate sponsorship revenues originated through products sold at the concessions for the implementation of the concessions upgrading concept plan.

Jon Sunderland, Design Consultant presented the proposed concept for upgrading Spanish Banks East concessions. Mr. Sunderland stated that the buildings were in need of upgrading . In order to create more awareness it is necessary to have an identity package to build customer loyalty. Mr. Sunderland reviewed the details of the proposed plan for the renovation of the concessions at Spanish Banks East with the Board.

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

- A. THAT the Board approve the concessions' upgrading concept as described

in this report.

- B. THAT the Board approve the renovations of the Spanish Banks East concession, as the first upgrade under the new concept. All plans to be subject to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

Board members discussed the matter and Commissioner Morgan stated that she would like to sever the motion to two parts for voting. She does not support the part one of the motion as the list of concessions to be upgraded identified are on the beaches or in tourist frequented areas. The concession at Trout Lake is also in need of upgrading but have not been identified in the report. Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh stated that he was against the severance of the motion as the two motions were related.

Moved by Commissioner Morgan,

- THAT the motion be severed into two parts for voting.

CARRIED

(Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh contrary)

Commissioner Chesman stated that he would amend part one of the motion by inserting the words "in principle" following the word approve.

Moved by Commissioner Chesman,

- THAT the words "in principle" be inserted following the word approve.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The amended motion was put as follows:

- THAT the Board approve in principle the concessions' upgrading concept as described in this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Commissioner Chesman,

- THAT the phrase "as a pilot project to assess the new concept" be inserted following the words Spanish Banks East concession.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The amended motion was put as follows:

- THAT the Board approve the renovations of the Spanish Banks East concession, as a pilot project to assess the new concept , as the first upgrade under the new concept. All plans to be subject to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RECREATION SERVICES

• LEISURE ACCESS CARD PROGRAM - APPLICATION PROCEDURES & BENEFITS CHANGES

Board members received copies of a staff report dated August 27, 1996 recommending that the Board receive for information the attached report regarding new Leisure Access application procedures and benefits for residents with limited incomes who do not receive income assistance.

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

- THAT the Board receive for information the attached report regarding new Leisure Access application procedures and benefits for residents with limited incomes who do not receive income assistance.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Commissioner Morgan stated that she would like to see brochures printed in the most popular languages included with the application form.

Moved by Commissioner Morgan,

- THAT brochures printed in the most popular languages accompany the Leisure Access Card application .

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

• HOURS OF WORK FOR REGULAR PART-TIME POSITIONS

Board members received copies of a staff report dated August 29, 1996 recommending that the Board approve changes to the hours of work for regular part-time positions as described in the report.

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

- THAT the Board approve changes to the hours of work for regular part-time positions as described in this report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION/HUMAN RESOURCES

• ELECTION SYSTEMS AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT: OPINION QUESTION TO ELECTORS - 1996 GENERAL LOCAL ELECTIONS, NOVEMBER 16, 1996

Board members received copies of an Administrative report dated August 28, 1996 to Vancouver City Council .

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

- THAT the Administrative Report dated September 4, 1996 regarding Election Systems and Municipal Government: Opinion Question to Electors - 1996 General Local Elections, November 16, 1996, be received for information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Commissioner Morgan,

- THAT the Park Board endorse recommendations A and B outlined as follows in the Administrative Report dated September 4, 1996 to Council:

- A. THAT City Council approve the wording of the opinion question regarding the election of local government officials, identified as Option 1 on page 4 in this report.
- B. THAT factual information regarding the options for electing local government officials identified in the question be distributed to electors as a section of the City' s Election Information Brochure.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Moved by Commissioner Morgan,

- THAT Council not ask for a separate question for Park Board Commissioners.

DEFEATED

(Commissioners Chesman, DeGenova and Fetherstonhaugh contrary)

Moved by Commissioner Chesman,

- A. THAT the Park Board request City Council to approve consideration D outlined as follows in the Administrative Report dated September 4, 1996.
- B. THAT separate questions be provided for the election of Park Commissioners and School Trustees.

CARRIED

(Commissioners Louis and Morgan contrary)

• **SUNSET ICE RINK**

Board members received copies of staff report dated September 5, 1996 recommending that the Board approve the temporary transfer of \$225,000

from the Lower/Upper Zoo Redevelopment Project to fund the Sunset Ice Rink Repair, to be repaid in the 1997 Capital Budget.

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

- THAT the Board approve the temporary transfer of \$225,000 from the Lower/Upper Zoo Redevelopment Project to fund the Sunset Ice Rink Repair, to be repaid in the 1997 Capital Budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ENQUIRIES

Commissioner Chesman stated that there has been a number of vandalism at the Kerrisdale Lawn Bowling Club . He asked staff to request the police to pay closer attention to this facility. Commissioner Chesman enquired if a no trespassing sign could be put up. The General Manager stated that the Board could pass a motion to this effect.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

Warrant #31 in the amount of \$652,898.45, Warrant #32 in the amount of \$382,848.04, Warrant #33 in the amount of \$176,328.38, Warrant #34 in the amount of \$881,334.62.

2. GENERAL MANAGER CONTRACT AWARDS IN EXCESS OF \$50,000

Staff information report dated September 5, 1996 was mailed to Board members.
