

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD IN THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1997**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Duncan Wilson
Vice Chair	- Alan Fetherstonhaugh	
	Commissioners	- David Chesman
		- Allan DeGenova
		- Laura McDiarmid
		- Patrick Warren
		- Gabriel Yong
	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 - Public Affairs	- Terri Clark
	Recording Secretary	- Julie Chiu

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, February 03, 1997 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Commissioner Wilson advised the Board that there will be a public information meeting to discuss the Lions Gate Crossing on Thursday, February 27, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. in the McGill Room at the Robson Square Media Centre. Klohn Crippen Consultants will be in attendance to present the bored tunnel option underneath Stanley Park which is the previous and present Park Board's preferred solution to the issue of the First Narrows crossing.

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION/HUMAN RESOURCES

1997 Budget Reduction Program

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 6, 1997 recommending that the Board consider the listing of possible budget reductions in order to meet the \$700,000 budget reduction as directed by Council.

Moved by Commissioner Yong,

THAT the Board consider the attached listing of possible budget reductions in order to meet the \$700,000 budget reduction as directed by Council.

Commissioner Wilson stated that the Board selected a list of expenditure reduction and revenue increase from the list attached to the staff report.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson,

THAT the Board approve the following expenditure reductions and revenue increase:

Expenditure Reductions		
1	Wood chip disposal	\$50,000
2	Building Operations Assistant Supervisor, Stationary Equipment Maintenance	\$60,000
3	Building Maintenance - Assistant Supervisor Position	\$68,000
4	IPM - Experiments and Monitoring	\$34,000
5	Wildlife Services - Eliminate Full-time Zookeeper	\$14,000
Revenue		
1	5% increase - swim lessons	\$20,000

-Carried Unanimously.

Expenditure Reductions: Environment & Operations Division

Service Efficiencies - Arboriculture

Board members questioned what level of efficiency would be impacted. Liane McKenna, Director of Environment and Operations, advised the Board that the impact would be minimum as the work schedule would be reorganized and residents would be approached and encouraged to water the trees.

Moved by Commissioner McDiarmid,

THAT the Board approve the following expenditure reduction from the Environment and Operations Division:

Service Efficiencies - Arboriculture : \$95,000

-Carried.

(Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh contrary)

Downtown Parks - Andy Livingstone Security

Liane McKenna, Director of Environment and Operations, advised the Board that there are sports groups using the park until 11:30 p.m., there will be an increased number of residents in the area and the park has a fence. However, there is no estimated cost on the repair to an artificial turf field since it would depend on the extent of damages.

Board members discussed this matter and Commissioner Yong stated that this was a high crime area and since we are unaware of the cost of repairs in case the park is vandalised, it was not wise to eliminate security from Andy Livingstone Park. Commissioner DeGenova stated that from the police report on the area, it seems that crime in the area has increased and not decreased. Commissioner Warren stated that there has been no vandalism for over two years, the lights are on until

11:30 p.m. and even if there was vandalism how much could one person do. The neighbourhood will have increased amounts of residents, more activity in the area and this

money is needed in other areas. Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh stated that he would like a report on this to the Planning and Environment Committee before eliminating it from the budget.

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

THAT the Board approve the following expenditure reduction from the Environment and Operations Division:

Downtown Parks - Andy Livingstone Security: \$35,000.

DEFEATED.

(Commissioners Chesman, De Genova, Fetherstonhaugh, Wilson and Yong contrary)

Wildlife Services - Eliminate Pony Rides

Board members discussed this matter and Commissioner Wilson suggested that it be referred to committee to see if it is possible to contract out this service to a private operator or find a way to make it profitable with the existing operation.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson,

THAT the pony rides be referred to committee for further discussion.

-DEFEATED.

(Commissioners Chesman, DeGenova, Fetherstonhaugh and Warren contrary)

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

THAT the Board approve the following expenditure reduction from the Environment and Operations Division:

Wildlife Services - Eliminate Pony Rides: \$17,000.

-Carried.

(Commissioners McDiarmid, Yong and Wilson contrary)

Structures Maintenance - Playground Sand Replacement

Liane McKenna, Director of Environment and Operations advised the Board that the resilient surface under the play equipment (sand or birds eye gravel) is replaced periodically due to contamination by animals, compaction, loss of sand and broken glass. The impact of the reduced program will be the accumulation of more debris with potential health hazards.

Board members discussed the matter and Commissioner Yong stated that the children's health should not be compromised.

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

THAT the Board approve the following expenditure reduction from the Environment and Operations Division:

Structures Maintenance - Playground Sand Replacement: \$35,000.

-DEFEATED.

(Commissioners Chesman, De Genova, Yong, Warren and Wilson contrary)

Ball Diamond Maintenance

Commissioner Chesman enquired whether approval of this reduction would cause a safety hazard between bases in the infield. Liane McKenna, Director of Environment & Operations, advised the Board that the infield is maintained by the sports groups. The impact of this reduction will be on the outfield and behind home plate.

Commissioner Wilson stated that he would not support service level reduction.

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

THAT the Board approve the following expenditure reduction from the Environment and Operations Division:

Ball Diamond Maintenance: \$30,000.

-Carried.

(Commissioners Fetherstonhaugh and Wilson contrary)

Expenditure Reductions : Recreation Services Division

Staff reduction - West End

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

THAT the Board approve the following expenditure reduction from the Recreation Services Division:

Staff reduction - West End : \$78,000.

Commissioner Chesman stated that he understood the workload could be accommodated with the reduction of one FTE and not two.

Moved by Commissioner Chesman,

THAT the reduction as stated in the main motion be reduced to one FTE at an amount of \$39,000.

-Carried.

(Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh contrary)

The main motion motion as amended was put as follows:

THAT the Board approve the following expenditure reduction from the Recreation Services Divison as follows:

Staff reduction - West End: \$39,000.

-Carried.

(Commissioners Fetherstonhaugh and Yong contrary)

Reduction - Roundhouse

Moved by Commissioner McDiarmid,

THAT the Board approve the following expenditure reduction from the Recreations Services Division:

Reduction - Roundhouse : \$50,000

Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh stated that the Roundhouse is an Arts and Culture centre and it was important to maintain full staff level. Allan Argent, Director of Recreation Services, advised the Board that this recommendation was based on the delayed opening of the Roundhouse and a reduction in the supplies budget.

Commissioner Chesman stated that this reduction should be limited to one year only based on Mr. Argent's comments.

Moved by Commissioner Chesman,

THAT the Reduction of the Roundhouse budget be limited to one year only.

-Carried Unanimously.

The main motion as amended was put as follows:

THAT the Board approve the following expenditure reduction for one year only from the Recreation Services Division:

Reduction - Roundhouse : \$50,000.

-Carried Unanimously.

Indoor Pool Cost Savings

Commissioner Yong enquired how this would impact on programming. Allan Argent, Director of Recreation Services, advised the Board that programs with low attendance will be rescheduled.

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

THAT the Board approve the following expenditure reduction from the Recreation Services Division:

Indoor Pool Cost Savings: \$25,000.

-Carried.

(Commissioners Fetherstonhaugh and McDiarmid contrary)

Reduce Beaches

Commissioner Yong enquired whether staff had checked on the legal liabilities. Allan Argent, Director of Recreation Services advised the Board that staff received a legal opinion on the matter; lifeguards were not being removed, only a reduction of hours.

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

THAT the Board approve the following expenditure reduction from the Recreation Services Division:

Reduce Beaches: \$50,000.

-Carried.

(Commissioner McDiarmid contrary)

Close Oak Pool

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

THAT the Board approve the following expenditure reduction from the Recreation Services Division:

Close Oak Pool: \$50,000

Board members discussed this matter and Commissioner Chesman stated that he will support the closure as this was the least efficient pool. Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh stated that the Aquatic Task force recommended its closure on the basis of a pool at Sunset Community Centre.

Moved by Commissioner Yong,

THAT the closure of Oak Pool be deferred until a new pool is built at Sunset.

- Carried.

(Commissioners Chesman, De Genova and Warren contrary)

Reduction - Community Centre

Moved by Commissioner Warren

THAT the Board approve the following expenditure reduction from the Recreation Services Division:

Reduction - Community Centres: \$200,000

Board members discussed this matter and decided to table the motion until the end of the Budget Reduction discussion.

Revenue

New Children's Admission at Outdoor pools

Moved by Commissioner Warren,

THAT the Board approve the following revenue implementation:

New Children's Admission at Outdoor pools: \$35,000

-Carried.

(Commissioners Chesman and Yong contrary)

Looney Swims at Indoor Pools

Moved by Commissioner Chesman,

THAT the Board approve the following revenue implementation:

Looney Swims at Indoor Pools: \$24,000.

-Carried Unanimously.

Jericho - Introduce new pay parking

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

THAT the Board approve the following revenue implementation:

Jericho - Introduce new pay parking (at the current rate): \$50,000.

Board members discussed the matter and Commissioner Warren stated that he does not support pay parking at Jericho as there are a lot of recreational activities in the area and this implementation will not solve the traffic problem. Commissioner Chesman stated that he was against pay parking at Jericho as he is concerned about the impact it would have on the residences in the area. Commissioner Wilson stated that a pass system for staff, members and people with disabilities from the Jericho Sailing Centre should be considered.

Moved by Commissioner Wilson,

THAT staff be requested to report back on the possibility of providing parking passes to staff, members and people with disabilities at the Jericho Sailing Centre.

-Carried.

(Commissioners Chesman, De Genova and Warren contrary)

Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh stated that there may be a creative way to raise revenue and he would like to refer the matter to committee.

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

THAT new pay parking at Jericho be referred to committee.

THERE WAS NO SECONDER TO THE MOTION.

Spanish Banks - Introduce new pay parking

Moved by Commissioner Wilson,

THAT the Board approve the following revenue implementation:

Spanish Banks - Introduce new pay parking: \$48,002.

-DEFEATED.

(Commissioners Chesman, De Genova, Fetherstonhaugh, McDiarmid, Yong and Warren contrary)

Rescinding Motion re: Oak Pool

Board members reviewed the approved list of reductions and revenue and came up with a shortfall against Council's directive of a reduction of \$700,000.

In order to meet the target of \$700,000, Commissioner Warren suggested that the motion to keep Oak Pool open should be rescinded. Commissioners Fetherstonhaugh and Wilson stated that in order to balance the budget they will vote for a rescinding motion if put forward.

Moved by Commissioner Warren,

THAT the motion to retain Oak Pool be rescinded.

-Carried.

(Commissioners McDiarmid and Yong contrary)

Moved by Commissioner Chesman,

THAT the Board approve the following expenditure reduction from the Recreation Services Division:

Close Oak Pool: \$50,000.

-Carried.

(Commissioners McDiarmid and Yong contrary)

Reduction - Community Centres

Moved by Commissioner Wilson,

THAT the Board approve the following expenditure reduction from the Recreation Services Division:

Reduction - Community Centres : \$200,000.

-DEFEATED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by Commissioner Yong,

THAT the amended list of budget reductions and revenue be approved.

-Carried Unanimously.

Commissioner Yong suggested that the Board discuss with the Manager of Public Affairs, the matter of how to relay to the public the various reductions the Board had to make tonight.

Commissioner Chesman enquired whether the Board wished to express itself to Council on the issue of whether taxes ought to be increased over and above what Council has already agreed. Should the Park Board accept this with or without comment. Council is aware of Park Board's position and they have made a decision which is within their jurisdiction. A comment at this late date would be of no significant value. However, in the future the Park Board's jurisdiction vis a vis Council's should be discussed.

Commissioner Wilson advised the Board that he had discussed the matter of Council's forgiving the one third revenue to the Board but met with no success.

1997 Aquarium Admission Rates

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 13, 1997 for the Board to consider approving the 1997 Aquarium admission fees as outlined in their letter dated January 10, 1997.

Marie Dickens, Director of Finance and Administration, Vancouver Aquarium, appeared before the Board to request approval for an increase in their admission rates. Ms. Dickens advised the Board that they have not increased their regular admission rates since 1993. The proposed rates are within the market value. The Aquarium participates in the Leisure Access Card program and have two free days in a year.

Annelise Sorg, No Whales in Captivity, advised the Board that the Aquarium does not pay taxes and rent like other institutions as referred in the Aquarium's letter. Education should be offered free of charge.

Angela Hogan appeared before the Board and referred to whales captured off the coast of Japan. Ms. Hogan requested that she show a clip from the newscast of the day before showing this capture. Board members discussed this request and Commissioner Warren stated that the video on the capture of whales has no relation to the subject matter, which is, an increase in the

admission rates. Commissioner Wilson took a vote on whether the video should be viewed. There was a 4 to 3 vote on not to see the video.

Moved by Commissioner Yong,

THAT the 1997 Aquarium admission fees as outlined in their letter of January 10, 1997 be approved

-Carried Unanimously.

PLANNING/ADMINISTRATION/HUMAN RESOURCES

Reorganization Stationary Equipment Maintenance Section

Commissioner Chesman left the meeting at this point.

Board members received copies of a staff report dated November 28, 1997 recommending that the regular staff complement of the Stationary Equipment Maintenance section be reduced by two by eliminating six existing positions and creating four new positions as listed in Appendix A, subject to classification by the Director of Human Resources; and, staff report dated February 6, 1997 recommending that the report be received for information.

Donalda Viaud, CUPE 15, appeared before the Board and stated that the union does not think that the mobile crew is realistic. Ms. Viaud questioned the thought process for the proposed change and stated that there has not been enough input from the employees. This change will cause an increase in expenditure. Ms. Viaud suggested that there be more meetings between the Board and the union.

Commissioner Yong left the meeting due to a medical emergency.

Moved by Commissioner De Genova,

THAT the Board receive the report dated February 6, 1997 regarding the Reorganization Stationary Equipment Maintenance Section for information.

-Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner De Genova,

THAT the regular staff complement of the Stationary Equipment Maintenance section be reduced by two by eliminating six existing positions and creating four new positions as listed in Appendix A, subject to classification by the Director of Human Resources.

-Carried.

(Commissioner McDiarmid contrary)

Partnership in Revenue and Visitor Services at VanDusen Botanical Gardens

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 6, 1997 recommending that the Park Board approve recommendations A to C in the report.

Pat Davitt, CUPE Local 15, stated that a meeting with the union on this matter would have been useful. Ms. Davitt stated that a reorganization of staff scheduling could provide the same service. A consultant was hired to spruce up the gift shop and increase its revenues, but, to date there has not been much of an improvement.

Dr. Phil Ashmore, VanDusen Botanical Gardens, stated that he supports the staff report. The members of the VanDusen Botanical Gardens Association realised that the gift shop needed improving and the gardens excellent facilities was under utilised. The Association is prepared to put out a significant amount of money to make VanDusen Gardens more profitable.

Moved by Commissioner De Genova,

- A. THAT the Park Board approve a contract position, Manager of Revenue and Visitor Services, for VanDusen Gardens, subject to the level of the position being reviewed by the Director, Human Resource Services.
- B. THAT the contract position be funded by improved revenues in partnership with the VBGA as set out in the report subject to final approval by the VBGA Board on February 26, 1997.
- C. THAT the contract position be established for two years subject to an annual review of the revenue position at VanDusen Gardens.

-Carried.

(Commissioner McDiarmid contrary)

INCOME OPERATIONS/MARKETING/PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Pay Parking at the Roundhouse Community Centre

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 6, 1997 recommending that the Board approve effective March 1, 1997 the pay parking rates for the parking lot at the Roundhouse Community Centre as listed in the report.

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

THAT the Board approve the following pay parking rates for the parking lot at the Roundhouse Community Centre, effective March 1, 1997:

\$1 per hour (6am - 6pm)

\$5 per day maximum (6am - 6pm)

\$2 evenings (6pm - closing)

\$60 monthly (Monday - Friday only, 6am - 6pm)

-Carried Unanimously.

Granville Island Ferries Ltd. - Rent Review and Extension of License Agreement

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 6, 1997 recommending that the Board extend the license agreement of Granville Island Ferries Ltd. for two years, for the period January 1, 1997 to December 31, 1998 and that the rent be set at \$10,800 per year for the years 1997 and 1998.

Moved by Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh,

1. THAT the Board extend the license agreement of Granville Island Ferries Ltd. (operating as False Creek Ferries) for two years, for the period January 1, 1997 to December 31, 1998.
2. THAT the rent be set at \$10,800 per year for the years 1997 and 1998.
3. THAT no legal rights shall arise hereby and none shall arise hereafter until execution of the contemplated document.

-Carried Unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner McDiarmid advised the Board that there was a long standing request from the community at Hastings to put a sign at Charles Park. Commissioner McDiarmid requested staff to look into putting a sign at Charles Park as soon as possible.

Moved by Commissioner Chesman

THAT staff be directed to put an appropriate sign at Charles Park at an estimated cost of \$1,000.00.

-Carried Unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Approval of Warrants

Warrant #04 in the amount of \$246,058.50.
