

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
HELD IN THE WEST END COMMUNITY CENTRE  
ON MONDAY, JUNE 15, 1998 AT 7:00 P.M.**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>- Duncan Wilson</b>
	<b>Vice-Chair</b>	<b>- Alan Fetherstonhaugh</b>
	<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>- David Chesman</b>
		<b>- Allan DeGenova</b>
		<b>- Laura McDiarmid</b>
		<b>- Patrick Warren</b>
		<b>- Gabriel Yong</b>
		<b>- Susan Mundick</b>
	<b>General Manager</b>	
	<b>Director of Administrative &amp; Revenue Services</b>	<b>- Philip Josephs</b>
	<b>Director Corporate Services</b>	<b>- Anita Ho</b>
	<b>Director of Planning</b>	<b>- Jim Lowden</b>
	<b>Manager of Central Recreation Services</b>	<b>- Jule Hopkins</b>
	<b>Co-ordinator Arts &amp; Multiculturalism</b>	<b>- Susan Gordon</b>
	<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>- Julie Chiu</b>

**Siting of Aids Memorial**

Jim Lowden, Director of Planning, gave a slide presentation on the siting of the Aids Memorial. There were four sites chosen, the wooded area above Ceperley (the original site), a wooded area north of the Nelson Street entrance to Stanley Park, Sunset Beach Park at the foot of Broughton Street and Alexandra Park. Alexandra was eliminated as a site for the memorial on the basis of the scale of the chosen work to the park, the suitability of the park's formal, urban heritage nature to the memorial design, the dominance of the bandstand, the presence of an existing memorial in the park and the lack of a suitable site away from the large trees that would allow a natural backdrop for the monument. In early February, the three remaining sites were posted with signs indicating the proposal to situate the memorial in each location and advising of a public meeting to hear comments. Following the public meeting held in February, there were comments from phone-ins, letters and faxes expressing significant concern about siting the memorial in Stanley Park at either the Ceperley site or the Nelson Street entrance. One comment in opposition to the Sunset Beach site was received. The site review committee recommended Sunset Beach.

## **Delegations**

James Johnstone supports the siting of the Aids Memorial at Sunset Beach.

Kate Hill, does not support Aids Memorial at Sunset Beach, there are cemeteries for this type of memorial. What about those who died from other diseases? There are private memorials available such as park benches, a picnic shelter, picnic benches, bus shelters. Please put the memorial away from residences, parks are for all people to enjoy.

Ed Lee, Vancouver Aids Memorial Society, the memorial gives hope and demonstrates caring for the families and community. He supports the installation of the memorial.

J. C. Harrison opposed to the Aids Memorial. Memorials are for people who have made a notable contribution to their country. Regret their passing, but there are other diseases too. Cemetery is the place to remember these people, the money could be spent on aids education and prevention.

Graham Wong, Asia Society Prevention of Aids, supports the memorial, it is an educational tool and a place for reflection.

Dave Gilmore, opposed to the memorial, referred to the many phone calls in opposition.

Bill Forsyth opposed to memorial at Sunset Beach and at any park. Why spend tax-payers money? Spend the money for research, do not mock Sunset Beach with a ribbon of steel.

Doug Price supports the memorial, it is for educational purposes. It is also a sign that people are still dying from it. The memorial is one way to fight the second wave of this disease.

Sam Campbell supports the project, tired of the NIMBY (Not in my backyard) people. The monument is to remember those who have died and for educational purposes.

Brad Newcombe, Minister of St. John United Church, supports the memorial. It is important to grieve privately and collectively. The memorial will provide a long term educational tool and help in the healing process.

Dr. Joss de Wet, supports the memorial. Wellness is about being spiritually well, the memorial will provide a place for reflection either individually or collectively. It will also help to educate the young people.

Dr. Brian Woodfall works at St. Paul Hospital, has seen people die from many different diseases. Aids has been shunned by society. There is a need for healing for friends and families. The memorial will provide education and help people to realise that this disease does exist.

June Dremin, opposed to the memorial. Parks and beaches are for the enjoyment of the living. She sympathize with aids patient, but people should mourn in private, they do not have a right to impose on the public.

Lorne Mayencourt, Friends for Life, supports the memorial, there is an annual vigil at Alexandra Park. Those who died need dignity, the memorial should be in a more private place such as the wooded area in Ceperley Park. Does not support the Sunset Beach location.

Ms. Lavason, opposed to the memorial, does not know of anyone who supports it.

Rob Hughes, supports the memorial. Dealing with people's attitudes and discrimination on aids is just like a war.

Jim Heaton, supports the memorial, spoke about this project in Chicago, received a lot of support.

Ron Rothwell, Friends of Stanley Park , opposed to the monument. Suggest a memorial grove of trees. There is a flaw in the arts policy, need to have a moratorium of art in parks. Unnatural objects do not have a place in parks.

D. Lynch, opposed to the memorial. It was BCTV that brought this to the attention of the public. The Board needs to listen to the public.

Tom Johnston, opposed to the memorial, BCTV poll clearly shows that the people are not in favour of it. There has not been much thought given to this, why give a chunk of parkland to a special group. Parks are for recreation.

Bruno Orolus, is the Board looking for a revolution, why do they not listen to the people and say no to the memorial.

David McCann, supports the project, build the memorial to educate that Aids can be prevented. Limit the length of the wall.

Val McKay, daughter of former Park Commissioner George Thompson stated that parks and beaches are not for memorials.

Steve Buchan supports the memorial, need a place to bring students for education, a public park is part of public trust, is willing to give up chunks of public land for the education of young people and show them what choices they can make. Pamphlets and videos does not seem to help.

Bobby Gelinas support the memorial, is discouraged by opposition.

Bleu Carriere stated that the aids memorial wall should not separate society but be respected and accepted. It will bring awareness to the young people who will be contributing to our society. Limit the size of the wall

Mark Abedi, opposed to the memorial, association of beach and death does not make sense. The park benches along English Bay is like a cemetery.

Veronica Bruneau, opposed to the memorial, has compassion for those with the disease, why do we have graveyards. The young people will not learn by reading the names on the wall, take them to St. Paul's Hospital so that they can see first hand what the disease does to you.

Eleanor Hadley, opposed to memorial, have always been opposed to the park commemorative benches. Parks are not to be used as cemetery for memorials.

Kevin Diablo, supports the memorial, it seems western society fears death. The memorial is a great way of giving credence and celebration of life, hope the memorial is ready for the year 2000.

### **Commissioners' Comments**

Commissioner Yong thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He stated that the Board will take the comment heard tonight and put the people's best interest forward when making a decision.

Commissioner Warren stated that he heard compelling arguments, but has not made up his mind. He has no problem with memorials but have concerns regarding the dimension and design of memorial.

Commissioner Chesman thanked everyone for coming out. He was Chair of the day when the Board considers this issue. In 1996 the Board felt that there was not sufficient public input and now has gone through two years of public input. The BCTV poll is not a scientific poll. A legitimate issue is whether memorials belong in parks.

Commissioner Fetherstonhaugh stated that he believes in public art. The aids epidemic is an important issue for the City of Vancouver and the community. Mistakes may have been made in the past, but the future generation can be educated.

Commissioner McDiarmid stated that she works with people with aids and we are in crises now. No one is removed from this disease, the spread of the disease is growing and education is needed.

Commissioner DeGenova stated that he attended the installation of a memorial for people who were victims of violence at Oppenheimer Park. It helps to educate the younger people, it is not to remember what happened, but to learn from it. We need to remember the significance behind a memorial.

Commissioner Wilson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and acknowledged that this was a good meeting as usually only those who are opposed to an issue attend. In this meeting both view points were represented. The issue will be debated on June 22, 1998 at the Park Board meeting.

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Susan Mundick  
General Manager

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Commissioner Duncan Wilson  
Chair