

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD IN THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY - APRIL 3, 2000**

PRESENT: Chair	Duncan Wilson
Vice-Chair	Laura McDiarmid
Commissioners	Roslyn Cassells
	Allan De Genova
	Clarence Hansen
	Dianne Ledingham
	Christopher Richardson
General Manager	Susan Mundick
Director of Planning & Operations	Pieter Rutgers
Director of Vancouver East District	Allan Argent
Director of Corporate Services	Anita Ho
Director of Stanley District	Jim Lowden
Director of Queen Elizabeth District	Liane McKenna
Manager of Public Affairs	Terri Clark
Recorder	Julie Casanova

The Chair advised the Board that there was a sergeant-at-arms present tonight to assist him to maintain order during the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, March 20, 2000 was deferred as a member of the Board expressed concern with the content of the minutes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

City Council Report

The General Manager advised the Board that the Year 2000 budget will be on Council's agenda for April 4, 2000. However, if there is a delegation request to this item then it will be moved to the Community Services and Budgets Committee on Thursday, April 6, 2000. Park Board staff will bring a report back to the Board based on Council's decision.

Strathcona Park Capital Funding

Staff report dated March 13, 2000 recommending that Council provide \$400,000 from Henderson Development (Canada) Ltd pay-in-lieu land purchase fund for the upgrade at Strathcona Park and that this money be reimbursed from the \$1.5 million from the Henderson Development (Canada) Ltd. pay-in-lieu park development fund when it becomes available in the City.

The Director of Planning and Operations gave a brief overview on the background and the availability of funds for this project.

Richard Page and Bob Sarti appeared before the Board and stated that they have worked for a long time to redevelop this park. They conducted a public process and the plan is to put in more play areas. They would like to reclaim this park for the community.

Korky Day appeared before the Board and stated that this project is funded by the capital plan. Capital plan money should only be spent in an emergency and not fund these projects in the city. He will, however, support the use of these funds at Strathcona.

Board members thanked the delegations and agreed that this improvement to the park was overdue.

The motion was put as follows:

Moved,

- A. THAT Council provide \$400,000 from Henderson Development (Canada) Ltd. pay-in-lieu land purchase fund for the upgrade at Strathcona Park.**
- B. THAT \$400,000 be reimbursed from the \$1.5 million from the Henderson Development (Canada) Ltd. pay-in-lieu park development fund when it becomes available in the City.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Last Meeting' s Notice of Motion

Moved,

WHEREAS on September 1996 the Park Board passed a motion in agreement with the Aquarium that the Aquarium would not capture any more cetaceans from the wild or import them from other Aquariums which had captured them in the wild;

AND WHEREAS Aquarium Director John Nightingale has publicly stated that the Aquarium would like to obtain 2 or 3 young orcas;

WHEREAS presumably the Park Commissioners would object to a young creature being abducted from her mother and close knit family group to live in an area which in human terms is the size of a shower stall for the rest of her life;

WHEREAS the citizens of Vancouver, whenever given the opportunity, express, in their majority, their opposition to the imprisonment of nature's children;

AND WHEREAS the rationale behind keeping animals in captivity for educational purposes is faulty scientifically, educationally and ethically;

AND WHEREAS as Park Commissioners we should be looking towards the future, not the past in terms of our strategic planning for Vancouver parks.

Be It Resolved that Vancouver Park Board amend the Aquarium bylaw of 1996 to prohibit the importation of young whales abducted from their mothers and families, and that we pass this motion immediately, before another tragedy occurs.

Peter Hamilton appeared before the Board and stated that captured whales do not live a full life cycle compared to the ones in the wild. There is no need for an aquarium to educate people, as there are now underwater cameras to capture the whales in the wild and transmit them through the internet. He hopes there will be a total phase out for captive whales and dolphins and asked the Board to amend the bylaw to protect orcas.

John Mate stated that he supports the motion calling for an amendment to the bylaw to ban the import of dolphins and whales into Stanley Park. He asked the Board to support the amendment or have a referendum. It is inhumane to confine the whales and we should not be teaching our children such cruelty.

Rita Koutsodimos appeared before the Board to support the motion. She has worked on research vessels and has seen whales in the wild and believes that there are many ways to educate people on whales and dolphins rather than keeping them in captivity.

Yvon Raoul a teacher at Kitsilano High School, stated that he had a petition of 1200 signatures, from school students. He likes the Aquarium but not the whales. Keeping whales in captivity is a financial motivation and he would support the motion to amend the bylaw.

Chelsea Kelly stated that she supports the motion on the table. Whales should not be kept in captivity because it shortens their lives. The best way to teach children is to let them observe the whales in the wild, watching videos or the Discovery channel on TV is also a good education tool.

Hannah Mate stated that they had discussions in the classroom to ban the importation of whales and the phasing out of the whale program at the Vancouver Aquarium. They do not want the whales captured and taken away from their family.

Korky Day supports the bylaw amendment.

A member of the Board asked a representative of the Vancouver Aquarium to give a brief account of the various educational programs conducted by them.

Board members discussed the matter.

In favour of the motion:

- add endangerment to the whale' s existence
- animals have the right to be free

Opposed to the motion:

- have a 15-year license agreement with the Aquarium
- the Board is advised of any changes

A vote was taken on the motion and it was DEFEATED.

(Commissioners De Genova, Hansen, Ledingham, McDiarmid, Richardson and Wilson contrary.)

There was a recess at 9:10 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 9:26 p.m.

Moved,

WHEREAS the meeting of the Vancouver Park Board on February 21, 2000 was not run according to the Vancouver Charter, and bylaws pertaining to Council and the Park Board, disallowing debate and voting to one of the Commissioners and, therefore, denying the 31,694 Vancouver voters who voted for her their voice and their vote;

AND WHEREAS the 5 NPA Commissioners present violated their oath of office and their

mandate as Park Board Commissioners;

Be It Resolved that the NPA Vice-Chair Laura McDiarmid resign from her position as Vice-Chair; and,

THAT NPA Commissioners McDiarmid, De Genova, Ledingham, Hansen and Richardson resign from their positions as Park Board Commissioners effective immediately.

THERE WAS NO SECONDER TO THE MOTION.

A member of the Board requested that the delegations registered to speak to this item be allowed to address the Board even though there was no seconder to the motion.

A question arose regarding the procedure to hear delegations by the Board. Under Procedure Bylaw 13, "***Delegations shall be heard only by agreement of the Board and in the order determined by the Chair and shall be permitted to speak for no longer than 5 minutes, unless the Board, by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present, otherwise permits.***"

The Chair called for a show of hands to allow the delegations to speak to the issue. The count was two members for and five members against.

ENQUIRIES

Commissioner' s Behaviour

The Chair advised the Board that he received through staff, an e-mail from a member of the public who was not happy with Commissioner Cassells' remarks to her. The Chair asked Commissioner Cassells for a public apology. Commissioner Cassells stated that she had removed the member of the public in question from her address list.

Strategic Plan

There was an enquiry as to why the strategic plan was not available on the web site. The General Manager advised the Board that she will look into the matter and ensure that it is uploaded.

Letter from Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden re: Liaison Commissioner

A letter confirming the appointment of Commissioner De Genova as the Liaison Commissioner to the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society was received and circulated to the Board members.

News Release

A news release with the Vancouver Park Board logo and address was circulated by someone with inaccurate information as an April Fool's joke. The General Manager was asked to investigate the source and advise Board members.

NOTICE OF MOTION

The following notice of motion was put forward:

WHEREAS Tony McNaughton has shown true heroism with such an unselfish act as to put his own life forth to save another human being;

AND WHEREAS he was an active member of the West End Community;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a tree with a plaque be planted to honour his memory with, assistance from the West End Community Centre and the Coal Harbour Community Centre.