

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD IN THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, MAY 29, 2000**

PRESENT:	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 Queen Elizabeth District	- Liane McKenna
	A/Director of Vancouver East District	- Ron Caswell
	Director of Corporate Services	- Anita Ho
	Director of Stanley District	- Jim Lowden
	Manager of Facility Development	- Rudy Roelofsen
	Manager of Revenue Services	- Philip Josephs
	Manager of Public Affairs	- Terri Clark
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

Commissioner Wilson was on vacation. Commissioner McDiarmid chaired the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A member of the Board enquired if the Board would be willing to hear from a member of the public who had e-mailed the Commissioners with comments on the content of the minutes. Also, the Board member wished to amend the minutes to include discussions around the dogs off-leash program.

There was no consensus from the members of the Board to change the minutes.

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, May 15, 2000 were adopted as circulated.

A member of the Board expressed dissatisfaction with the style of the minutes and suggested a change. Board members deferred discussion to the next workshop of the Board.

DELEGATIONS

British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association - Program Excellence Award - Ghost Train

Philip Josephs, Manager of Revenue Services advised the Board that the first year's operation of the Stanley Park Hallowe'en Ghost Train received the 1999 BCRPA Program Excellence Award. This is a provincial award of excellence and is very prestigious. Mr. Josephs presented the award to Commissioner McDiarmid who received it on behalf of the Board. Board members thanked everyone involved for their hard work.

Lt. Governor's Medal in Architecture, Award of Merit for Kitsilano Community Centre

Rudy Roelofsen advised the Board that Kitsilano Community Centre received the Lt. Governor's Medal in Architecture for the recent addition to the centre. Mr. Roelofsen presented the award to the Board. The award was received by Commissioner McDiarmid on behalf of the Board. Board members thanked everyone involved for their hard work.

Vancouver General Hospital Precinct

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 18, 2000 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to C.

Commissioner De Genova left the room at this time due to a potential conflict of interest, as one of his clients may be involved in this project.

Pieter Rutgers, Director of Planning & Operations gave a brief history and overview of the plans for the Vancouver General Hospital Precinct (VGH):

The following delegations requested the Board to consider the staff recommendations with regard to the Vancouver General Hospital Precinct.

- Janet Anderson, Heather Heritage Society
- Catherine Buck, Universal Garden Society
- June Binkert, Save Our Parkland Association
- Anita Romaniuk
- Korky Day

The following is a summary of comments provided by the foregoing speakers:

- approve the plan to retain the Heather Pavilion;
- continue to support the universal garden;
- continue to make provision for open space at the Vancouver General Hospital Precinct;
- need specific timing for the development to complete; and
- commercialism

Moved,

- A. THAT the Board endorse the attached Council Report recommending adoption of the Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) Precinct Policy Statement, including revisions to the existing and proposed public open spaces.**
- B. THAT the Board express a strong preference for Scenario A as the basis for VGH development concepts.**
- C. THAT any changes to the existing legal agreements securing public open space in the VGH Precinct be subject to an evaluation based on the nine principles stated in this report.**

The following amendment motion was moved,

THAT the Park Board reject the existence of biotech companies in or about Vancouver parks and community centres due to their negative impact on human and animal health, and the ecology, and that we support the original recommendation from the City Council report which proposed an increase in green space, and that we encourage VGH and City Council to establish time lines with incentives/dis-incentives built into the agreement so as to finish this project on time.

THERE WAS NO SECONDER TO THE MOTION.

A vote was taken on the main motion and it was Carried Unanimously.

NNR 2000 Budget

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 18, 2000 recommending that the Board approve the 2000 New and Non-Recurring (NNR) Budget in the amount of \$580,000 as outlined in Appendix 1.

The following delegations requested the Board to reconsider items cut from the NNR Budget:

- Anita Romaniuk, Chair of COPE Parks and Environment Committee
- Korky Day

The following is a summary of comments provided by the foregoing speakers:

- provide co-ordinated approach to provide for those items that have been cut;
- look for alternate funding for some of the items; and
- postpone decision, too many irregularities.

Moved,

THAT the Board approve the 2000 New and Non-Recurring (NNR) Budget in the amount of \$580,000 as outlined in Appendix I.

-Carried Unanimously.

International Community Service Day Foundation Project at Mount Pleasant Elementary School and Guelph Park

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 17, 2000 recommending that the Park Board approve the installation of new playground equipment in Guelph Park as part of the International Community Service Day Foundation (ICSDF) project at Mount Pleasant Elementary School and that the Board acknowledge the contribution of the ICSDF, Mount Pleasant Elementary School and the Mount Pleasant community for their involvement in this project.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board with regard to the ICSDF Project at Mount Pleasant Elementary School:

- Paul Hendriks, International Community Service Day Foundation Volunteer
- John Hall, Principal at Mount Pleasant Elementary School

- Frank Delorme, Chairperson of the Mount Pleasant Elementary School Parent Advisory Council
- Korky Day

The following is a summary of comments provided by the foregoing speakers:

- project focuses on kids;
- bring about community spirit;
- empowerment of community space;
- volunteering to improve lives;
- invited Board members to participate on June 17 and 18, 2000; and
- do not tear down old one, find space for the new equipment.

Moved,

- A. **THAT the Park Board approve the installation of new playground equipment in Guelph Park as part of the International Community Service Day Foundation project at Mount Pleasant Elementary School.**
- B. **THAT the Park Board acknowledge the contribution of the International Service Day Foundation, Mount Pleasant Elementary School and the Mount Pleasant community for their involvement in this project**

- Carried Unanimously.

New Summer Miniature Railway Event

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 18, 2000 recommending that the Board approve spending \$30,000 from the Corporate Sponsorship account to pay for the creation of displays, a soundtrack and marketing for a new summer event at the Miniature Railway and that the Board approve the attached fee schedule for the Miniature Railway Summer Special Event.

Korky Day, a delegation, suggested that the Miniature Railway Summer Special Event should be affordable to low income people.

Moved,

- A. THAT the Board approve spending \$30,000 from the Corporate Sponsorship account to pay for the creation of displays, a soundtrack and marketing for a new summer event at the Miniature Railway.**
- B. THAT the Board approve the attached fee schedule for the Miniature Railway Summer Special Event in 2000.**

Comments against the motion:

- spend money on low income youth;
- serious reservation for corporate sponsorship; and
- do not agree with Children's Farmyard.

A vote was taken on the motion and it was Carried.
(Commissioner Cassells contrary)

Stanley Park Salmon Stream Phase 2: Contract Award

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 29, 2000 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Korky Day a delegation wondered why MacMillan Bloedel was not mentioned in the report.

A member of the Board requested that this item be deferred to allow interested citizens an opportunity to address the Board. The Vice-Chair advised that this was a contract award and that the project had already been approved.

Moved,

- A. THAT the Board approve the award of Tender T-2000-11, Bid Price Alternate 'A' to Matcon Excavating Ltd. to implement construction of Phase 2 of the Demonstration Salmon Stream in Stanley Park.**
- B. THAT no legal rights shall arise hereby and none shall arise until execution of the contemplated contract. The Board may rescind this resolution at any time up to the execution of the contemplated contract.**

The following amendment motion was moved,

Whereas the Park Board in August of 1996 passed a motion that there would be a referendum called on any expansion of the Vancouver Aquarium. The lease agreement with the Aquarium now states this fact. There has not been a referendum to see whether Vancouverites are in favor, or opposed to, Aquarium expansion. So the present expansion already under way is in violation of the lease and the motion passed at the Park Board;

Whereas the lease that the City of Vancouver signed with the federal government with regard to Stanley Park states in section 9 "*No stone shall be quarried on the said property (referring to Stanley Park) nor any trees be cut therefrom (except for the purpose of opening out roads thereon) without the sanction of the Minister of Militia and Defence.*" The lease also states in section 6 that only the Minister of Defence "*shall have power at any time to exercise the right of quarrying stones or cutting down trees or other obstructions in case of military necessity and also of cutting sods for the repair of earthworks*";

Whereas expanding the animal exploitation industry does not fall under the "*park uses*" referred to in the second paragraph of the lease (which limits use of the park to "*park uses*");

Whereas the Park Board is spending half a million dollars of taxpayers' money to improve the Aquarium's profit margin, and that on July 22, 1999 City Council passed a motion with no opposition from the Park Board that \$650,000 of lease prepayment funds designated for park use by Park Board be redirected away from its original designation of park use to be used instead for this corporate-driven Aquarium expansion project;

Whereas there never was a historic salmon stream in Stanley Park according to First Nations' historic accounts;

Whereas this project is providing an opportunity for BC Hydro and Alcan; two of the worst eco-destroyers in BC history, who have together destroyed more natural salmon streams than all other companies combined, a chance to greenwash their companies and do corporate advertising in the park;

Whereas this artificial salmon stream offers little educational value, and destroys valuable green space in Stanley Park; a United Nations Heritage Site;

Whereas, if the purpose was to educate the public, and to mitigate damage to salmon streams, BC Hydro, Alcan, and the Vancouver Aquarium would embark on a mission of rehabilitating existing and historic salmon streams, not building a cement ditch in Stanley Park;

Whereas again, interested groups and individuals were not informed this item was on the agenda tonight, and, as concerned citizens, they may wish to participate in the decision-making process at Vancouver Park Board;

Whereas the contract recommended is Open Shop and goes to the low-ball bidder, which is detrimental to workers' rights, workplace health and safety, the quality of the contracted work, and increases the possibility of cost overruns;

Whereas Phase 1 of the artificial salmon stream was approved by the Board despite the fact that the required permits had not been received, and in fact, had not even been applied for, by the Vancouver Aquarium, and that this situation remains unchanged;

Whereas the provincial wastewater permit has not yet been received by the Vancouver Aquarium, and it is a requirement of Phase 2 of the artificial salmon stream project; and the federal and provincial governments have not confirmed the Aquarium's compliance with permitting requirements. The Park Board should receive a copy of the studies which will be done under the review requirements of the application for a wastewater permit to discharge wastewater into Coal Harbour;

And Whereas the water the Aquarium plans to use in the artificial salmon stream will be used water from the captives' tanks, and this water is full of toxic chemicals, urine and feces, and whereas this contaminated water will, according to a department of Fisheries and Oceans Fish Biologist, cause genetic damage to salmon fry, who will in turn reproduce with wild salmon, producing genetic deficits in the already endangered wild salmon populations, negatively affecting the west coast ecosystem, the First Nations' way of life based on the salmon, and the commercial and sport fishing industries in British Columbia;

Therefore be it resolved that the Stanley Park salmon stream project and all Vancouver Aquarium expansions be immediately halted until such time as a referendum can be completed and the democratic voice of the citizens of Vancouver is heard. To do otherwise is an attack on the ecological integrity of the native salmon populations and all the animals and people that depend on those populations, and it is a violation of the mandate of Vancouver Park Board which we are sworn to uphold, Vancouver Park Board policy, the lease agreements with the Aquarium, the City of Vancouver, and the federal government, the permitting

requirements of the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada, and the trust and confidence of the people of Vancouver.

THERE WAS NO SECONDER TO THE MOTION.

A vote was taken on the main motion and it was Carried.
Commissioner Cassells contrary.

Thunderbird Community Centre Appointment of Contractor

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 16, 2000 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to D.

Commissioner Hansen left the room due to a potential conflict of interest as he is at present Acting Principal of Thunderbird School.

Korky Day, a delegation, asked the Board to pay union rates even though the contractors were not a union shop.

Board members expressed their appreciation to the Renfrew Community Centre Association for their contribution to the success of this project.

Moved,

THAT the Board approve the award of the contract for construction of the addition and renovations to Thunderbird Community Centre to Haebler Construction (B.C.) Ltd. for an amount not to exceed \$758,000, plus GST.

THAT no legal rights shall arise hereby, and none shall arise until execution of the contemplated contract. The Board may rescind this resolution at any time up to the execution of the contemplated contract.

THAT the contract will not be executed until such time as the Letter of Credit from Renfrew Park Community Association satisfactory to the Director of Legal Services is received.

THAT the contract will not be executed until such time as the Board has received a letter of commitment and a schedule of payments from the Thunderbird Association to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

Moved,

THAT the Board ensure that Union workers are used in this contract despite the fact that it is not Park Board policy at the moment.

THERE WAS NO SECONDER TO THE MOTION.

A vote was taken on the main motion and it was Carried Unanimously.

LAST MEETING'S NOTICE OF MOTION

The following notice of motion was put forward at the meeting of the Board held on Monday, May 1, 2000:

WHEREAS the Park Board workers, indoors and outdoors, clerical workers to gardeners, constitute the main force ensuring all the programs and facilities provided by the Vancouver Park Board are at the service of the people;

WHEREAS May 1st, a day commemorating the 1886 Haymarket Demonstrations in Chicago for the eight hour working day, is the recognized Workers' Day in all countries except Canada and the United States;

AND WHEREAS this year the Canadian Labour Congress, B.C. Federation of Labour, Vancouver and District Labour Council, including their affiliate unions representing Vancouver Park Board workers, have recognized and joined in the celebration of May Day this year;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Vancouver Park Board send its warmest May Day greetings to all workers at the Vancouver Park Board congratulating them for their work and service to the people of the Lower Mainland and visitors from around the world;

AND FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board propose in the next negotiations with unions representing the workers of the Park Board that the GVRD make the day of May 1st an annually paid statutory holiday.

The foregoing notice of motion was moved,

THERE WAS NO SECONDER TO THE MOTION.

A member of the Board requested that the Board hear the speakers who had signed-up to speak to this issue. Board members were asked to vote on whether Ken Davidson, President, CUPE Local 1004 could address the Board. The vote was in the affirmative with Commissioner De Genova voting in contrary.

Ken Davidson, CUPE Local 1004 addressed the Board on how the provision of an additional day off for the workers would be a good bargaining tool.

The General Manager advised the Board that labour negotiations are done regionally by the GVRD.

The following motion was moved,

THAT the Vancouver Park Board propose in the next negotiations with unions representing the workers of the Park Board that the GVRD make the day of May 1st an annually paid statutory holiday.

THERE WAS NO SECONDER TO THE MOTION.

The following notice of motion was put forward at the meeting of the Board held on Monday, May 15, 2000:

Resolved,

THAT the Board formally register its strong disapproval of Commissioner Cassells' action in the e-mail to Ms. Nora Francis;

THAT Commissioner Cassells be requested to take remedial action by giving a clear indication that she does not regard the type of message which she sent to Ms. Nora Francis as appropriate for one in public service to address a resident taxpayer;

THAT Commissioner Cassells be urged to avoid such conduct in the future;

THAT it is the Board's belief that, when communicating with all persons, all Commissioners must display the highest level of respect, dignity and professionalism expected of elected officials.

The foregoing notice of motion was moved and seconded.

The Chair asked Commissioner Cassells if she planned to take remedial action as suggested in the motion.

Commissioner Cassells stated that she will not participate in the discussion and read from a prepared statement. This statement is on file. Commissioner Cassells left the room.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board on the above issue:

- Imtiaz Popat
- Korky Day

The following is a summary of comments presented by the delegations:

- motion is inappropriate;
- no precedent of such an item on the Agenda; and
- deal with the situation in-camera.

Board members discussed the matter and there was agreement among some of the members that a mediation process could be considered.

The following amendment motion was moved,

That a mutual third person be asked to participate in a meeting with Ms. Nora Francis and Commissioner Cassells to resolve this issue.

- Carried.

(Commissioner Cassells was absent at the time of voting)

A vote was taken on the main motion and it was DEFEATED
(Commissioners Hansen, McDiarmid and Ledingham contrary)

ENQUIRIES, OTHER MATTERS AND NEW BUSINESS

Sports Fields

A member of the Board enquired about the distribution of sports fields among the user groups. The General Manager advised the Board that the allocation of sports fields will be discussed at the June workshop of the Board.

Waterfront Parksites Donation

There was a question whether staff at the Park Board were aware of a possible donation of land for park purposes by Bill Dronsfield.

Notice of Motion

The following notice of motion was put forward :

Whereas the Grandview Cut is second only to Stanley Park in green space;

Whereas there are Vancouver Park Board lands abutting the Grandview Cut;

Whereas we are committed to the Greenways plan;

Whereas the Grandview Cut is located in the East Side of Vancouver, an area deficient in green space;

Whereas the present ratio of residents to green space is 0.91 in the East Side, and 2.4 in the West Side, an inequality which will be further exacerbated by the destruction of the Cut, should it occur;

Whereas the Grandview Cut is located in an area with a high percentage of First Nations residents and especially First Nations youth, many of whom have no other access to natural parkland;

Whereas putting a SkyTrain through the Grandview Cut would destroy a valuable wildlife corridor, would not decrease stress and pollution, and would reduce green space;

Whereas the aforementioned project would greatly decrease livability;

Whereas the proposed SkyTrain route would decrease property values and negatively impact on local businesses during the 2 year construction period;

Whereas many members of the public feel there has not been adequate public

consultation on this matter;

Whereas the population the SkyTrain project proposes to serve does not exist;

Whereas SkyTrain riders are subsidized by \$40 per person per ride, as opposed to \$2 per person per ride on the buses;

Whereas 87% of transit users use the bus and only 13% use the SkyTrain;

Whereas increasing the bus service would substantially decrease transit problems in the lower mainland, and the SkyTrain proposal wouldn't;

Whereas increasing the bus service in the lower mainland would increase unionized employment, providing citizens with good jobs in transit;

Whereas the proposed SkyTrain expansion will not decrease pollution or get people out of their cars for a number of reasons;

Whereas the proposed habitat replacement completely ignores the ecological devastation which would occur and cannot be mitigated;

Whereas the destruction of the Grandview Cut represents the destruction of a viable, intrinsically valuable urban natural ecosystem, home to a multiplicity of living creatures which enrich the ecology, our hearts and minds;

Whereas it is the belief of citizens of the East Side that they are subsidizing the project which is above ground on the East Side and below ground on the West Side, and that this is a class and race issue that they take exception to;

Whereas, for the future of the children, the elders, and the animals in the East Side, the destruction of the Grandview Cut would be devastating physically, ecologically, culturally, and psychologically;

And Whereas when teams of heavy horses and soiled and sweating men hauled away wagons of earth and shaped the Grandview Cut, no one planted the trees and shrubs that cling where they can to the steep slopes today. There was no need. Native woodland covered the area less than a century ago. In its unassuming way this gradually reclaimed the wounded land. As years passed and trains ground noisily along the bottom of the Cut, the trees grew undisturbed, some to impressive heights. One by one, their fellows in the surrounding woods were felled. Houses were built, streets were paved, and business communities evolved along what were once skid tracks. Park warblers continued migrating along the corridor of the Cut. The wrens continued nesting in its trees;

Whereas with each kilometer outward that the city spreads, each hectare of forest, field, and creekside lost, every cluster of trees within that enclave, every huddle of shrubs and herbs, every patch of semi-isolated gravel where killdeer might raise their young grows exponentially in importance;

Whereas it is no longer enough to plant tamed and tidy gardens, trees spread daintily along the boulevard. The garden, the laneway, the grid of streets are no longer clearings in the midst of wildness, human habitat gleaned from a rough and endless native world. They sprawl across ecosystems, climate regions, borders, dividing wild from wild. The discontinuity frays the health of wilderness itself, diminishing the richly woven tapestry of life, individual by individual, species by species, ecosystem by ecosystem. We have reached the stage where we need to do everything in our power to reconnect those wild lands, to salvage and restore wherever we can grassy patches, shrubs, woodlands no matter how disturbed or small, no matter that they don't yet represent the ultimate combination of species for this particular patch of land. These are the only refuge urban wildlife has, the only pockets of connection that lets it leapfrog across the concrete that has taken over its home;

Whereas instead of digging in and taking more and reducing what is left—WE NEED TO LEAVE THE WILD, WILD and shape our roadsides, parklands, gardens, backyards wherever we can to a kinder, wilder place that will coax back the great chorus of birdsong, woo home the peregrines and the hawks. We must tame the pollution in the waters and soil and air so that frogs and humans and chickadees alike can happily call this sprawling city home.

Whereas why do we need these wild and semi-wild and returning-to-wild places? Why isn't it enough that new trees and shrubs will be placed in a linear park along Grandview, even if there was a way for this to support the same wildlife that currently lives inside the Cut (which there is not)? It is more than knowing that wild life is valuable in and of itself, more than knowing that our own well-being depends on healthy forests and bogs and oceans. It exists on a level we cannot always feel, and which expresses itself differently for each of us—as love for a gently parent, as a joyful disorderliness, as a memory of a distant home. We come from the wildland. Even in those of us who love "civilization", the city life, the ways we have learned to organize and fascinate ourselves, part of us is always wild. That part needs not to be enclosed, ordered, constrained like a potted plant or a greenway pruned for safety and visibility. We need to be able to look down and know that whether we ever walk in the Cut ourselves, it is growing there, largely unrestrained, and that this is possible for us as well. We need places of great beauty right before our eyes, in our neighbourhoods—not only beauty that has been designed and dictated by someone else, but something that follows its own notion of what is healthful and vigorous growth. We need woodlands to love

and grow up beside and fight for. We need to know that wildlife isn't all in the Serengeti or the Far North—that it lives right here. That it's a part of us. And we need to have a place to look at as our home, that will not disappear or be molested with the passage of time;

For ourselves, as well as for the wildlife, we need to save and honour this precious wildland in our midst

Be it resolved that the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation strongly support the people of Vancouver in demanding a halt to the proposal of putting the SkyTrain through the Grandview Cut; and, that we listen to voices of the people at the next Park Board meeting on this issue; and that we strongly encourage City Council, TransLink, and the Province of B.C. to do the same.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45p.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Laura McDiarmid
Vice-Chair