

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD IN THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, MAY 12, 2003**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Heather Deal
	Vice-Chair	- Anita Romaniuk
	Commissioners	- Suzanne Anton
		- Allan De Genova
		- Lyndsay Poaps
		- Eva Riccius
		- Loretta Woodcock
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Planning & Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Stanley District	- Jim Lowden
	Director of Corporate Services	- Anita Ho
	Director of Vancouver East District	- Lori MacKay
	Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Liane McKenna
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, April 28, 2003 were adopted as amended.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair commended staff for organizing an excellent 2003 BCRPA Conference. The conference had over five hundred delegates and all of the sessions were very good. Thank you to everyone for this great effort.

The Chair attended the opening of the Community Walls Community Voices Project adjacent to the Skytrain near Trout Lake Community Centre.

Committee Chair Reports

The Chair of the Finance Committee reported that the Board will be receiving the 2003 NNR Budget later this evening and the committee will also be reviewing the first quarter of the budget and golf senior fees at the next meeting of the Finance Committee on Friday, May 30, at 9:00 a.m.

The Planning and Environment Committee Chair reported that they discussed permeable roadways, the report from the Mount Pleasant Community Centre Building Committee and the public process to involve the community in the planning for the centre.

The Chair of the Culture and Recreation Committee reported that they reviewed the history of recreation services offered by the Park Board. They be discussing at a future meeting, Judge McGill Memorial, the status of the Millennium Sports Facility, youth services and late night access at the Community Centre.

Council Report

Staff advised that Council will be receiving reports on Financing Growth, Designating Adanac Park as a permanent park, and the 2003 Capital Budget for Park Board.

DELEGATIONS

Vancouver Public Library - One Book One Vancouver program

Joan Andersen, Chair and Janice Douglas, Director of Programming, Vancouver Public Library presented Timothy Taylor's book "*Stanley Park*" for the One Book , One Vancouver 2003 program. This year's choice is particularly relevant to the Park Board and they will be working with Park Board staff in the development of programs and events around Stanley Park. Some of the programs could be a lesson in history and walking tours. Board members received a copy of the Timothy Taylor's book "*Stanley Park*".

Board members thanked the delegation and stated that they were excitedly looking forward to participate in the programs planned for Stanley Park.

Dogs in Parks

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 1, 2003, recommending that the Board approve \$20,000 for a public opinion survey and research on the extent of dog off-leash use of designated and non-designated sites and that a report on dog management in parks and any proposed changes to the Off-Leash Program be brought back to the Board in the Fall 2003.

Staff provided the background on the dogs off-leash initiative, the organizational experience in public awareness, monitoring of sites and co-ordination of activities. A city-wide evaluation was done by gathering anecdotal information from staff and public which focused on issues that have been raised over the life of the program. While some of the off-leash sites are working well, there are some sites that are experiencing user conflicts. A proposal to the Board on how to manage this conflict will require better information and research on the extent of dog off-leash use of designated and non-designated sites is being proposed.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board with regard to Dogs in Parks:

- Joan Evans
- Eleanor Hadley
- Celena Benndorf
- Elvira Lount

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

- dogs and persons have been threatened by other dog owners;
- need to focus, parks are not just for dog owners;
- signage is very clear, however the rules are violated all the time;
- put responsibility back to dog owners;
- the Board is sending the message that they are afraid of special interest groups;

- abuses are escalating, Board should not add off-leash areas;
- people and their dogs are losing their rights to use the park;
- need proper enforcement;
- children and seniors have been displaced;
- parks and beaches should not be used as off-leash areas;
- off-leash dogs have increased, live in Vancouver to enjoy the beaches;
- is the City waiting for a tragedy or a lawsuit before it will do something?
- could have a revenue generating ticketing program;
- continue off-leash areas, but need accountability from dog owners;
- support the survey, willing to volunteer services to assist staff with the survey.

Board members thanked the delegation for their presentation and stated that there were some serious issues which should be looked at in the study. We need to involve community groups such as park partners and refer to historical records from animal control. The issue of enforcement was also discussed and Board members felt that enforcement and licensing were major factors which were not within the control of the Park Board. Board members stated that we need to find a way for both dog and non-dog owners to enjoy the parks.

Moved by Commissioner Poaps,

- A. THAT the Board approve \$20,000 for a public opinion survey and research on the extent of dog off-leash use of designated and non-designated sites.**

- B. THAT a report on dog management in parks and any proposed changes to the Off-Leash Program be brought back to the Board in the Fall 2003.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Financing Growth

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 30, 2003 recommending that the Board receive the City Council report for information and that staff be directed to develop a communication strategy to share the report recommendations with key Park Board partners and stakeholders and to receive feedback on parks and recreation issues.

Staff advised the Board that the objectives of the Financing Growth exercise were to calculate the costs to the City for maintaining its services in relation to projected growth through to 2021, and to determine the best use of the Development Cost Levy and Community Amenity Contribution to offset these costs in the overall City context. Council will be receive the report for information and will be hearing delegations in June, 2003. Staff will ensure that partner organizations of the Board are informed about the report and its possible impacts on parks and recreation and the opportunity to speak to Council on these issues.

Board members discussed the matter and it was suggested that Financing Growth be placed on the Planning and Environment Committee agenda to hear delegations and discuss the Park Board recommendation to Council.

Moved by Commissioner Romaniuk,

THAT the attached City Council report on Financing Growth be received for information, and that staff be directed to develop a communication strategy to share the report recommendations with key Park Board partners and stakeholders and to receive feedback on parks and recreation issues.

- Carried Unanimously.

2003 New and Non-Recurring Budget

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 30, 2003, recommending that the Board approve the 2003 New and Non-Recurring (NNR) Budget in the amount of \$740,000.

Moved by Commissioner Romaniuk,

THAT the Board approve the 2003 New and Non-Recurring (NNR) Budget in an amount of \$740,000 as outlined in Appendix I.

- Carried Unanimously.

Accomplishment Report 2002

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 1, 2003, recommending that the Board receive the report for information.

The General Manager presented the Accomplishment Report for 2002 to the Board and acknowledged the hard work of all the staff, partners and volunteers in the achievement highlighted. This information will become part of the Board's Annual Report.

Board members commended staff on their work and enquired whether additional human resources was required to work on the many projects requested by the Board. The General Manager advised that additional resources are always welcomed. The Chair requested that a top ten list of need for resources be provided to the Board.

Moved by Commissioner Poaps,

THAT the Accomplishment Report 2002 be received for information.

- Carried Unanimously.

Donation of Public Art in Coal Harbour Park

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 29, 2003 recommending that the Board give conditional approval for the use of the bullnose in the northeast corner of Harbour Green Park Coal Harbour as a site for public art donated by Grosvenor, with final approval by the Board following the completion of the established public art selection process.

Moved by Commissioner Riccius,

That the Board give conditional approval for the use of the bullnose in the northeast corner of Harbour Green Park Coal Harbour as a site for public art donated by Grosvenor, with final approval by the Board following the completion of the established public art selection process.

- Carried Unanimously.

Enquiries, Other Matters And New Business

A member of the Board advised that the Greater Vancouver Regional District and TransLink were putting together a proposal called the Sustainable Region Showcase to Transport Canada for the Urban Transportation Showcase Program. A letter of support is being requested from the Park Board for this proposal. If the proposal is successful Park Board would benefit with an improved pedestrian safety and design at the new Mount Pleasant Community Centre (#1 Kingsway and Main) and the Central Valley Greenway which will provide a linear park-like space through Downtown, False Creek and East Vancouver. Staff will follow up on this request.

A member of the Board referred to the Park Board News - Spring 2002 and enquired why she was not aware of the event which honoured twelve Park Board employees with the Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Medal for their work in lifesaving and lifeguarding to the province over the years for the Lifesaving Society. Board members were advised that only the Chair was invited to attend the event, and by sharing the information in the Park Board News - all Commissioners and staff were informed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Heather Deal
Chair