

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD IN THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 06, 2003**

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

The Chair advised the Board that Commissioner De Genova was unable to attend the meeting as he is sick

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A member of the Board referred to the Harbour Ferries Ltd. Parking Lot - Operating Agreement section of the minutes and stated that the amendment motion referring the good neighbour agreement to the Culture and Recreation Committee should be included.

The motion regarding housing initiatives was moved by Commissioner Poaps on behalf of Commissioner Deal.

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, September 22, 2003 were adopted as amended.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported that the Board participated in:

- opening of Emery Barnes Park
- the unveiling of the murals at Kitsilano War Memorial Community Centre
- a planning session for East Fraserlands
- the Annual General Meeting of the West End Seniors Network
- the opening of the Ghost Train in Stanley Park
- the motorcycle toy run

The Chair and the General Manager attended the 2003 Canadian Parks and Recreation Association Conference in Montreal. The General Manager gave a presentation on Performance Management.

Committee Report:

Finance Committee : met on October 2, discussed golf courses, fees and charges, results for operating budget compared to actual and the public process for the 2004 budget. There will be an open house on the budget and public are invited to attend and provide feedback to the Board.

Planning and Environment Committee : will be meeting on October 7, and the committee will be hearing a delegation with regard to the pool at Mount Pleasant Community Centre and discuss a report on Cob house which will replace the popcorn stand in Stanley Park

Culture and Recreation Committee: the next meeting will be held on November 2, one of the items for discussion will be Special Events, the final agenda will be on the website.

**Bright Nights - Renewal of Agreement with BC Firefighter's Burn Fund and CUPE
Local 1004**

Board members received copies of a staff report dated September 25, 2003 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to D.

Staff advised the Board that the five year agreement with the Burn Fund concluded last summer, and due to the popularity of the Christmas train, the Board is being requested to approve the renewal of the agreement.

Tony Burke, Firefighter's Burn Fund Unit, appeared before the Board and stated that the extremely successful event is also the leading fundraiser for the burn fund,. It is a premier event and a good opportunity to meet with the public to educate them about burn safety. He thanked the staff for their commitment and hoped the Board will approve a further five year term.

Board members discussed the issue and enquired whether they would receive volunteers for this event. The delegation advised the Board that anyone wishing to volunteer should go to their website to find out which area would be requiring volunteers. Due to the liability issue they are selective in where volunteers might be used.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

- A. THAT the Agreement with the B.C. Professional Fire Fighters Burn Fund and CUPE local 1004 for Bright Nights in Stanley Park be renewed for the period July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2008.**
- B. THAT the Board transfer a 13% share of the Bright Nights net admission revenues annually to the B.C. Professional Fire Fighters Burn Fund.**
- C. THAT no legal rights shall arise and no consents, permissions or licenses are granted hereby and none shall arise or be granted hereafter unless and until all contemplated legal documentation has been executed and delivered by all parties.**
- D. THAT once the form of all legal documentation has been approved by the General Manager and Director of Legal Services for the city of Vancouver, that the General Manager be authorised to execute and deliver such documentation on behalf of the Board.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Eburne Lands Subdivision

Board members received copies of a staff report dated September 25, 2003 recommending that the Board recommend to Council acceptance of payment in lieu of park dedication at the proposed subdivision of the Eburne Lands, subject to legal arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager Park Board and the Director of Legal Services, for the possible acquisition of Richmond Island for park purposes at a later date as described in the report and that the Board recommend to the Approving Officer the establishment of public right-of-ways along the water with the matter of physical access to be resolved through any development permits.

Staff advised the Board that the Eburne Lands including Richmond island are zoned for industrial use. The Approving Officer has received a subdivision application for the Vancouver parcel. In accordance with the Subdivision By-Law, subdivision of this parcel is subject to a park dedication of about three and a half acres. The Park Board and the City has cooperated to create waterfront park and access in this area. The Eburne lands are an attractive location offering a diverse waterfront environment. During initial discussions with the proponent Richmond Island was proposed as a public park in exchange for the park dedication required at subdivision, but the North Fraser Port Authority has withdrawn that option as they require the island for port purposes. In addition there are security concerns with the implementation of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code. The North Fraser Port Authority has offered a payment in lieu of dedicating a park parcel and a legal agreement allowing for the eventual purchase of Richmond Island in the future.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

1. Doug Purdy, Consultant, North Fraser Port Authority
2. Terry Slack
3. Dick Stace-Smith, Fraser River Coalition
4. Wendy Turner
5. June Binkert, Save Our Parkland Association
6. Bert Brink, Save Our Parkland Association
7. Vivian Bevis, West Southlands Rate Payers Association
8. Helen Spiegelman, SPEC
9. Tom Nichols
10. Don Larson

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

- the North Fraser Port Authority purchased this land because of its strategic location;
- the Port is trying to be as cooperative as possible;
- they are a federal body and could choose to go ahead with the development;
- the issue of security is real, if right of way is secured now, cannot stop people going there;
- cannot support cash in lieu recommendation;
- need waterfront park space in Marpole;
- previous Boards indicated that when opportunities arise, they will be investigated;
- this development will have an impact on the community
- need to fight for waterfront greenways;
- this is an important area for fish habitat
- efforts have been taken to rehabilitate the Fraser;
- citizens have dedicated hundreds of hours to develop a management plan
- don't need a long drawn out discussion or money, but the common will to work towards a consensus;
- bring the community together for solutions;
- need to focus on public access to waterfront;
- maintain the policy of a continuous riverfront walkway;
- as much as the acquisition of Richmond Island is desirable, cannot support recommendation A;
- do whatever it takes to secure right of way along the foreshore;
- something creative could be done to take people around the port;
- in lieu of payment talk with TransLink to acquire 3.5 acres of waterfront park;
- city has a subdivision by-law, enforce it;

- Port Authority representative is not aware of the 2000 land use plan;
- if Richmond Island is not acquired now, then you will never get it;
- Marpole is a park deficient area;
- Hudson Street should be the link to the waterfront.

Moved by Commissioner Riccius,

- A. THAT the Board recommend to Council acceptance of payment in lieu of park dedication at the proposed subdivision of the Eburne Lands, subject to legal arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager Park Board and the Director of Legal Services for the possible acquisition of Richmond Island for park purposes at a later date as described in this report; and
- B. THAT the Board recommend to the Approving Officer the establishment of public right-of-ways along the water with the matter of physical access to be resolved through any development permits.

Board members discussed the matter and indicated that they were concerned with the security issue. More information is also required for the Board to make a decision on the recommendations.

Moved by Commissioner Poaps,

THAT this report be referred to the next meeting of the Board.

- Carried Unanimously.

Vancouver's Waterfront Promenade - Waterfront Center's Excellence on the Waterfront Award

Board members received copies of a staff report dated September 22, 2003 recommending that the Board receive the report for information.

Staff advised the Board that the City of Vancouver received an Honour Award for its Waterfront Promenade at the Waterfront Centre's 21st Annual International Conference. The judging criteria for this award included : sensitivity of the design to water; quality and harmony of design; civic contribution and environmental and educational aspects. This was possible due to the City and Board's long standing commitment to provide public access to the water by acquiring private properties along the waterfront.

Eleanor Hadley appeared before the Board and stated that she was pleased the Park Board received an award for the waterfront. She wanted the Board to know that along with many citizens groups, she contributed to the creation of the Vancouver waterfront. Ms. Hadley also credited the architect, Richard Halbert for the concept of the waterfront promenade.

The Chair thanked the previous boards for their vision.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board receive the report on Vancouver's Waterfront Promenade - Waterfront Center's Excellence on the Waterfront Award for information.

- Carried Unanimously.

Stanley Park Commemorative Integrity Statement

Board members received copies of a staff report dated September 23, 2003 recommending that the Board adopt the Stanley Park Commemorative Integrity Statement as an acknowledgment of the Park's status as a National historic Site and as a reference for future decision making.

Staff advised the Board that since 1988 when Stanley Park was made a historic site, they have been working on a framework on managing the park. The Integrity statement documents the parks cultural and natural resources and the values that are associated with each of these resources.

Moved by Commissioner Romaniuk,

THAT the Board adopt the Stanley Park Commemorative Integrity Statment, as an acknowledgment the Park's status as a National Historic site and as a reference for future decision making.

Board members discussed the matter and a member of the Board questioned why the Vancouver Aquarium was not listed as a cultural resource. A representative of Parks Canada was in attendance and he advised the Board that the Aquarium has undergone many changes and did not meet the requirement as a cultural resource. Board members were reluctant to adopt the statement without hearing from the Aquarium.

Moved by Commissioner Riccius,

THAT this matter be referred to a future Planning and Environment Committee meeting to allow the Aquarium to state their case as to why they should be included in the document.

- Carried Unanimously.

Establishment of the Child and Youth Advocate

Board members received copies of a staff report dated September 25, 2003 recommending that the Board receive the report for information.

Moved by Commissioner Poaps,

THAT the Board receive the report with regard to the Establishment of the Child and Youth Advocate for information.

- Carried Unanimously.

Enquiries, Other Matters And New Business

Motions :

Due to the number of speakers registered to speak to the motion regarding the squatters, the Chair asked the Board to consider moving motion 4 forward on the agenda. The Board agreed to adjust the agenda.

4. The following motions were put forward by Commissioner Anton,

WHEREAS

1. Persons in Strathcona Park are living in the park and are erecting tents and other structures and are thereby in breach of the Parks Control By-law;
2. Public access to Strathcona Park is limited by the presence of those persons and the tents and other structures;
3. Community groups in the area have informed the Park Board that residents are intimidated by those persons and do not now use the park;

It is Resolved That:

- A. This Board take such action as is necessary including legal action to effect the earliest possible removal from Strathcona Park of tents and other structures erected in the Park in breach of the Parks Control By-law;
- B. This Board request the assistance of the City of Vancouver Housing Centre in finding housing for those persons living in Strathcona Park needing housing.

NO SECONDER TO THE MOTION.

WHEREAS

- 1. Persons in the area known as Creekside Park are living in the park and are erecting tents and other structures and are impeding public use of that area;
- 2. Creekside Park is maintained by the Park Board but is within the jurisdiction of the City of Vancouver;

It is Resolved That:

This Board request the City of Vancouver to take such action as is necessary including legal action to effect the removal of tents and other structures from Creekside Park at the earliest possible time.

NO SECONDER TO THE MOTION

The Chair recognized that a number of delegates were signed up to speak to this issue and asked the Board if they would hear the delegation. The Board agreed to hear the delegations.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Tammy Paterson, Science World
- Patsy MacMillan
- Muggs Sigurgueirson
- Gary Godfrey
- Paul Houle, BCGEU, Local 603
- Janice Lovell

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

- number of squatters at Creekside Park have increased;
- visitors to Science World do not feel safe;
- it is not acceptable for pan handlers to approach school groups;
- squatters are entering the facility, had to add security;

- there is physical and verbal abuse;
- negative impact on the quality of life;
- squatters are defecating in the children's playground;
- noisy and disturbs the neighbourhood, unable to sleep at night;
- Science World and Granville Island Ferries businesses are suffering;
- enforce your mandate and laws of the city;
- collected 335 names in four hours on a petition;
- support the Strathcona squat, it is out of the way;
- they have rules and is self governing;
- squat is cleanest part of the park;
- there is safety in numbers;
- there is good harmony and communication;
- do not object to protest, but this is occupation;
- they are destroying a foreshore park;
- removal of tent city is not a long term solution of homelessness;
- need to look at comprehensive approach with all levels of government.

The Chair thanked the delegations for their comments and stated that the Board will continue to look for solutions.

3. The following motions were referred from the meeting of the Board held on Monday, September 22, 2003:

Commissioner Anton stated that the basis for her motion was to ensure that the Park Board would be elected on an at-large system rather than the ward system being proposed by Council.

Moved by Commissioner Anton,

WHEREAS :

1. The City of Vancouver has established a Commission on Electoral Reform to implement the ward system in time for the next general civic election;
2. The Vancouver Park Board has been included in the terms of reference of the Commission;
3. The Vancouver Park Board has never been consulted nor has it ever expressed an opinion as to whether it wishes to be included in this process;
4. No consultation with the citizens of Vancouver has taken place as to whether the Park Board should be elected by a ward system;
5. The Park Board is committed to public consultation;

6. The Commission on Electoral Reform is only to examine how we implement wards, not whether we should have wards, so that no discussion as to the benefits of each system will be relevant;
7. Vancouver is consistently rated as one of the most livable cities in the world;
8. The Park Board has been elected at large since 1890;
9. No ward city has an elected Park Board; and
10. An elected Park Board is unlikely to survive a ward system.

Therefore be it Resolved :

- D. That the Vancouver Park Board recommends that no changes be made to the method of election of the Park Board without public consultation and a referendum put to the voters; and
- B. That the Vancouver Park Board requests that the City not purport to make changes in regard to the election of the Park Board without consulting the Park Board.

- DEFEATED.

(Commissioners Deal, Poaps, Riccius, Romaniuk and Woodcock contrary)

2. The following motions were put forward by Commissioner Romaniuk,

Commissioner Romaniuk stated that Council should be advised that the commission should also consider other forms of election.

Moved by Commissioner Romaniuk,

WHEREAS the City of Vancouver has established a Commission on Electoral Reform to receive submissions and report to Council on the method of electing municipal representatives; and

WHEREAS Thomas Berger has been appointed as the Commissioner and has been charged to recommend a public process to Council by mid-November 2003, with the final report to be submitted in April, 2004; and

WHEREAS the terms of reference for the Electoral Reform Commission include the method of electing Park Board commissioners; and

WHEREAS the mandate of this commission is to specifically include a ward system, but is not intended to exclude other methods of electing councillors and commissioners;

Therefore Be It Resolved :

That the Vancouver Park Board supports the Commission on Electoral Reform in establishing a public process which will examine the merits of a ward system, as well as other electoral systems including the current at-large system;

And Therefore Be It Further Resolved:

That the Vancouver Park Board requests that City Council not make changes to the method of electing parks commissioners without consulting the Park Board, and to this end the Board will participate in the public process as conducted by the Commission on Electoral Reform.

- Carried.

(Commissioner Anton contrary)

3. The following motion was put forward by Commissioner Romaniuk,

WHEREAS the Community Visions Choices Survey, which included questions on the aging house at 2317 McGill Street, was distributed June 2003 in the Hastings-Sunrise community, and 1850 surveys were returned; and

WHEREAS the survey indicated an overwhelming interest in creating more indoor recreation space in the community for youth and seniors programs, and involving the public in these initiatives; and

WHEREAS Kiwassa Neighbourhood House is bursting at the seams with community programs and looking for opportunities to expand their services;

Therefore Be It Resolved :

That the Vancouver Park Board rescind the demolition order for the unoccupied house at 2317 McGill Street in order that public consultation take place in the Hastings-Sunrise neighbourhood, involving stakeholders such as the Burrardview Residence Association and Kiwassa Neighbourhood House, on the future of the site at 2317 McGill, which could include either renovation of the unoccupied house for a use benefitting the community, or conversion to green space, and that the deadline for this consultation result in a recommendation to Park Board no later than February 29, 2004.

Commissioner Romaniuk withdrew the motion as the demolition contract had already been let. The Kiwassa Neighbourhood House were disappointed but understood. Staff was asked to include the Community Visions Choices Survey as part of the planning process.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Heather Deal
Chair