

**Minutes of Meeting
Planning and Environment Committee**

DATE OF MEETING: December 2, 2003

ATTENDEES: **Park Board Commissioners**
Commissioner Eva Riccius, Chair
Commissioner Suzanne Anton
Commissioner Anita Romaniuk
Commissioner Loretta Woodcock

Park Board Staff

Piet Rutgers	Director of Planning and Operations
Rudy Roelofsen	Manager of Facility Development
Mark Vulliamy	Manager of Research and Planning
Terry Walton	Manager of Recreation Services
Mike MacKintosh	Supervisor, Parks
Susan Graham	Sunset Greenhouse Foreman
Vera Sukopova	Planning and Operations (Recording Secretary)

Delegations

Susan Kainer	Friends of Sunsan Park
Louise Seto	“
Paula Parkinson	“
Lisbeth Pince	“
Phil Daum	Director, Sunset Community Centre Assoc.

SUBJECT: Planning and Environment Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Eva Riccius welcomed all to the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee and the Commissioners introduced themselves.

The Agenda was presented as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes
2. Sunset Community Centre and Park Planning
3. Small Buildings in Parks

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee dated November 7, 2003 were approved.

2. Sunset Community Centre and Park Planning

Susan Kainer, Louise Seto, Paula Parkinson and Lisbeth Pince, members of Friends of Sunset Park, a subcommittee of Sunset Visions Implementation, presented an overview on Sunset Visions Implementation priorities for 2004 and history of Sunset Park. They explained that:

- The Sunset Area is park deficient and it has one of the lowest parks acreage per population in the city while has the highest number of youth in the city¹.
- More than 10 years have passed since the neighbourhood was promised that they would get Sunset Park back²
- There are many houses in area which have 2 - 3 families and few private back yards for children and families to enjoy.
- Older population is not mobile like west side residents and therefore they use mainly local area for their activities.
- Friends of Sunset Park is a neighbourhood committee established after the extensive public consultation process of the Sunset Community Visions and their purpose is to rehabilitate, renovate and reclaim Sunset Park.
- Sunset Park was designated park space in 1924 and 1928 but approximately half of Sunset Park is occupied by a works yard and the City Nursery and they consider it as an inappropriate use of park space.

They request from the Park Board the following:

- To join the current two sections of Sunset Park by street closure of Prince Edward Street from 51st Ave to 53rd Ave.
- To increase signage for Sunset Park. Remove current Sunset Nursery signs and replace with Sunset Park signs.
- To reclaim all Sunset Park and relocate the nursery and works yard.
- To ensure visual and physical connection to Sunset Park.
- Ensure that there is a proper neighbourhood consultation process in any changes to the park.
- Develop a master plan for the whole site, from Main Street to Henderson School and from 51st Ave to 53rd Ave.
- Address the issue of park deficiency in the Sunset Neighbourhood by reclaiming the whole of Sunset Park.

Notes:

¹ - *The actual park ratio in Sunset is 0.74 ha/1000 and it ranks below Grandview, Woodland, Mount Pleasant, Fairview Slopes and Victoria Fraser view. The City average is 1.1 ha/1000.*

² - *Delegation referenced a quote from the then chairman Ashford. No Board resolution to that effect were passed.*

After their presentation Eva Riccius, asked Piet Rutgers to explain the past planning process for the Sunset Park and new Sunset Community Centre.

Piet Rutgers gave an overview on history as well as process which in the end secured about \$7 million for the replacement and relocation of Sunset Community Centre. A grant of \$4 million was approved by the Canada/B.C. Infrastructure Program and \$3 million has been committed by the City of Vancouver through its 2003-2005 Capital Plan. He said that the application for funding was made on the basis that the centre would be relocated to Main Street. There is also a potential to share energy supply, utility connections and possibly a driveway serving both the community centre and the works yard/nursery.

Relocating the works yard and nursery would require additional funds to buy land somewhere else, and to rebuild the facility in the new location. Also if the new location would be farther away than the existing one which serves all parks in Vancouver. The Park Board operating budget would increase through extended travel time.

Susan Graham, suggested that a new large glass nursery could replace several existing smaller ones, thereby freeing lands for park purposes. She estimated that this would require a capital outlay of \$2 to \$3 million. Energy efficiencies and space efficiencies would also be gained with a new greenhouse.

Mark Vulliamy distributed a document "Sunset Community Centre Needs Evaluation" prepared in 2002 by consultant Phillips-Farevaag-Smallenberg for the Park Board. The document summarized needs and requirements for the new community centre.

Rudy Roelofsen gave an overview on how the design and construction of the project will be organized and how many years approximately each phase would take.

Phil Daum expressed great satisfaction that after so many years finally there will be a new community centre sometime in 2006 which would serve an ethnically diverse, growing neighbourhood. He also suggested that Friends of Sunset Park could cooperate in the future more closely with the Sunset Community Centre Association to achieve their common goals.

In the end all parties agreed that having a new community centre in the area will be a great accomplishment for all groups involved.

In the meantime staff and the Community Centre Association Building Committee proceed with the siting and design of the new centre noting the delegations concern for a connection between the centre and the balance of Sunset Park. A second planning project would be undertaken to plan the use of the lands taken up by the current community centre.that would include consideration of linkages to the community center and other efficiencies that could be achieved on the site to maximize park space.

3. Small Buildings in Parks - Information Item

Terry Walton gave an overview on small ancillary buildings built in Vancouver parks. They are:

- Equipment storage facilities
- Scoreboxes
- Batting cages
- Washrooms and change rooms
- Concessions
- Meeting Rooms.

He explained that the Park Board provides only ancillary park facilities that are required on the site for groups who wish to access space for storage, concessions, change rooms, meetings etc. If their request is beyond Board's level of service, they are responsible for all costs as well as construction under staff supervision. Board's approval is required for new facility construction, while operation and ongoing maintenance are handled through the lease.

Any new ancillary buildings should be consistent in design with other park buildings and they should not:

- eliminate existing active or passive park functions
- dominate the overall experience of the park
- compromise the park's overall aesthetic quality.

At the end of his presentation he presented pictures of various buildings located at different parks. The Committee stated that the current guidelines should continue to be followed and any new proposals need to be approved by the Board on a case by case situation.

CONCLUSION

Commissioner Riccius thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and putting forth their ideas and comments.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.