

**Minutes of Meeting
Planning and Environment Committee**

DATE OF MEETING: November 4, 2003

ATTENDEES: **Park Board Commissioners**
Commissioner Eva Riccius, Chair
Commissioner Suzanne Anton

Park Board Staff

Piet Rutgers	Director of Planning and Operations
Jim Lowden	Director of Stanley District
Vera Sukopova	Planning and Operations (Recording Secretary)

Delegations

Derek Ginn	Viscount Systems Inc.
Debbi Lucyk	Chair, Lord Roberts Annex PAC Playground/Nelson Park Committee and Delegation (about 35)

SUBJECT: Planning and Environment Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 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. 911 Emergency Phones
3. Nelson Park Community Concerns

1. Approval of Minutes

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

2. 911 Emergency Phones

Jim Lowden gave an overview on possible use of Viscount Systems Inc. product called "Emerphone" at Stanley Park. The Emerphone has following features:

- The device is wireless, battery operated with an expected life before recharging of 30 days.
- The device is in a stainless steel enclosure to prevent damage.
- Approximate cost per unit is about \$3,500 installed, except batteries.
- A person in distress will press a button marked for an emergency.
- It will automatically call security monitoring service that connects into 911 via cell phone call on the network. System has ability to automatically repeat call in the event of initial call failure.
- The monitoring service can identify the location of the device.

Jim Lowden pointed out that there will be a monthly charge for each unit for testing, maintaining and replacing batteries (\$70/unit), and a yearly cost about \$400/unit to a security company which would monitor calls before they are transferred to 911. He suggested that Emerphones could be installed on several intersection of trails through out the park.

Derek Ginn of Viscount Systems Inc. gave an overview on his company, introduced “Emerphone” device and answered questions from the public and Commissioners.

Jim Lowden explained that it is quite difficult to know if and how many lives could be saved by having the Emerphones installed through the park. But attendees and Commissioners agreed with his opinion that if public is aware of Emerphones in the park it could deter some criminal activity. Commissioners discussed the merits, funding, and possible locations. Staff were asked to explore these three items.

3. Nelson Park Community Concerns

Jim Lowden presented an overview of Nelson Park and school history, explained today’s issues and concerns (transients, drug trade, dog off a leash program) and clarified on the Nelson Park drawing which part is owned and looked after by School Board.

Debbi Lucyk, chair of Lord Roberts Annex PAC Playground/Nelson Park Committee gave an overview on activities of the committee and on their continuous contacts with School Board and Park Board going for years. She complained on behalf of residents that the park:

- is easy target for drug dealing, vagrancy, illegal vending and loitering
- littering and other non-park uses and
- is misused by off-leash dog program.

There are two main things which committee and residents are requesting:

- A dedicated task force to work with the community groups to arrive at the best end result for the enjoyment of all in Nelson Park like:
 - S an event's coordinator be assigned to Nelson Park to include adult's and children's event programs
 - S a designated dog area (fenced and lit)
 - S having a secure public washroom.
- Funding for the wood chips in the playground to be replaced with rubber matting.

Many of the attendees echoed the same concerns and expressed hope that some positive outcome will occur from this meeting.

Representatives presented a letter addressed to Heather Deal, Chair of Vancouver Park Board, signed by 29 residents stating similar complaints as presented by Debbi Lucyk.

Commissioners, a school trustee, a Councillor, and attendees exchanged their thoughts and opinions on the future of Nelson Park. Jim Lowden suggested that the first step for the Lord Roberts Annex PAC Playground/Nelson Park Committee is to be in touch with a newly established group called Parkpartners. Staff agreed to organize the first meeting of the task force to discuss objectives and procedures.

CONCLUSION

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.