



CITY OF VANCOUVER
BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

DATE OF MEETING: April 1, 2003

ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners

Commissioner Eva Riccius, Chair
Commissioner Loretta Woodcock
Commissioner Suzanne Anton
Commissioner Allan De Genova
Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps

Park Board Staff

Liane McKenna	Director of Queen Elizabeth District
Piet Rutgers	Director of Planning & Operations
Mark Vulliamy	Manager Research & Planning, Planning & Operations
Terry Walton	Manager Recreation Services, Stanley District
Jim McKenzie	Sport Fields & Diamonds, Stanley District
Brenda Greenwood	Corporate Services (Recording Secretary)

Delegations

Ewen Cameron	Vancouver Lawn and Tennis Club
Corey Chan	Proscenium Architecture & Interiors
Marion Olivieri	Hastings Community Association
Richard Saunders	Hastings Little League
Stan Guenther	Hastings Little League
John McBryde	Vancouver Field Sports Federation - Field Hockey
Colin Metcalfe	Vancouver Field Sports Federation
David Robinson	Kerrisdale Youth Soccer
Randy Brophy	Point Grey Youth Soccer
Gary Mathews	Douglas Park Soccer Club
Jeff Malmgren	Vancouver Field Sports Federation
Lawson Greer	Dunbar Youth Soccer

SUBJECT: Planning and Environment Committee Meeting

Please report any errors or omissions to the Writer

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

Commissioner E. Riccius welcomed all to the first meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee. She informed those present that the purpose of the Committee meetings are to develop new ideas, plans and discuss various options of projects presented as Agenda items. It was also noted that the Committee can make recommendations to the Board, but it does not make decisions.

As discussed by all present, the order of Agenda items would be revised as follows:

1. Underground Parking Proposal at Granville Park
 2. Sunrise Park Baseball Diamond and Soccer Field
 3. Artificial Field Proposal
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1. Underground Parking Proposal at Granville Park

P. Rutgers gave an introduction and overview of the item.:

- Vancouver Lawn and Tennis Club wants to install an underground parking garage to be owned and operated by the Park Board;
- no policy but a precedent exists (Royal Vancouver Yacht Club);
- legally not an issue - court case - allows for underground parking; and
- need to weigh the benefits of underground parking vs. risks and costs.

E. Cameron (Vancouver Lawn and Tennis Club (VLTC)) and **C. Chan** (Proscenium Architecture & Interiors) described the background of the club and details of the proposal:

- club is now 100 years old;
- most members live within 2-3 km from facility;
- want to retain heritage character of the current building;
- new addition will be 5,000-6,000 ft² for fitness facility and 7,000 ft² for squash courts (approximately 12,000 ft² total);
- club members during summer have difficulty parking due to surrounding apartment residents taking up most of the curb-side parking as they have not allowed for spaces within the condo structures;
- approximately 50-60 spots based on development permit regulations; their own parking study shows no requirement for spots;
- no plans to expand membership at this time;
- would be agreeable to handing over the new parking area for Park Board operation;
- discussions with City Planning Department have begun;
- parking study commissioned shows when club is fully expanded on-site parking is still more than adequate; and
- parking credits to be transferred to all.

During the question and answer period, a number of topics were discussed:

- underground garage to be maintained and operated by Park Board, not VLTC;
- VLTC need to get 50-60 parking credits for the development permit and parking bylaw in order to proceed with the project;
- underground garage could help alleviate neighbourhood parking problems;
- VLTC members and guests to special events could elect to use underground garage or not;
- adding a bubble to the public tennis courts would cost \$500,000 plus an annual operating cost to the Park Board;
- possible amount of parking revenues and net operating costs now to be examined;
- VLTC could invest in bus passes for members to reduce parking requirements; and
- P. Rutgers was asked to make inquiries with City Engineering and check on potential revenues and operating costs for an underground garage at Granville Park.

2. Sunrise Park Baseball Diamond and Soccer Field

P. Rutgers provided a history of the park locating a site for baseball in Hastings-Sunrise:

- Empire Field unable to include 300 ft baseball diamond, after search for alternate site, Sunrise Park was selected;
- in 2002 neighbors were canvassed for objections - no significant objections received; and
- cost for development will be approximately \$230,000 and how to fund it - contribution from Playing Field account (\$80,000) and portion of present surplus funds from New Brighton Park (\$150,000).

R. Saunders (Hastings Little League - District 6: Fraser River to Burrard Inlet and Main Street) noted:

- east side in dire need of diamonds for junior players (13+);
- Clinton and Strathcona only available ones - not in good shape;
- opposed to taking funds from one park to another;
- 4 leagues of 70 players will be graduating to Junior League;
- fund raising efforts by surrounding community groups and leagues ongoing; and
- 50th anniversary of ball league.

M. Olivieri (Hastings Community Centre Association) relayed the following comments:

- Hastings Community Association advised Park Board of transfer of funds was unacceptable - this type of action divides the community, i.e. pitting one important issue against another;
- cost of Sunrise should have been borne by field upgrading budget, imperative that park upgrade go ahead quickly;
- Executive of Hastings Community Centre Association would be supportive if funds can be borrowed provided Community will be promised that funds will be returned through next Capital Plan;

- suggested funding be shared between field upgrade and New Brighton accounts, \$115,000 from each;
- community needs to be provided with updates about New Brighton upgrading and outstanding items accompanied by schedule; and

C. Metcalfe (Vancouver Field Sports Federation) presented his comments to the Committee:

- Vancouver Field Sports Federation (VFSF) have recommended to allocate \$80,000 in the Board's Playing Field account; and
- \$3M needed for proper upgrades for all grass fields.

There was a general question and answer period discussing the following items:

- community to be updated on status of New Brighton Concept Plan and funding;
- origin of surplus, two low bids during construction;
- some Phase I projects (i.e. picnic shelter) yet to be done, but can be done with remaining funds after contributing to baseball diamond;
- various cost-sharing formulas are possible and repayment options discussed;
- Board cannot at this time approve funding for 2006-2008 Capital Plan, but can, by Resolution, to ask staff to consider including funding in next plan; and
- future park connections between Hastings and New Brighton Park (stream, overpass, salt marsh).

Committee recommendations are:

- \$80,000 and \$150,000 to be drawn from Grass Fields and New Brighton Budget accounts respectively;
- Committee strongly endorses that the Board make consider it a priority in the next Capital Plan that \$150,000 be replaced back into the New Brighton account; and
- Committee report to be presented at next Board meeting April 28, 2003.

3. Artificial Field Briefing

Commissioner S. Anton introduced the various members of the delegation to those present.

C. Metcalfe spoke first to the group.

Colin Metcalfe (Vancouver Field Sports Federation)

Extended thanks to the Committee for the opportunity to speak about their vision.

- provided background of Federation
 - " 25 years, 42,000 members
- Federation artificial field proposal:
 - " Trillium: 1 artificial field, 1 gravel field
 - " Westside: 1 artificial field
 - " Eastside: 1 artificial field
- Trillium of particular concern in light of changes at Strathcona

Jeff Malmgren (Vancouver Field Sports Federation)

- criteria for evaluating sites;
- local demand, support from local sports groups, equal distribution and accessibility from all areas of city, proximity to schools, access from transit, environmental and social impacts, parking, potential future use;
- consensus brought to Federation as a whole, voted and approved unanimously; and
- resistance to fields when first built in communities, new community consultation process.

Randy Brophy (Point Grey Youth Soccer); **Lawson Greer** (Dunbar Youth Soccer); **Gary Mathews** (Douglas Park Soccer Club); **John McBryde** (Vancouver Field Sports Federation - Field Hockey); and **David Robinson** (Kerrisdale Youth Soccer)

The group provided background on respective clubs, and expressed their support for VFSF's proposal and offered financial support for the concept.

During the discussion period a number of points were raised:

- playfield use by sport/gender, school etc.;
- various potential site locations;
- Trillium park site acquisition;
- possible community process and public information;
- delivery timelines;
- potential community issues in siting artificial fields (i.e. noise, traffic, lights, loss of green space);
- need to develop a comprehensive planning or public involvement process with needs for fields, moving to siting; and
- Trillium must not be singled-out, but must be part of list of potential sites.

CONCLUSION

VFSF representatives and staff to work together on reducing number of potential artificial field sites to six, one site being Trillium. Develop together a community process to be applied to the shortlisted sites. Staff to report back to Board on these items.

Meeting adjourned at: 10:45 p.m.