

**Minutes of Meeting  
Planning and Environment Committee**

**DATE OF MEETING:** October 7, 2003

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

**Park Board Staff**

Piet Rutgers	Director of Planning and Operations
Jim Meschino	Project Manager, Facility Development
Greg Eng	Manager of Recreation Services, Vancouver East District
Susan Gordon	Arts & Multiculturalism, Stanley District
Vera Sukopova	Planning and Operations (Recording Secretary)

**Delegations**

Margery Duda	Save Mount Pleasant Community Centre and Pool Delegation (about 30)
Alix Mathias	Stanley Park Ecology Society
Martin Neale	Down to Earth Building Bee
Ian Marcuse	Down to Earth Building Bee

**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. Mount Pleasant Community Centre and Pool
3. Cobb House

## 1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee dated June 3 and July 17, 2003 were approved.

## 2. Mount Pleasant Community Centre and Pool

**Margery Duda** gave presentation on behalf of Save Mount Pleasant Community Centre and Pool Delegation. She presented a petition containing 1,626 signatures collected over a three-month period in support of keeping these facilities.

Their reasons are:

- Mount Pleasant Pool is used by the local community as well as day care centres, day camps, and swim clubs from around the city.
- The number of swims per year has steadily increased over the past few years.
- It is the only outdoor recreational pool in their neighbourhood and it is not clear what kind of pool and when it will be built at Riley Hillcrest.
- In the plebiscite in the 2001 election they voted in favour of council having the authority to borrow for major maintenance, upgrading, replacement or expansion of community centre facilities, ice rinks, pools and other parks and recreational facilities.

Members of the delegation supported Margery Duda and some of them explained their views why the Mount Pleasant neighbourhood needs to continue having the centre and pool. They cited following reasons:

- Both centres, #1 Kingsway Community Centre and Riley Hillcrest, will be far and difficult to reach on foot by kids, teenagers and seniors living in Mount Pleasant area west of Main Street.
- East side area has higher proportion of citizens who don't have a car or money for public transportation to reach other centres in other parts of the city.

**Mr. Piet Rutgers**, Director of Planning and Operations explained planning and economic reasons which led to decision to close the centre and pool when #1 Kingsway will be opened. He mentioned that the Mount Pleasant building and pool are about 38 years old. The pool has many mechanical and structural problems and both would need many costly repairs. The other reason is that the outdoor pool is opened only for 67 days during summer. But he also explained that the original decisions had been made by the previous Board and this Board could review those decisions.

Eva Riccius asked Piet Rutgers and staff to undertake a design and budget review of park development options for Mount Pleasant Park after the centre has moved to #1 Kingsway. Options to include greening the entire Mount Pleasant park as well as retaining the existing pool and/or a portion of the existing building.

### 3. Cob House

**Ms. Susan Gordon** gave her presentation on the cob building project which would replace the existing concession building used by the Stanley Park Ecology Society (SPES). The concession building (shed) is used for selling popcorn to visitors in the plaza of the train area and funds are used for SPES educational programming. The concession building has been planned for replacement and this project would replace the approximate square footage of the existing shed.

Cob building is a traditional hand-building technique using earth mixed with water, sand and straw and combines aspects of art and architecture. The site of the cob shelter would be on the entrance path leading from the train parking lot to the plaza.

SPES and Park Board staff have been in discussion with Down To Earth Building Bee, a group of local natural builders who teach and participate in a variety of natural building projects in B.C.

The project is planned to start in May 2004 and continue through the summer. Once completed, information on cob technology will be available at the shelter and SPES will include the shelter in ongoing educational programming. The structure planned is very attractive and, being made of natural materials, is more compatible with the Stanley Park environment than most structures.

SPES is committed to raising funds and securing in-kind resources to match funds provided by the Board and will offer financial and logistical administration for the project.

Susan Gordon is preparing a Board Report and will be asking the Park Board to approve funding of \$20,000 from the Corporate Sponsorship Funds to support this project.

**CONCLUSION**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.**