

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 09, 2004**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Anita Romaniuk
	Vice-Chair	- Loretta Woodcock
	Commissioners	- Suzanne Anton
		- Heather Deal
		- Allan De Genova
		- Eva Riccius
		- Lyndsay Poaps
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Planning & Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Liane McKenna
	Director of Vancouver East District	- Lori MacKay
	Director of Corporate Services	- Anita Ho
	Manager of Operations	- Bill Manning
	Manager of Animal Control	- Nancy Clay
	Supervisor of Queen Elizabeth District	- Mike Mackintosh
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, January 26, 2004 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Board members participated in the following events:

- Chinese New Year Celebrations
- Art and Culture Forum
- Electoral Reform Forum

Members of the public are invited to the Hastings Park / PNE Ideas Fair and the Mayor's forums on Homelessness and Police and Safety.

Board members received a framed picture of children playing golf as a token of appreciation from Muncie Booth, Chair of the Inner City Golf Program. This program provides golf lessons to children who are unable to participate in the sport. Board members thanked staff for their contribution in making the Inner City Golf Program so successful.

Finance Committee - the committee discussed the year end budget and the operating budget for next year. The next meeting will be on March 1 at 6:30 p.m. and one of the items on the agenda is the 2004 Operating Budget.

Planning and Environment Committee - the committee heard presentations from the community at Grandview Park who are interested in participating in the Park Partners program. There were also presentations from residents interested in naming the mini parks in the West End. The committee also discussed funding for Collingwood Hall. The next meeting will be on March 2, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. and the possibility of fare boxes on the Stanley Park Shuttle to collect donations for the Stanley Park Ecology Society will be discussed.

Culture and Recreation - had a joint meeting with the Finance Committee to review the Rink Policy and the Legacy Now Free Skate. The committee also heard a presentation from MoreSports and recommended a report on the pilot project and the appropriate next steps be brought to the Board. The committee also considered the possibility of a liaison Commissioner to MoreSports. The next meeting will be on March 3, 2004 at 7:00 p.m., the agenda is yet to be finalised.

City Council Report

Council will be receiving a report with regard to Dr. Sun Yat Sen DCL relief and a report on the Langara College Planning Process.

Dogs in Parks

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 27, 2004 recommending that the Board approve recommendations 1 and 2 in the report.

Staff reviewed the history of dogs in parks and the summary of the survey which reviewed the use of off-leash designated and non designated sites. The survey results showed that off-leash access is popular and through the examination of the condition of the sites, the most used locations were determined. Some of the strategies suggested was to increase the off-leash hours, add new off-leash parks, and introduce dog activity equipment at the Nat Bailey site on a trial basis.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board with regard to Dogs in Parks:

- Randy Peuder
- Celena Benndorf

- Siobhan Johnston
- Anthony Maekawa, Co-Chair, Vancouver Dog Owners' Association
- Megan Carvell Davis
- Eleanor Hadley
- Margaret Newton
- Jacqueline Faubert
- Bob Sarti, Strathcona Parks Planning Committee
- June Binkert, West South Lands Rate Payers Association
- Manfred Hagen, Everett Crowley Park Committee

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

- a proper goal is to have dog owners use only off-leash hours at designated time;
- need more enforcement;
- irresponsible to increase number of off-leash parks;
- make sound decisions, do not be pushed by minority group;
- Calgary licensing fees are lower, they have more off-leash parks;
- there are not enough off-leash parks;
- better signage required and bag dispensers should be available;
- get the licensing fee and use for park maintenance;
- hours are extremely restricted;
- need to dedicate at least 10% of the park space to dogs;
- dog owners are legitimate users and they are being ignored;
- dogs are usurping the parks from the children;
- do not want to see expansion of off-leash areas;
- need garbage cans near off leash areas;
- need enough off-lease sites near people's homes;
- support staff recommendations, progressive in looking at consultation before implementation;
- would like consultation for anything that is being planned for Trillium;
- how is an off-leash dog park compatible with artificial turf;
- increasing off-leash hours at Musqueam would harm the wildlife in the area;
- loose dogs can cause problems to the creek;
- plan an enclosure for off-leash dogs with dog activity equipment.

Board members discussed the challenges faced by park users and the Board with regard to non-compliance of the by-law in off-leash parks.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

1. THAT the Board approve the following strategies to enhance the Dog Off-Leash Program:
 - A. Extend dog off-leash hours to “all day” at the following sites: Balaclava, Musqueam, Sunset, Vanier, 37th & Oak, Locarno and Quilchena Parks after consultation with adjacent residents to determine their support.
 - B. Add Trillium, Everett Crowley and Angus Parks to the list of approved dog off-leash locations after consultation with the neighbouring community and key stakeholders to determine their support.
 - C. Undertake the following improvements:
 1. Add bag dispensers to all designated sites
 2. Introduce dog activity equipment to Nat Bailey Stadium Park site on a trial basis
 3. Include air photos on signage at all partially designated sites
 4. Install natural boundary markers at Trout Lake to identify limits of off-leash area adjacent to the bog
 - D. Encourage a range of events in communities that focus on responsible dog ownership and activities for owners and their pets.
 - E. Continue collaboration with the dog community and its many organizations.
2. THAT costs identified in this report for improvements and expansion to the Dog Off-Leash Program be considered during the 2004 Budget process.

A member of the Board requested that the motions be voted on individually. The Chair agreed to this request.

Board members considered the delegation’s concern with regard to adding Trillium on the off-leash park inventory and suggested that Trillium be removed from recommendation B.

Moved by Commissioner Poaps,

THAT Trillium be removed from recommendation B.

- Carried Unanimously.

Further amendments to the motion was put forward.

Moved by Commissioner Anton,

THAT the Board consider seeking the addition of maintenance funds for off-leash sites to the 2005 budget.

- DEFEATED.

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

Moved by Commissioner Anton,

THAT the Board consider requesting from the City a portion of the dog licensing fee for park maintenance.

- DEFEATED.

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

Moved by Commissioner Anton,

THAT the Board consider additional “all day” sites in the Vancouver East District subject to consultation as in A above.

- DEFEATED.

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

Moved by Commissioner Anton,

THAT the Board recommend to City Council that it put into place a program to ensure higher compliance with licensing requirements.

- Carried.

(Commissioner Woodcock contrary)

Moved by Commissioner Anton,

THAT where responsible dog ownership is failing, work with Animal Control to seek better enforcement of the Parks Control Bylaw, particularly in known problem sites.

- Carried.

(Commissioner Riccius contrary)

Moved by Commissioner Anton,

THAT the words “adjacent resident” in recommendation A be replaced with ‘neighbouring community’.

- Carried.

(Commissioner Riccius contrary)

Recommendation A as amended was put forward and it was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recommendation B as amended was put forward and it was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recommendation C was put forward and it was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recommendation D was put forward and it was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recommendation E was put forward and it was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Recommendation 2 was put forward and it was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

In-Camera Meeting :

Moved by Commissioner Deal

THAT the Board later this evening go into a meeting which is closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2 of the *Vancouver Charter*, to discuss matters related to paragraph:

(i) the receiving of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege,

including communications necessary for that purpose.

- Carried Unanimously.

In-camera session.

The Board reconvened the regular meeting at 11:45 p.m.

Results of the Work of the Food Policy Task Force

This report was referred from the meeting of the Board held on Monday, January 26, 2004. Staff report dated January 5, 2004 recommending that the Board receive the report for information.

Moved by Commissioner Riccius,

THAT the Board receive the report for information.

- Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner De Genova,

THAT the Board request staff to explore the possibility of planting fruit trees along streets, community gardens and parks, including suitable locations and species of fruit trees and report back to the Planning and Environment Committee.

- Carried Unanimously.

Dr. Sun Yat-Sen DCL Report

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 19, 2004 recommending that the Board endorse recommendations A and B in the attached City Council report dated January 19, 2004.

Moved by Commissioner Riccius

THAT the Board endorse recommendations A and B in the attached City Council report dated January 19, 2004.

- Carried Unanimously.

Commissioner Woodcock requested an explanation of DCL distribution to assist her when she attends the Killarney Community Centre board meeting.

Motions

Moved by Commissioner Romaniuk,

WHEREAS the federal Speech from the Throne on Feb 2, 2004 promised an increase in the GST rebated to Canadian municipalities to 100%, which is expected to total \$7 billion over the next decade; and

WHEREAS the Vancouver Park Board has an annual Operating Budget of approximately \$80 million and a 3-year voter-approved capital plan of approximately \$45 million; and

WHEREAS the Park Board is the third-largest component of the City of Vancouver's Operating Budget; and

WHEREAS the Park Board makes significant purchases of supplies, and supplies in support of its operations and capital projects, requiring a portion of its operating and capital budgets to pay the GST; and

WHEREAS the federal Throne Speech refers to assistance to municipalities for environmental, social, and infra-structural improvements, all of which are part of the mandate and responsibilities of the Park Board;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board requests that the City of Vancouver refund to the Park Board its portion of the GST rebate.

- Carried Unanimously.

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

The Chair advised the Board that Commissioner Loretta Woodcock will be the Board's representative on the Woman's Task Force.

The Chair advised the Board that the Vancouver Coastal Health Local Governance Liaison Group would like to have a Park Commissioner as part of this group.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 a.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Anita Romaniuk
Chair