

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE  
ON MONDAY, MAY 31, 2004  
AT 8:00 P.M.**

<b>PRESENT :</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>- Anita Romaniuk</b>
	<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>- Suzanne Anton</b>
		<b>- Heather Deal</b>
		<b>- Allan De Genova</b>
		<b>- Eva Riccius</b>
		<b>- Lyndsay Poaps</b>
	<b>Acting General Manager</b>	<b>- Piet Rutgers</b>
	<b>Director of Corporate Services</b>	<b>- Anita Ho</b>
	<b>Director of Vancouver East District</b>	<b>- Lori MacKay</b>
	<b>Manager of Operations -</b>	
	<b>Vancouver East District</b>	<b>- Ron Caswell</b>
	<b>Project Manager - Hastings Park / PNE</b>	<b>- Sue Harvey</b>
	<b>Manager of Communications</b>	<b>- Joyce Courtney</b>
	<b>Recorder</b>	<b>- Julie Casanova</b>

The Chair advised that Council will be having a special meeting on June 1, 2004 to hear delegations and make a decision on the future of Hastings Park /PNE. The Board called the special meeting to hear delegations and to provide Council with Park Board's preference of an option with regard to the future of Hastings Park and the PNE.

**The Future of Hastings Park: Park Restoration, the PNE and the Horse Racetrack**

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 27, 2004 recommending that the Board adopt the recommendations listed in the report.

Staff reviewed the report received by the Board with regard to the Future of Hastings Park: Park Restoration, the PNE and the Horse Racetrack and explained the rationale for the recommendations.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

1. Rolf Teveley, President, Hastings Community Association
2. Greg Antonson, PNE, CUPE 1004
3. Jim Hamm, SPEC
4. Eric Harms, Hastings Park Conservancy
5. Bruno Wall, Hastings Racetrack

6. Shane Simpson, Burrardview Neighborhood Association
7. Cheryl Kathler, Hastings Park Conservancy
8. Claudia Ferris, Stop the Slots in Hastings Park Committee
9. Rob Wiltshire
10. Patricia Coutts
11. Aaron Deans
12. Cynthia Flood
13. John Calvert
14. Doug McNicoll
15. Marion Olivieri
16. Sal Audia
17. Lara Olson
18. Fiona Gold
19. John Barrington Craig
20. Kelly Quinn

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

- support staff recommendation;
- approach 4 does not have programmable buildings;
- do not want to be in a position to not be able to access the site;
- CUPE 1004 is of the opinion that approach 4 is best for the workers;
- workers interest will not be served if Park Board manages the site;
- the Board should support approach 1 which reflects the Hastings Park Restoration Plan;
- need a continuous wider green space for a park;
- people are not using the park because it is in pieces;
- move the training of horses out to Langley;
- relocate the barns on to the oval;
- the planning process was flawed;
- should build park first rather than assume uses;
- agree to building uses with security of tenure;
- need good design team to plan the stream through the infield;
- most disappointed in public process, was rushed and manipulated;
- support moving community centre to Hastings Park;
- allow Hastings Community Centre to program in the park;
- key is governance question, Park Board should be the trustee of the park;
- create a park as a legacy for future generations;
- kids need a park they can go to without having to pay;
- will accept the PNE in a modified, but does not want Playland;
- Playland generates traffic, noise and garbage;
- do not postpone the implementation of the greening of Hastings Park;

- should consider ecological restoration by bringing back native plants;
- support approach 3 as we need to go forward with actions that can be of benefit to future generations;
- staff recommendation do not complement the Hastings Park Restoration Plan;
- Park Board need to clarify what kind of commercialism should be allowed in the buildings;
- this is a visioning process and would like to see the City and Park Board work together;
- need to strike a balance between commercial and park space;
- it is time for a change, there will still be jobs for people;
- need to provide washroom facilities for park to be used;
- do not underestimate the annual fair, it adds to the economy of the community;
- need a park which can be enjoyed;
- the Sanctuary is green space that must be preserved;
- need to define the commercial uses to see whether they will be suitable for the park;
- Playland provides a lot of jobs for youth;
- need to come up with more creative solution for Playland;
- reduce the duration of play land, only have it around the fair time;
- need to think of the whole thing as a park, Park Board should responsible for the green space and the buildings;
- a lot of times the park is not available to the public, need a park which is available to everyone all the time;
- Hastings Race Course is willing to open up the infield;
- support vision 3 or 4, jobs are what drive the people and the economy;
- locate slots at a non-residential site.

Board members thanked the delegations and acknowledged the work that went into the preparation of the restoration plan. The plan was developed based on the PNE moving to an alternate location. However, as the PNE is now part of the City, the Board need to work on a plan that will strike a balance between commercial and park uses.

Moved by Commissioner Riccius,

THAT the Board:

1. reaffirm its support for the restoration of Hastings Park into a major park serving residents in the north-east district of the city.

2. endorse Approach 3 as the basis for more detailed planning for Hastings Park, as long as:
  - a) the stream and park connection to New Brighton Park are located between the racetrack oval and the horse barns, generally as shown in the 1997 Hastings Park Restoration Plan; and
  - b) Hastings Community Centre is relocated on site in an existing building.
3. request that Council appoint a staff project team, with co-leads from City and Park Board, to develop detailed design, phasing and funding plans.
4. request that Council place portions of restored park land at Hastings Park under the “custody, care and management” of the Park Board, as permitted under Section 488.3 of the Vancouver Charter.

Some of the Board members suggested that point 3 and 4 be included as part of point 2 in the motion to strengthen the message. One of the member of the Board did not agree that items 3 and 4 should become sub-paragraphs under item 2 because it will hide the power of governance.

Moved by Commissioner Riccius,

**THAT item 3 and 4 in the motion be included as ‘c’ and ‘d’ under item 2.**

**- Carried.**

(Commissioner Anton contrary)

Moved by Commissioner Anton,

THAT “and in the city as a whole” be added to the end of the sentence in item 1 .

**- DEFEATED.**

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

Moved by Commissioner Deal,

**THAT item 3 be added to the motion as follows:**

- 3. Support the greening of a minimum of 10 acres of Hastings Park as a short term priority.**

**- Carried Unanimously.**

Moved by Commissioner Poaps,

**THAT the words “portions of” in item 4 be replaced with the word “the”.**

**- Carried Unanimously.**

Moved by Commissioner Anton,

**THAT the words “existing building” be deleted from sub-para b under item 2.**

**- DEFEATED.**

(Commissioner Deal, De Genova, Riccius, Romaniuk and Poaps contrary)

The amended motion was put forward as follows :

**THAT the Board:**

- 4. Re-affirm its support for the restoration of Hastings Park into a major park serving residents in the north-east district of the city.**
- 5. Endorse Approach 3 as the basis for more detailed planning for Hastings Park, as long as:**
  - a) the stream and park connection to New Brighton Park are located between the racetrack oval and the horse barns, generally as shown in the 1997 Hastings Park Restoration Plan;**

- b) **Hastings Community Centre is relocated on site in an existing building;**
  - c) **Council appoints a staff project team, with co-leads from City and Park Board, to develop detailed design, phasing and funding plans;**
  - d) **Council places the restored park land at Hastings Park under the “custody, care and management” of the Park Board, as permitted under Section 488.3 of the Vancouver Charter.**
- 3) **Support the greening of a minimum of 10 acres of Hastings Park as a short term priority.**

**- Carried Unanimously.**

**Motion**

Moved by Commissioner Riccius,

**WHEREAS:**

- a. The Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), through its annual Community Excellence Awards Program, provides an opportunity to showcase municipalities and regional boards who, through their business and customer service practices, display excellence in local government and create successful pathways for others to follow;
- b. One of the awards categories is “Best Practices” and “web site design “ is included in that category;
- c. The Park Board has created and managed its own web site to provide public information about its meetings, policies, programs, parks and services since 1997;
- d. The Park Board web site is the most popular, comprehensive and accessible source for the public seeking information about Vancouver’s parks and recreation system;

- e. Park Board staff have, over the past year and a half, undertaken the major task of reviewing, reorganizing and redesigning its web site;
- f. The web site's innovative use of technology, intuitive navigational elements and comprehensive content; its added new menus and links for improved accessibility and feedback; its clean, contemporary design; and its dynamic home page photo "feature" boxes of upcoming events, news and features that are updated weekly set a high standard for local governments;
- g. The Mayor of Vancouver has provided written endorsement of a Park Board submission in the UBCM's Community Excellence Awards Competition for 2004 for its web site redesign;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT :**

- A) This Board endorse the submission of an application for a UBCM Community Excellence Awards–Best Practices for its redesigned web site;**
- B) This Board respectfully request the UBCM's acceptance of this application by June 4, 2004.**

- Carried Unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40p.m.

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Piet Rutgers  
Acting General Manager

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Commissioner Anita Romaniuk  
Chair