

Minutes of Meeting
Culture and Recreation Committee, Vancouver Park Board
2099 Beach Avenue, Vancouver

DATE OF MEETING: July 7, 2004

ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners

Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps
Commissioner Anita Romaniuk

Park Board Staff

Liane McKenna	Director of Queen Elizabeth District
Terry Walton	Manager of Recreation Services
Susan Gordon	Coordinator Arts and Culture
Barbara Joughin	Recorder of Minutes

Delegations

Pascal Roussel	
Barrie Mowatt	Buschlen Mowatt Galleries
Winnie Esperson	Buschlen Mowatt Galleries

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. There were insufficient Committee members present to make recommendations to the Board from this meeting.

1. Request for Horizontal Climbing Opportunities:

Liane McKenna introduced Pascal Roussel, who gave a presentation to the Committee about horizontal climbing. He described the different kinds of climbing: rock climbing (requires special equipment), bouldering (requires a mat and a spotter), artificial structures (in gyms, with a partner, harness and rope) and climbing boulders. The Committee learned that climbing is a growing sport, and bouldering is emerging as a popular subset, especially with youth. Access to training structures and opportunities for climbing in Vancouver are limited to one gym in East Vancouver and one climbing boulder in Riley Park. The delegation identified climbing boulders as the best climbing structure option to develop, with horizontal bouldering walls a cheap but efficient alternative. Horizontal bouldering walls are created by attaching artificial holds onto an existing wall, and arranging a proper landing area. The delegation requested that the Park Board consider installing horizontal climbing structures on existing walls, and suggested Mt. Pleasant Community Centre and Riley Park as possible locations.

Staff explained that the popularity of horizontal climbing is increasing as people realize that height is not required for an enjoyable climbing experience. However, it is essential to ensure that a base is built to proper standards. The base is the most expensive item in the proposal, which along with holds and anti-theft bolts projects a cost of about \$6000 for a 100' x 9' climbing wall.

A Committee member would like to see a comparison between the cost of retrofitting existing walls and building new structures.

Action:

Staff will continue to work with the delegation to identify retrofit opportunities and potential new opportunities as facilities are developed.

2. Buschlen Mowatt Proposal - 10 Year Program of Temporary Art Installations:

Susan Gordon introduced “Open Spaces”, a proposal from the Buschlen Mowatt Gallery for a 10-year series of temporary sculpture exhibits on Park Board parks and beaches. Buschlen Mowatt Galleries curated a previous series of temporary sculpture exhibits in Vancouver parks. The non-profit Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale has a mandate to create a biannual international sculpture ‘festival’ in Vancouver, and is requesting that the Park Board approve extending the previous project parameters to five 18 month sessions in more parks throughout the city, including New Brighton, CRAB, Vanier, Spanish Banks, English Bay, David Lam, Harbour Green, and Sunset Beach Parks. The organizer wants to create a strong educational component by partnering with educational institutions, developing curriculum for K - 12, and providing different educational opportunities to all ages.

In addition to installing artwork on parkland, the organizers are asking for permission to develop and acknowledge sponsorships, market and promote the project internationally, and host special events. The organizer has also requested that the Park Board share the cost of bringing electrical service to installation sites. Staff said that previous exhibits were very popular, and the opportunity to experience work by some of the best sculptors in the world drew many people into parks. While generally supportive of the proposal, staff are unable to recommend that the Board approve the organizer’s request for exclusive use of parks, or for Park Board contributions toward project costs. Staff are recommending that each exhibit be formally reviewed before beginning the next, that Directors approve installations in their Districts, and that technical reviews be conducted at each installation site.

Conclusion:

This item will be presented at the Board meeting on July 19, 2004.

3. Cardero Park - Donation of Sculpture by the Chilean Consulate:

Susan Gordon told the Committee that the Chilean Consul General and the Chilean community in Vancouver have asked the Park Board to accept a sculpture by Chilean artist Raul Eberhart to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Pablo Neruda, a renowned Chilean poet and diplomat. It is proposed that this public art work be permanently installed at the south end of Cardero Park, in an area of the park that is designed for the installation of public art.

The City does not have formal guidelines to consider gifts of state, and the donors have requested that a standard technical review and public consultation process be undertaken. Staff informed the Committee that technical reviews of the art and the site have been satisfactorily completed,

that the public consultation process has begun, and that the results of the consultation will be compiled and presented at the July 19th Board meeting. Staff are recommending that the Board accept the donation of the sculpture, “Neruda’s Papers”.

Conclusion:

This item will be presented at the Board meeting on July 19, 2004.

4. David Lam Park - Donation of Heron Sculpture:

Susan Gordon informed the Committee that a public art installation of a heron sculpture that was approved for Coopers Park has been moved to David Lam Park. The original proposal was for installation on top of the gazebo in Coopers Park, but the piece has developed beyond the site, and the alternate site was selected. An anonymous donor has offered to sponsor the entire cost of the project, and would like to proceed quickly with the installation. The sculpture is by artist Doug Taylor.

Staff said that due process was completed for Coopers Park, and that there is a sign up at the new site to inform the public. There is presently no community at the new site, which is in an undeveloped area, and the sculpture will become part of the view for those who eventually become residents.

Staff informed the Committee that the Park Board can receive funds without approval from the Board, and that they will send an information report to the Board as an update about the change in location of this public art work.

5. Approval of June 9, 2004 Minutes:

Approval of the minutes of the June 9, 2004 Culture and Recreation Committee meeting was deferred to the next Culture and Recreation Committee meeting due to insufficient Committee members at this meeting.

6. Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm. The next Culture and Recreation Committee meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2004, at 7:00 pm.

Possible agenda items include:

- Approval of the minutes from June 9, 2004 meeting
- Approval of the minutes from July 7, 2004 meeting
- Kids Around the World
- Canada Day Car Free