

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

DATE OF MEETING: November 3, 2004

ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners
Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps
Commissioner Eva Riccius
Commissioner Suzanne Anton

Park Board Staff

Liane McKenna	Director of Queen Elizabeth District
Jim Lowden	Director of Stanley District
Lori MacKay	Director of Vancouver East
Greg Eng	Manager of Recreation Services, Vancouver East District
Margaret Watts	Supervisor of Recreation Services, Roundhouse
Harvey Eng	Recreation Coordinator, Vancouver East
Barbara Joughin	Recorder of Minutes

Delegations

Jack Volrich	CPR – 374 Pavilion
Howard Biehl	CPR – 374 Pavilion
Bernie Tully	CPR – 374 Pavilion
Walter Pruden	CPR – 374 Pavilion
Bob Gilson	MoreSports
Dick Woldring	Moresports

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

1. Approval of October 6, 2004 Minutes:

The minutes of the Culture and Recreation Committee (the Committee) meeting of October 6, 2004 were not reviewed as there was not a quorum of the Committee present.

2. Joint Operating Agreement Update:

On behalf of the Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) Taskforce, Lori MacKay gave the Committee a brief update on JOA activities since their attendance at the June 9, 2004 Culture and Recreation Committee meeting. The final report will be presented to the Board at the November 29, 2004 regular Board meeting at Renfrew Community Centre, and the Board will be asked to receive it for information. Partners and stakeholders will be invited to attend this meeting and copies of the final report will be available at this time. It will also be mailed out after the meeting, and will be available electronically. The February 2, 2005 Culture and Recreation Committee meeting will be dedicated to the JOA Final Report, and partners, stakeholders, and the public will be invited to attend to speak to the topic at that time.

3. Engine374 Station Society:

Jim Lowden introduced Jack Volrich, Chairman of the 374 Station Society (the Society), who requested a meeting with the Board to discuss their concerns and proposals for the future.

Delegations:

Jack Volrich gave the Committee a brief history of the CPR Engine 374 and the building that houses it at the Roundhouse Community Centre. He identified several matters of concern related to maintenance, heating, volunteerism, and emphasized the need for an agreement between the Society and the Park Board. He told the Committee that:

- the Society does not have adequate funds to deal with matters requested by the Board
- public access to pavilion is limited by weather and is not year round
- there is inadequate heating in the Pavilion for volunteers
- open screening on upper windows create continuous dust deposits on the engine
- there are currently only six volunteers to greet and inform 100-300 visitors each weekend

Walter Pruden outlined yearly engine maintenance requirements for CPR 374. He said that they are concerned about not having enough volunteers to perform the maintenance procedures for the engine.

Jim Lowden noted that an agreement between the Society, the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Society, and the Vancouver Park Board dated December 17, 2003 was signed by members of the Society. He said that on the advice of metallurgists, the building was constructed with an open design in order to properly store the engine, and he noted that an electric radiant heater would be installed at the interpretive counter when funds become available. Margaret Watts recalled the extensive negotiations between the three signatories that were undertaken to ensure all issues were addressed, and invited the Society to meet with her to discuss specific issues related to maintenance of the Pavilion. She thanked the Society for its excellent volunteers and said that the Roundhouse would like to support its volunteers. The Chair of the Committee asked members of the Society if they were willing to meet with Park Board and Roundhouse staff to discuss their concerns in more detail.

Action:

Staff will meet with the 374 Station Society and report back to the Culture and Recreation Committee.

4. MoreSports Update:

At the February 4, 2004 Culture and Recreation Committee meeting, staff were asked to report back to the Committee on the MoreSports program, including long term sustainability of the program and assignment of a Commissioner liaison. Greg Eng told the Committee that staff is recommending that a Commissioner liaison be considered after MoreSports completes the development of an organizational structure. Greg also talked about current Park Board staff involvement with the program, and identified the importance of ongoing Board support and long term funding to ensure critical sustainability of service. He told the Committee that involvement with this program is changing the way staff are working in low-income communities from a more traditional service delivery model to one with a focus on building community capacity, by using a hub model of delivery in collaboration with other agencies. He commented that District staff has some ability to deploy resources and reassign work areas to deliver priority services.

Harvey Eng gave an update about the program, and reported on the spending of the recent \$40,000 Park Board Sponsorship Funds to MoreSports.

Delegations:

- Bob Gilson gave a history of the development of the MoreSports partnership initiative, and

talked about its importance as a preventative program that diverts school aged children off the street into safe sports programs. He identified two valuable qualities of the program – its preventative aspect, and that its capacity building elements facilitate a move toward a community participation model of service delivery. He told the Committee that the MoreSports program is transferable, and that there is recognition of its value and growing interest from other communities.

- Dick Woldring summarized the different elements of the information package presented to the Committee, and explained that his role with MoreSports is to identify and define core partnerships and opportunities for funding development. He said that the Vancouver School Board, the Park Board and Sports BC are core partners in MoreSports, and that although there are no Park Board funds committed to the program at this time, the Park Board's ongoing collaboration is critical to the program's success.

Committee members emphasized the importance of organizational development, and noted that the process of framing an operational plan and organizational structure will help define the core partnerships and possible long term sustainability models. The Committee asked Park Board staff how they are affected by the demands of running a successful program, and staff explained that working within a more decentralized model is a new way of doing business which involves the stress of new learning as well as the benefits of new opportunities.

Conclusion:

The Committee congratulated Park Board and MoreSports staff on the success of the program, and asked for an update when organizational development has advanced sufficiently to facilitate the discussion of partnership roles.

5. Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next Culture and Recreation Committee meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2004, at 7:00 pm.