

**Minutes of Meeting  
Finance Committee, Vancouver Park Board  
2099 Beach Avenue, Vancouver**

**DATE OF MEETING:** March 1, 2004

**ATTENDEES:**     **Park Board Commissioners**  
Commissioner Anita Romaniuk  
Commissioner Eva Riccius  
Commissioner Heather Deal  
Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps

**Park Board Staff**

Susan Mundick	General Manager
Piet Rutgers	Director of Planning and Operations
Liane McKenna	Director of Queen Elizabeth District
Lori MacKay	Director of Vancouver East District
Anita Ho	Director of Corporate Services
Terry Walton	Manager of Recreation Services, Stanley District
Diane Murphy	Manager of Recreation Services, Queen E. District
Barbara Joughin	Recorder of Minutes

**Delegations**

Ann Livingston     Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU)

**REGRETS:**     Commissiioner Loretta Woodcock

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

The Agenda was presented as follows:

Delegation - Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU)

- Review of the Minutes of February 2, 2004
- Rink Rental Rate Changes
- 2004 Capital Budget
- 2004 Operating Budget

**Delegation** - Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU)

Ann Livingston from VANDU spoke about the lack of night access to washroom facilities in the Oppenheimer Park area, and the associated acute health problems. VANDU wants to develop a proposal to keep the washrooms open overnight in Oppenheimer Park using volunteers, and would like to request from the Board:

- access to the unoccupied caretaker suite on a short term basis for washroom volunteers
- funding for some of VANDU's volunteer coordination costs

Discussion:

- there are security issues for staff and volunteers
- supervision is essential
- careful consideration be given to the role of the Park Board
- use of volunteers may cause concern for the union
- bachelor suite design is not suitable for public use or access

Action:

Lori MacKay is currently working on washroom hours, and will review options for use of the bachelor suite in Oppenheimer Park. Lori will meet with Ann Livingston to discuss VANDU's partnership proposal, and the matter will be returned to the Finance Committee for further consideration.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Finance Committee of February 2, 2004 were adopted as presented (moved by C. Deal, seconded by C. Poaps, all in favour).

**2. Rink Rental Rate Changes:**

Terry Walton presented the Ice Allocation Policy - Financial Sustainability Report, and reviewed the Ice Allocation Task Force's financial analysis, which included:

- assessing the achievability of the \$1,500,000 revenue target
- review of current fees and charges schedules for rinks
- review of best financial practices from other cities
- identifying and evaluating possible revenue generation options

The Task Force reached consensus on the following recommendations:

- increase the minor sport rate by 15% over a 2 year period
- introduce a new children/youth rate at 50% of the adult rate for private youth rentals, sports camps and minor sport ice rentals
- eliminate the discounted rate for adult participants
- roll back by one hour the designation for prime time

A rink stakeholders consultation meeting on February 10, 2004 at Riley Park Community Centre reviewed the Task Force's financial recommendations, and indicated general support for the recommendations. Analysis of the financial implications of implementing the recommendations listed above show that the revenue target of \$1,500,000 is achievable. The recommendations are in line with Board policies and current financial practices in the Lower Mainland, and the proposed fee structure should be financially sustainable for user groups and the Park Board. With Board approval, implementation could begin September 1, 2004.

Discussion:

- integrate process with other initiatives (Killarney, Hastings Park, UBC) to determine how many arenas the city needs and where will they be located

- reluctance to raise fees but recognition of need, rationale and process
- ensure economic assistance is available to adults as well as youth
- include requirement to report back in one year to evaluate and adjust

Recommendation:

The Finance Committee reviewed the Ice Allocation Policy - Financial Sustainability Report, and recommends that the Board accept Recommendations 1 - 4.

Terry Walton will prepare further information on minor sport rates.

**3. 2004 Capital Budget:**

Piet Rutgers presented the 2004 Capital Budget for facilities and parks:

- 2003 project review - noteworthy items (Queen Elizabeth Park, major pool / rink maintenance); project spending generally followed allocation for the year
- 2004 planning and implementation - in line with the 3 year plan; priorities (Killarney Pool, Sunset Community Centre, synthetic turf playing fields, Stanley Park Seawall)
- 2005 projects - Sunset and Mt. Pleasant Community Centres, Malkin Bowl, Hastings Park, general facility and park improvements

Discussion:

- asphalt repair at Devonian Harbour Park is urgently required
- current staff process of closing out projects and accounts will identify completed projects that were underspent
- about 70% of the 3 Year Capital Plan will be spent by the end of 2004

Action:

The 2004 Capital Budget will be brought to the Vancouver Park Board on March 23, 2004, and will be forwarded to the City of Vancouver for City Council's approval in April 2004.

**4. 2004 Operating Budget:**

- a) Anita Ho presented the City Report "2004 Operating Budget - Interim Estimates", and explained the different taxation options that Council will consider and the implications for the Park Board. A tax rate increase of 2.68% would involve minimal change to the Park Board budget and programs. City Council will consider the matter on March 9, 2004 in terms of the impact on property tax rates, and on departmental budgets and programs (including the Park Board).

Recommendation:

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board receive for information the City 2004 Operating Budget Interim Estimates Report.

The committee suggested that the Board consider a motion to Council to signify the Board's preferences on the budget adjustments outlined in Part (b) of the recommendations in the Council report.

b) **Budget Priorities:**

The Finance Committee reviewed the budget priorities as identified and discussed each item with staff.

Action:

Anita Ho will chart costs associated with this evening's discussion for presentation to the Finance Committee on March 15, 2004.

**5. Next Meeting:**

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2004, at 6:30 pm, in the Board Room at 2099 Beach Avenue. This meeting has been moved forward to review and resolve the 2004 Operating Budget following Council's decision.

The agenda will include:

1. 2004 Operating Budget
2. Ethical Purchasing

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35.