

**Minutes of Meeting
Planning and Environment Committee**

DATE OF MEETING: February 3, 2004

ATTENDEES:

Park Board Commissioners

Commissioner Eva Riccius, Chair
Commissioner Suzanne Anton
Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps (part)
Commissioner Loretta Woodcock

Park Board Staff

Piet Rutgers	Director, Planning and Operations
Jim Lowden	Director, Stanley District
Lori MacKay	Director, Vancouver East District
Kate Davis-Johnson	Manager, Park Development
Bob Trydal	Manager of Operations, Stanley District
Vera Sukopova	Planning and Operations (Recording Secretary)

Delegations

Daryl Nelson	West End Mini Parks
Tracey Barker	Eastside Family Place
Katherine Yim	Evergreen Tai Chi Club
Gertie Siveatson	Collingwood Community Assoc.

SUBJECT: Planning and Environment Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Eva Riccius welcomed all to the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee and the Commissioners introduced themselves.

The Agenda was presented as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting from January 13, 2004 and amendment of Minutes of Meeting from December 2, 2003
2. Naming of West End Mini Parks
3. Grandview Park and Playground
4. Collingwood Hall
5. Recycling in Stanley Park

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee dated January 13, 2004 were approved.

The minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee dated December 2, 2003 were amended.

2. Naming of West End Mini Parks

Daryl Nelson presented an overview on development of mini-parks in the West End. He stated that they were developed approximately 20 years ago on city land as part of a traffic management scheme and also to provide additional park space in high density area. About 15 years ago he approached the City of Vancouver Engineering Department with suggestion that these mini-parks be named, but at that time his request was not accepted for various reasons. He is now suggesting that a formal request from the Vancouver Park Board be made.

Piet Rutgers explained that only the City Council is authorized to name the parks, not the Vancouver Park Board. **Eva Riccius** asked Piet Rutgers to prepare a letter, on behalf of the Vancouver Park Board, asking the Council to name the mini-parks and to permit the Vancouver Park Board to take a leading role in the naming process. Daryl Nelson offered to help to gather public input in the form of suggestions and maybe creating a citizen's committee to make recommendations.

3. Grandview Park and Playground

Tracey Barker explained that Eastside Family Place Society is a support and resource center for parents and their children up to age six years. Its location is on the North side of Grandview Park. They depend on the park to provide a safe and welcoming entrance to the centre. They feel that park conditions have deteriorated for children and other park users. They request that Park Board add resources and innovative thinking into this city park to bring it up to city standards. Specifically they ask for:

- Playground lighting
- Replacement of the playground sand with a more suitable material
- Low fencing around the playground to prevent dogs entering the area
- More often garbage collection

Lori MacKay acknowledged that community is very engaged and that many individuals are in touch with her staff. She explained the type and level of maintenance that is provided on an ongoing basis. She agreed that volunteer's help with certain tasks like garbage pick up. She is also aware that the turf areas are worn from heavy use and needs a lot of work **Eva Riccius** suggested that Eastside Family Place Society stay in touch with Lori and initiate a "Park Partners" program to address park management and future improvements.

4. Collingwood Hall

Lori MacKay gave overview on Collingwood Hall. She explained that the building is about 52 years old and is situated on the east side of Killarney Park in the 6200 block of Kerr Street. The Hall is operated by the Collingwood Neighbourhood Association Society. The Society is responsible for programming. The users of the Hall are:

- Evergreen Tai Chi Club
- Weight Watchers
- South Vancouver Seniors Network Bingo
- Killarney Soccer Association
- Playground Program

Recently the Hall has sustained considerable water damage due to a water pipe breaking. The building is closed to the public and the closure is affecting programs operated by the Society. Staff at Killarney Centre is working to relocate programs to Killarney, Champlain Centres and the South Van Senior Centre and so far all programs were relocated on temporary basis. Some groups are happy with relocation and some are not.

The estimate to do the minimum work is about \$5,000 and that would probably restore the building to the same condition as before the incident. Collingwood Hall is a non-conforming building which is encroaching on city street right-of-way and has been identified for demolition since the 1960's for many years. No major maintenance has been done on the building as a result of the encroachment and it has deteriorated to a poor condition. Because of its poor condition and the fact that the hall was slated for demolition many years ago, staff recommend to close the building permanently and relocate existing programs to other local centres on a permanent basis.

In recent days a number of options have been discussed. Two options were brought forward by staff:

1. The Society would commit to \$5,000 for minimum repairs and agree with the plan to close the building in June 2004. The existing programs would have to be relocated to other local centres on a temporary basis until the maintenance work is complete.
2. Permanent closure of the facility immediately with support from Park Board staff to relocate programs. **Gerties Sievatson** will contact the Society' Executive Board immediately to explore this option. **Lori MacKay** will meet with Collingwood Society and explore long term relocation of programs and permanent closure of the facility.

Katherine Yim gave an overview on Evergreen Tai Chi Club and how members are affected by the sudden closure of the Collingwood Hall. Members used the Hall 7 days a week in the morning and they were allowed to use it free of charge. On temporary basis, they have moved to room 203 at the Killarney Centre until end of March, again free of charge. But in the future the Killarney Community Centre Association Program Society will be reviewing space used by all groups and a potential barrier could be cost if a rental fee is charged.

She also explained that the group has 47 members with many on waiting list. On behalf of all club members she expressed a wish to have a space on permanent basis nearby because most members are elderly who do not drive but they want to participate in the program because it is beneficial to their health and wellbeing.

5. Recycling in Stanley Park

Bob Trydal gave an overview on a pilot recycling program introduced in Stanley Park in summer 2003. There are 12 blue recycling bins located close to concession stands that were checked regularly for their contents. Most other municipalities in the region do not offer recycling programs in their parks. Results of this program are mixed because binners take most of recyclable items from the blue bins and regular garbage and what is left in the blue bin is just garbage. Since the Board is committed to recycling Stanley District will continue with this program which costs about \$2,000 a year.

CONCLUSION

Commissioner Riccius thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and putting forth their ideas and comments.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.