

Minutes of Meeting
Planning and Environment Committee, Vancouver Park Board
2099 Beach Avenue, Vancouver

DATE OF MEETING: October 5, 2004

ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners
Commissioner Eva Riccius
Commissioner Suzanne Anton
Commissioner Loretta Woodcock
Commissioner Heather Deal
Commissioner Allan De Genova

Park Board Staff

Piet Rutgers	Director of Planning and Operations
Lori MacKay	Director of Vancouver East District
Mark Vulliamy	Manager of Research and Planning
Joyce Courtney	Manager of Communications
Barbara Joughin	Recorder of Minutes

Delegations

Jeff Malmgren	Vancouver Ultimate League
Guy Bonnefoy	School District 93 – Conseil Scolaire Francophone
Shaugn Schwarz	Evergreen
Steven Lloyd	Everett Crowley Park Committee

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm, with the following Agenda:

1. Ultimate / French School Proposal
2. 8th and Fraser Parksite Naming
3. Everett Crowley Management Plan
4. Capital Planning Process
5. Approval of Minutes of Meeting September 23, 2004

1. Ultimate / French School Proposal:

Piet Rutgers explained that the Vancouver Ultimate League previously approached the Park Board about use of park land at 37th and Oak for the development of ultimate playing fields, and that they were encouraged to research and review additional potential sites in Vancouver. He introduced the delegates to the Committee.

Delegations:

- Jeff Malmgren from the Vancouver Ultimate League (VUL) told the Committee that they have a Memorandum of Agreement with School District 93 to pursue a joint field development plan. After researching many potential sites, VUL is focusing on this site as most desirable for a home for Ultimate in Vancouver due to its size, location and accessibility. Park Board staff was asked to develop recommendations on the use of park land at 37th and Oak for the Board's consideration.
- Guy Bonnefoy from School District 93 (SD 93) gave the Committee an introduction to the Conseil Scolaire Francophone (a French public school district) and their effects to locate school sites in Vancouver. He explained that they are currently undertaking a feasibility

study for the construction of a secondary school at their Oakridge site near 37th and Oak, and requested an opportunity to work with Park Board planners to develop a field plan that is advantageous for all. He noted that as school sites are developed, SD 93 can provide space for community use in schools.

Discussion:

- The Committee was informed that two Ultimate fields are equivalent to one soccer field, and that VUL would like to have five Ultimate fields developed at this site.
- A member of the Committee highlighted the importance of developing this concept within the context of an overall plan for the park land located at 37th and Oak.
- Staff advised the Committee that other groups will have competing objectives for the development and use of this site, and recommended that a public planning process be implemented to identify interested parties and issues. Members of the Committee recognized that there are natural values as well as a splendid view to be considered in the overall design.
- The delegations noted that they are hoping to serve a wider community than their own. However, the Ministry of Education has approved SD 93's Capital Plan for a secondary school at the Oakridge site, and SD 93 is now developing plans in order to start construction of their secondary school in 2005. They request that the consultation process occur within the next six months.
- The results of the tree survey were summarized by Jeff Malmgren and a member of the Committee asked to receive that report.

Next Steps:

The Committee asked staff to design a public consultation process for the development of park land at 37th and Oak, and to explore partnership options with Vancouver Ultimate League and School District 93.

2. 8th and Fraser Parksite Naming:

Joyce Courtney reviewed the outreach process that was implemented for the naming of the recently completed park at 8th and Fraser. A list of five names was presented to the Committee that were shortlisted for consideration from the 197 suggestions that were received. They include: Scott Park, Sahilli Park, Suffragette Park, Harry Rankin Park, and Rowe Holland Park.

The Committee discussed the value of providing explanatory signage about park names and asked staff to provide the Board with more information about the names "Suffragette" and "Sahilli".

Next Steps:

Staff will distribute the list of names to all Commissioners. The Chair of the Committee asked that Commissioners select and put forward three names from the list by email, and she will develop a shortlist for consideration by the Board.

3. Everett Crowley Management Plan:

Dana Walker, lead staff for the project, was unable to attend the meeting and in his absence Mark Vulliamy gave the Committee an update on the development of the Everett Crowley Management Plan, which is currently being reviewed by community partners in draft form. The draft plan incorporates key community responses from the consultation process (enhance and maintain naturalness; support dog off-leash activities; and increase volunteer opportunities for invasion control and restoration), and identifies several management priorities, including habitat

restoration, community involvement and education, and resolution of the conflict between the service/storage area and public access.

Lori MacKay gave the Committee information about how the Park Board uses the service and material storage areas in the park, and showed slides of the recent addition of inventory along the service road. She explained that the site is used on a regular basis as a storage area for compost, leaf, aggregate and topsoil inventories for Queen Elizabeth and Vancouver East Districts. The recent influx of topsoil came from three known sources and was placed on top of the old materials, which were received a year ago. The new inventories, worth about \$35,000, were received and transported for free, and should meet District requirements for the next year. A direct benefit to Everett Crowley Park is on site storage of topsoil and trail top dressing material. Lori described the scope of tree damage (five trees with soil banked too close, some trunk scrapes) and told the Committee that the contractor will come back as soon as weather permits to pull back and flatten the piles as necessary. She emphasized that there is still clear pedestrian and vehicular access along the road.

Delegations:

Shaugh Schwarz said that the community was surprised by the volume of new materials because inventory levels had been low, and there were no signs posted to explain what was occurring. He noted that there was a need to be sensitive because the area used to be a dump and the recent dumping activity worried people. He told the Committee that the planning process was working well and that the community will prepare a detailed habitat restoration plan that they would like to see implemented by volunteer groups.

Steven Lloyd told the Committee that he had received many calls from the community about the amount and type of material recently deposited along the service road, and that people were dismayed and angry. He said that people thought the storage area was becoming naturalized, were concerned about tree damage and the height of the piles, and that there was a rise in distrust and fear as a result of the lack of communication.

Discussion:

- Staff told the Committee that the timing of the situation was unfortunate as there was fear about the Park Board motives, and some public perception that the recent influx of materials was a case of last minute dumping before the Management Plan is finalized. The Committee discussed the importance of communication, and how it could include notification of movement of materials and a clear definition of what may be stored.
- Staff told the Committee that the Park Board needs to store materials in parks but usually does so in areas without public access. In Everett Crowley Park, there is a service road adjacent to a storage area that is used by the public to enter the park, and as a result, people are exposed to the daily operations of a park. It is part of the Park Board's environmental plan to handle materials locally, and this practice will continue at Everett Crowley Park. The conflict between service (heavy machinery) and public (pedestrian) usage has been identified by the Steering Committee, and prioritized by the events of the past week. The preferred solution is to create an alternative access point by moving the main entrance and building a new path from a different corner of the parking lot.
- The group talked about the function and purpose of the management plan. It is a reference document for the park as a whole that describes a long term restoration process in the context of five distinct habitat groups. Its purpose is to ensure that all stewardship initiatives support long term sustainability, and the document will guide volunteers who are organizing

programs to maintain and restore habitat and address the problem of invasive plant species.

Conclusion:

The Chair thanked the delegations for bringing their comments and concerns to the Committee. Staff were asked to ensure that communication with the community is addressed in the Management Plan, including notification of materials transport and clear definitions of what will be stored. Revisions to the draft plan will be made within the next month, followed by a community consultation process, and the development of a final plan to be presented to the Board in late 2004.

4. Capital Planning Process:

Mark Vulliamy gave the Committee an introduction to the process of developing the Park Board's Capital Plan for the next three year cycle (2006-2008). He explained that in recent years, Park Board planning has been placed in a longer term context, and includes such long range elements as the Community Centre Renewal Plan, Playing Field Renewal Plan, and the Aquatic Services Renewal Report. Items that will impact on next capital plan are the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, neighbourhood park and facilities renewal, life cycle infrastructure upgrades, and land acquisition. Staff noted that it is a challenge for all involved to prioritize the long list of requests and ideas to fit within the City's funding envelop, while managing constituent needs and expectations. Staff highlighted the importance of ensuring that submissions are made within the framework of the long range thinking and planning that have already occurred.

Staff described the City and Park Board timelines and key items that lead to the approval of the new Capital Plan. The Park Board will invite proposals, review and prioritize what is received, undertake an extensive public process, and finalize the Capital Plan for Board approval, which will then go to Council for approval prior to being submitted to a plebiscite vote in the 2005 municipal election.

Next steps:

Staff will develop and distribute user friendly submission forms, and will request that submissions be aligned with long term planning objectives.

5. Approval of September 23, 2004 Minutes:

The minutes of the September 23, 2004 meeting were adopted as presented.

6. Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm. The next Planning and Recreation Committee meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2004, at 7:00 pm.

Possible agenda items include:

1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting October 5, 2004
2. Waterfront Planning Terms of Reference
3. Fruit Trees