

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT HASTINGS COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON MONDAY, MAY 30, 2005**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Eva Riccius
	Commissioners	- Suzanne Anton
		- Heather Deal
		- Allan De Genova
		- Anita Romaniuk
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Planning and Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Liane McKenna
	Director of Stanley District	- Jim Lowden
	Manager of Research and Planning	- Mark Vulliamy
	Manager of Operations –	
	Queen Elizabeth District	- Bill Manning
	Manager of Recreation Services –	
	Stanley District	- Terry Walton
	Special Events Coordinator	- Daisy Chin
	Communications Coordinator	- Terri Clark
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, May 09, 2005 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair thanked the Hastings Community Association Board for their hospitality and for hosting the Board meeting.

The Chair thanked staff for a well organized Volunteer Recognition Dinner. The Chair stated that the Board appreciates the volunteers' contribution in promoting parks and recreation.

Committee Reports

Planning and Environment Committee: The next meeting is on June 14, 2005 at 7:00 pm in the Park Board Office, check website for agenda items.

Culture and Recreation Committee: The next meeting is on June 15, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. On the agenda are four items, proposal for a Cherry Blossom Festival, an MOU with City

of Vancouver regarding Oppenheimer Park Fieldhouse, proposal for an Off-Leash Area at Burrardview Park and a Special Event in Stanley Park.

Finance Committee: The next meeting is on June 20, please check website for agenda items.

Council Report

There is no Council meeting this week.

OPEN QUESTION PERIOD

Stewart Brinton asked the Board to repair the leak in the lagoon and preserve the habitat around the Sanctuary at Hastings Park.

Mark Caloren asked the Board to review the terms of reference for the PNE Advisory Committee as the Hastings Park Conservancy feels shut out of the process. He asked the Board to work on the preservation of Hastings Park.

Betty Greenwell would like improved access to New Brighton Park and to have public transit to the area re-instated.

Virginia Ross enquired if the Board would be discussing the closure of the Children's Farmyard. Board members advised her that this issue will be discussed at a future Board meeting, however on tonight's agenda is a recommendation regarding planning for a nature interpretation program in the farmyard area in Stanley Park.

Marion Olivieri referred to the Park Board Strategic Plan and stated that the plan does not address the need for more park space in the east side. She would also like improved maintenance at the Italian Gardens at Hastings Park.

Simon Corada stated that proper signage at Hastings Park is needed to describe the area under Park Board jurisdiction.

Cynthia Flood stated that according to the present guidelines the Hastings Park Conservancy has no voice on the PNE Advisory Committee. She would like the guidelines changed so that Hastings Park Conservancy can be part of the advisory committee.

Barry Sharbo stated that the greening process for Hastings Park has stalled and would like the Board to work with Council to continue the greening process.

Helen Minse stated that the community should be involved in the hiring process for the Hastings Park Planner. The PNE does not have the expertise to maintain a park and work with the neighbourhood.

Gay Jobson wants to believe that the Board is supportive of park space, however, it seems that staff does not support the community vision.

STAFF REPORTS

Stanley Park Ecology Society

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 17, 2005 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised the Board that they have worked with the Stanley Park Ecology Society to develop a vision for a substantially expanded nature interpretation program for Stanley Park and the overall park system. Phase Two of the study will examine the physical and financial realities of developing this vision in the farmyard/train area of Stanley Park.

Patricia Thompson, Executive Director, Stanley Park Ecology Society advised the Board that their present location is too small and not accessible. They run an extensive program in Stanley Park both for visitors and school children and would like to have an expanded interpretive facility in a more central location near transit with higher visibility. Following the approval of the visioning paper a business plan will be developed for the Board's approval.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Peter Fricker, Vancouver Humane Society
- Geoff Salmon, Nature Interpretive Centre
- Gerry O'Neil, AAA Horse and Carriage

The following is a summary of comments provided by the foregoing delegations:

- welcome the creation of a nature interpretive centre;
- petting zoos send wrong information to children;
- urge staff to develop a display with minimal human contact;
- seek expert advise on developing the display;
- this is an opportunity to create a learning centre;
- make it a fun place for youth and seniors;
- would like to be part of the process;
- have put forward proposals to staff but not accepted;
- have been trying to upgrade facility in the park;
- have not been treated fairly, process has not been transparent
- why is only one option being presented to the Board.

Board members discussed the issue and look forward to reviewing the plans for the children's farmyard area.

Moved by Commissioner Deal,

- A. **THAT the Board receive the Stanley Park Ecology Society Preliminary Vision for a Nature Interpretation Centre for information.**
- B. **THAT the Board fund the completion of this study to develop site specific options and financial models for the project.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Sea Vancouver Special Event

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 16, 2005 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to C.

Staff advised the Board that Sea Vancouver is a new maritime-themed multi site festival. The main feature will be the participation of Tall Ships. The organizers propose to develop multiple festival zones along the waterfront including Kitsilano, Hadden, Vanier, Creekside, Jericho Parks, Granville Island, Concord Pacific and Plaza of Nations. This proposal was presented to the Culture and Recreation Committee, and the Committee expressed concern with the gating of two waterfront parks. Sea Vancouver is a new event, and changes to the program may have to be made. Given the short time line staff asked that the General Manager be given the authority to approve any further changes on behalf of the Board.

Board members discussed the proposal and stated that staff worked hard with organizers to answer the questions from the Culture and Recreation Committee. It is good to see that the neighbours from Citygate are included in the process.

Moved by Commissioner Deal,

- A. **THAT the Board approve the use of Kitsilano/Hadden/Vanier, Creekside and Jericho Parks for the Sea Vancouver Festival from July 6 to July 10, 2005 with all arrangements to the satisfaction of the General Manager.**
- B. **THAT for this event only, the General Manager be given the authority to approve any further decisions on behalf of the Board.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Oak Street and 37th Avenue Park Site – Recommended Development

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 17, 2005 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to C.

Moved by Commissioner Romaniuk,

- A. THAT the development concept for the park site at Oak Street and 37th Avenue described in this report and illustrated in Appendix A be approved;
- B. THAT staff report back on a final design, including a proposed funding, financing and timing strategy; and
- C. THAT staff work with the BMX biking community to find an appropriate location for development of a youth park facility suitable to their needs.

Staff advised the Board that the proposed development of the park site at Oak Street and 37th Avenue was presented to the community through various open houses. Three options were presented, they ranged from accommodating some active recreation on site to an option with intense active recreation development. Following feedback received from the open houses, a modified version of Option 1 was developed to maximise the number of uses to meet the needs and desires of the community and also to maximize natural habitat potential.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- 1. Al McIver
- 2. Colin Judd
- 3. Doug Hibbins, Conseil Scolaire Francophone
- 4. Renee Popov, Board Chair, Conseil Scolaire Francophone
- 5. Georgina Bradley
- 6. Anja Haman
- 7. Graham Dunn
- 8. Art Hawkins
- 9. Brian Gisel
- 10. William Arlotta
- 11. Shelley LondonHauka
- 12. Chris Begley
- 13. Shaugn Schwartz, Evergreen
- 14. Garret Chan
- 15. Wilma Suen
- 16. Michael Stepler
- 17. Alistair Gordon
- 18. Nancy Gordon

19. Don Larson
20. June Binkert, Save Our Parkland Association
21. Audra Ricketts
22. Clarence Gardener
23. Katharine Steige, Vancouver Natural History Society
24. Gowa Kong, Vancouver Ultimate League
25. Ian Lancaster
26. Frances Lin
27. Andrew Lugsdin
28. Jean Scribner, Douglas Park Soccer
29. Terry Taylor, Native Plant society
30. Terry Slack
31. Stephanie Chow
32. June Ryder
33. Jeff Malmgren, Vancouver Ultimate League
34. Karen Cooke
35. Celia Plottel

Board members heard presentations from twenty one delegations and due to the lateness of the hour, agreed to refer the balance of the speakers to the next meeting of the Board on Monday, June 13, 2005.

Moved by Commissioner Deal,

THAT the report on Oak Street and 37th Avenue Park Site – Recommended Development and the balance of the delegations list be referred to the meeting of the Board on Monday, June 13, 2005.

- Carried Unanimously.

The following is a summary of comments provided by the twenty one delegations heard by the Board:

- not in favour of development in the area to date;
- have traffic and noise issues, weekend is the only time there is some peace;
- with the construction of sports fields, traffic noise will be continuous;
- do not want washrooms unless they will be maintained;
- not against development of the park, but do not agree with the options;
- opposed to any development of the park;
- the school should build their field on school land, leave park alone;
- people from other municipalities will be using the fields;
- would like to develop the site in partnership with Park Board;
- the sports field could be used by Eric Hamber School during school hours;

- asked the Board to approve the recommendations;
- this was an open process with ample opportunity for input from citizens;
- this has been a fair process;
- a good opportunity to partner with different organizations;
- the facility can serve multiple uses;
- women's ultimate team won championship with support from community;
- need a facility to work on excelling in the sport;
- sport of ultimate promotes conflict resolution;
- kids learn how to get along with their community;
- the sport of ultimate is growing, need more fields;
- need washrooms on site;
- staff have come up with a proposal that could be worked with;
- need to have commitment from user group that impact on neighbourhood will be minimum;
- the group of ultimate players is growing and needs more fields;
- support option 1, need to pay attention to wildlife;
- the opportunity to provide an outdoor classroom for environmental study;
- this would be an education boon in the ecological perspective;
- congratulate staff for providing the recommended development option;
- bmx riders in the park are being pushed out;
- there are lots of other fields for ultimate players to use;
- concerned with the consultation process, residents were not advised of the open house;
- there will be a demand for park space as population in area increases;
- prefer the park to stay natural with few upgrades;
- there is a Frisbee golf park at Quilchena Park, ultimate players can go there;
- driveway to a resident's house is continuously blocked by parked cars;
- bmx riders should not be displaced;
- wild areas in Vancouver are scarce, think carefully before destroying it;
- support recommendation;
- move children's play area to another area;
- have concern about the habitat, there are some rare birds that live here;
- do not put in the informal soccer field;
- there are more people looking for a passive park area than organized sports;
- do not support the use of bmx bikes in the park, it destroys the plant life;
- keep the park as it is, there are very few natural areas left in the city.

The Board will continue to hear delegations starting with speaker number twenty two.

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A member of the Board received a request for the Park Board's support that the name of the RAV station to built near the Roundhouse Community Centre should be named after the community centre. Staff will follow up on the process to name RAV stations.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Eva Riccius
Chair