

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2005**

PRESENT:	Vice Chair	- Lyndsay Poaps
	Commissioners	- Suzanne Anton
		- Heather Deal
		- Allan De Genova
		- Anita Romaniuk
		- Loretta Woodcock
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Corporate Services	- Anita Ho
	Director of Stanley District	- Jim Lowden
	Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Liane McKenna
	Senior Business Analyst	- Meg Elliott
	Manager of Fundraising and Development	- Josie Riebe
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Barbara Joughin

In-Camera Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Deal,

THAT the Board later this evening go into a meeting which is closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2 of the Vancouver Charter, to discuss matters related to paragraphs:

- (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Board considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city;**
- (g) litigation or potential litigation affecting the city.**

Carried Unanimously

**In-Camera session suspended at 6:55 p.m.
Regular Board meeting convened at 7:05 p.m.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, October 03, 2005 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Vice Chair advised the Board that the Chair, Commissioner Eva Riccius is still on maternity leave. She thanked the Dunbar Community Centre Association for their hospitality and for hosting the meeting.

The Vice Chair announced the winners of the Tall Trees Contest and extended the Board's congratulations to all. Over 100 entries were received from all around the City. An event celebrating the winners will be held in Queen Elizabeth Park on October 29, 2005.

The official opening of the International Sculpture Bienelle will be held on October 22, 2005 at Harbour Green Park, the official opening of the redeveloped Kingcrest Park is on October 23, 2005, and there will be a celebration of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, at the Council chambers on October 28, 2005.

City Council Report

A number of Park Board-related items are on Council and Committee agendas this week including Arbutus Ridge/Kerrisdale/Shaghnessy and Riley Park/South Cambie Community Visions, relocation of Heather Marina parking for the RAV project, and a report on Southeast False Creek/Olympic Village. The Director of Planning is requesting CD-1 rezoning for Hillcrest, Riley, and Nat Bailey Stadium Parks, and at the Planning and Environment Committee there is the Food Policy progress report and a proposal to Council for a new stadium for the Vancouver Whitecaps.

Finance Committee – met on September 26, the items included the 2006 Fees and Charges, 2005 Operating Statements to August 31, 2005, and the 2006 Operating Budget public process and invitation for public feedback. The next meeting is November 7, 2005.

Planning and Environment Committee – met on October 4, 2005, the agenda included the Nelson Park redesign, China Creek South Park development and a request for a park near Langara College.

Culture and Recreation Committee – met on October 5, 2005 without quorum, and heard updates on the Rain and Shine Festival and park accessibility and a delegation regarding whales in captivity. The Culture and Recreation Committee meeting in November has been cancelled.

OPEN QUESTION PERIOD

Stuart Mackinnon asked that a referendum be held this year and questioned the validity of studying cetacean behaviour in captivity. He asked the Park Board to have the courage to do the right thing for whales and dolphins in captivity in Stanley Park.

Charles Shane asked if including the Nelson Park project in the 2006 – 2008 Capital Plan committed the incoming Park Board to the current Nelson Park plan. He said this was the third plan and that there is a great deal of confusion. Staff informed the Board that the concept has been recommended at the committee level only, and a final design will be brought to the Board for a decision in early 2006.

Edith Lear said it was not fair to increase all fees and charges because golfing rounds have gone down and efforts should be made to encourage golfers. She asked why the fields at Connaught Park are not closed when it rains and how much is spent to maintain them. Staff replied that they work with all sport groups who use these fields to determine when they need to be closed, and a member of the Board referred to the agenda item on fees and charges to follow later in the meeting.

Kelly Bunting said that the Vancouver Aquarium was in violation of the 1996 By-Law when it recently imported two dolphins, and asked if the Park Board was given the opportunity to approve this importation. She said it is the Board's responsibility to allow a referendum question on whales in captivity during this election. The Chair said that the Board is taking the dolphin importation situation very seriously.

Anthony Marr described a dolphin hunt that he witnessed in Japan to gather animals for Japanese aquariums and said that there are many loopholes in the system for exchanging dolphins between aquariums. He told the Board that keeping cetaceans in captivity is evil regardless of whether they are caught or bred in captivity.

Robert Light said that while many people in Vancouver have asked the Board to put the issue of whales in captivity to a referendum, the Board has not responded.

Wayne Fisk is alarmed that golfers have to keep paying the higher rate and that there should be realistic numbers that help elevate the number of rounds. He suggested that the comparison between golf course fees in the report is not fair as the courses are very different.

Ingrid Pollack said that she is upset about cetaceans in captivity at the Vancouver Aquarium and asked for an assurance that she would be able to get information about the Aquarium's development plans and the minutes from this meeting. Staff referred her to the Vancouver Aquarium's website to access their expansion plan, and the Board encouraged her to call staff in order to receive minutes from the meeting.

An individual commented that the Board has been asked if it will vote on their request for a referendum question and is not responding, and asked the Board why it has delayed dealing with this request until it is too late. A member of the Board said that the Board has had extensive discussions about the issue and are putting forward a notice of motion this evening.

Keith Edwards does not understand how the dolphins came in to the Aquarium without the Board's approval and would like to see a motion about ending dolphin importation to

Stanley Park. He said there are other ways of studying cetaceans without captivity and that the Park Board should not approve the Aquarium's expansion plans. Staff explained that because the Board has an operating agreement with the Vancouver Aquarium, and the Aquarium has an obligation to work within the limitations of the agreement and the By-Law, there is not a requirement to have the Board's approval as long as the Aquarium is following our agreement.

Jenna Hunt said that whales and dolphins in captivity in Vancouver will create negative publicity for Vancouver during the Olympics and there is an opportunity to bring the issue to a referendum now.

STAFF REPORTS

Records Management Bylaw and Policy

Board members received copies of a staff report dated September 28, 2005 recommending that the Records Retention and Destruction By-Law #5201 be repealed and replaced by a new Records Management By-Law as discussed in the report.

In November 2003 the City approved the Corporate Records Inventory and Classification Project to establish a standardized records management system for the City of Vancouver. A new Records Management By-Law must be enacted to repeal the 1988 Records Retention and Destruction By-Law #5201 and replace it with one that is clearer and more comprehensive.

Moved by Commissioner Deal,

THAT the Records Retention and Destruction By-Law #5201 be repealed and replaced by a new Records Management By-Law, as discussed in this report.

Carried Unanimously.

2006 Fees and Charges

Board members received copies of a staff report dated September 26, 2005 recommending that the Board receive for information the 2006 Fees and Charges, and, as recommended by the Finance Committee, approve the adjustments as per Appendix A to reflect inflationary increases and comparable market rates.

The Park Board is preparing the 2006 Operating Budget in accordance with the Global Budget arrangement with City of Vancouver, which requires the adjustment of fees and charges to address cost increases due to inflation. To meet inflationary cost

increases, it is the Board's practice to consider staff recommendations to set fees and charges for the next year.

The Park Board offers a variety of recreation and park programs, some of which are subsidized while others have operating surpluses which contribute to the operating costs of subsidized programs. The Fees and Charges report recommends a new fee schedule for 2006 that reflects inflationary increases, market rates and feedback received from residents. The projected inflation increase for all Park Board expenses is 5.1%, based on projection of cost increases for various items such as salaries and wages, natural gas, insurance, gasoline, equipment and other supplies. However, the rate of inflation to be applied to Park Board revenues has been projected at 2.75%, and it is recommended that this increase will be applied across the board for the 2006 fees and charges, along with several recommendations that include adjustments for other factors.

The Finance Committee has reviewed the proposed 2006 Fees and Charges and has recommended that they be tabled to the Board for consideration and approval.

The following delegations spoke to the Board:

1. Wayne Fisk
2. Sandy Watson

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

- the comparison of Vancouver golf courses to other courses is not valid because there are significant differences in facility conditions and ambience;
- concern that inflationary increases are adequate to cover the cost of deferred maintenance.

Members of the Board discussed the recommendations and said there is concern about how raising fees affects equitable access to programs and services. A member of the Board requested that staff report back with an assessment of the relationship between the price of a round of golf and the number of rounds played. Another Board member requested a comparison between the number of rounds played at Langara and Fraserview Golf Courses.

Moved by Commissioner Romaniuk,

THAT the Board receive for information the 2006 Fees and Charges and, as recommended by the Finance Committee, approve the adjustments as per Appendix A to reflect inflationary increases and comparable market rates.

Carried Unanimously.

The Board acknowledged the fiscally responsible management of the Park Board's operations and thanked staff for managing resources prudently.

Commissioner Deal left the meeting at this time.

Operating Statements as at August 31, 2005

Board members received copies of a report dated September 19, 2005 recommending that the Board receive this report for information.

Staff reported the operating statements of the Park Board as at August 30, 2005 and reviewed revenues, expenditures and details of concern by district and department. Overall, net expenditures are at budget to the end of August. Poor weather conditions in the early summer contributed to lower than projected revenues for golf, parking and leases, and it is anticipated that by year end, the Board will experience a revenue shortfall in the range of \$100,000 to \$200,000. Staff will continue with cost saving measures that do not affect service levels in order to balance the predicted shortfall in revenues by year-end.

The Finance Committee reviewed the financial operating statement as at August 31, 2005 and recommended that the results of this review be reported to the Board.

The Board thanked staff for providing the details of the budget in a clear and accessible format.

Moved by Commissioner Romaniuk,

THAT the Board receive this report for information.

Carried Unanimously

Fundraising and Development

Board members received copies of a report dated October 4, 2005 recommending that the Board receive the Progress Report and direct staff to report back on an action plan for future fundraising and development.

Staff presented a report on the progress made in fundraising and development since the one-year temporary full-time Fundraising and Development Consultant position was staffed in December 2004. The report outlined the accomplishments, new initiatives and lessons learned from the fundraising efforts for the Park Board over the past nine months. To take advantage of the opportunities of additional fundraising, staff will

develop and report back to the Board with an action plan to accelerate the fundraising program to the next level.

The Board thanked staff for understanding the vision and delivering such significant results in such a short time.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board receive the Progress Report and direct staff to report back on an action plan for future fundraising and development.

Carried Unanimously.

By-Law

Moved by Commissioner Anton,

That the Records Retention and Destruction By-Law #5201 Repeal By-Law be introduced and given first reading.

Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Anton,

That the Records Retention and Destruction By-Law #5201 Repeal By-Law be given second and third reading.

Carried Unanimously.

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A Board member inquired about an earlier request for information about the Park Board's involvement with the Four Pillars Prevention process. Staff have been requested to follow up and will report back.

Notice of motion for plebiscite for October 31, 2005

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

Whereas whales and dolphins are highly intelligent animals with complex social lives;

Whereas public opinion on whales and dolphins in aquaria has changed over recent decades as we have learned more about cetacean physiology and social patterns;

Whereas animal activists in Vancouver have repeatedly advocated for former park boards to hold plebiscites in order to give the residents of Vancouver the opportunity to express their opinion on the ethics of keeping cetaceans such as whales and dolphins in captivity in Stanley Park;

Whereas it is recognized that the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre is an autonomous, well run, world class facility situated in Stanley Park, with staff who provide the best care possible to the mammals under their supervision;

Whereas on October 6, 2005 the Vancouver Aquarium publicly unveiled new conceptual designs that include expanded whale and dolphin facilities, to be completed by 2010;

Be it resolved that the Park Board recommend to City Council that a city wide plebiscite be held during the 2008 civic election on the question of whales and dolphins being kept in captivity in Stanley Park, with a goal of testing public opinion in the interests of long term planning for the next lease renewal with the Vancouver Aquarium, in 2015;

Be it further resolved that the plebiscite ask the following yes or no question "Are you in favour of phasing out the containment of whales and dolphins in Stanley Park?"

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board reconvene the In-Camera meeting.

Carried Unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps
Vice Chair