

**Minutes of Meeting
Culture and Recreation Committee, Vancouver Park Board
2099 Beach Avenue, Vancouver**

DATE OF MEETING: January 12, 2005

ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners

Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps
Commissioner Heather Deal
Commissioner Suzanne Anton
Commissioner Loretta Woodcock

Park Board Staff

Liane McKenna	Director of Queen Elizabeth District
Greg Eng	Manager of Recreation Services, Vancouver East District
Diane Murphy	Manager of Recreation Services, Queen Elizabeth District
Terry Walton	Manager of Recreation Services, Stanley District
Booth Palmer	Child and Youth Services Coordinator
Doug Taylor	Recreation Service Coordinator, Sports Facilities
Nick Najda	Community Youth Development Worker
Barbara Joughin	Recorder of Minutes

Delegations

Rick Hurlbut	Bent Events Inc.
David McLellan	Vancouver Tennis Association

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

1. Approval of October 6, 2004 Minutes:

The minutes of the Culture and Recreation Committee meeting of October 6, 2004 were adopted as presented (moved by C. Deal, seconded by C. Poaps, all in favour).

2. Approval of November 3, 2004 Minutes:

The minutes of the Culture and Recreation Committee meeting of November 3, 2004 were adopted as presented (moved by C. Anton, seconded by C. Poaps, all in favour).

3. Late Night Event Booking at the Roundhouse:

Delegation:

- Rick Hurlbut addressed the Committee about matters related to late night hours of operation at the Roundhouse Community Centre. His presentation included: benefits

of extended operating hours; how to compromise between noise concerns and a need for extended hours; and creating a public process for resolving similar concerns in the future. He said there is a lack of affordable rental space for community organizations and individuals who want to run events in the downtown area, and suggested possible compromises (2 am closing, October to April only; close at 1am year round; alternate late night weekends between midnight and 2 am closures; limit 2 am to long weekends). Rick Hurlbut requested that the Committee recommend extending the hours of operation at the Roundhouse Community Centre for special event programming.

Terry Walton gave the Committee a brief history of recent noise problems related to late night programming at the Roundhouse. He explained that activities are governed by the City's Noise Bylaw, which states that noise levels 3db above ambient noise levels violate the bylaw. The ambient noise level in the area is 67db, and levels are often over 70db. The Roundhouse facility was open for late night rentals until 2002, when noise complaints from nearby condominium residents resulted in a reduction in operating hours to midnight as a compromise. Since then, there has been only one complaint, although it is still noisy. Staff have tried many strategies to reduce noise levels, but the problem is that in the neighbourhood adjacent to the Roundhouse, noise travels up.

Summary:

The Committee discussed the situation and some possible solutions to the conflicting needs of the different community members. Commissioner Deal will follow up with the delegate and staff. Staff will conduct more research on noise in the area adjacent to the Roundhouse Community Centre, and report back to the Committee in March.

4. Tennis Court Strategy – Terms of Reference:

Doug Taylor, Outdoor Sports Facilities Coordinator, informed the Committee that Park Board staff are responding to concerns put forward by the Vancouver tennis community about the operation of public tennis in Vancouver, and presented a draft Terms of Reference for Tennis Court Operation and Facilities Review. The objectives are to develop a policy for:

- the maintenance and development of public tennis courts
- allocation of court use and programming
- developing an organized voice for the tennis community

The tennis policy review would be directed by a steering committee formed from Park Board and community centre staff and members of the tennis community. Staff said that the Park Board offers public tennis on 183 courts for casual and programmed play, and that the policy was last reviewed in 1994.

Delegations:

- David McLellan, President of Vancouver Tennis Association, summarized his organization's programs, history, and current problems with court access, and said they are very interested in a revision of Park Board guidelines for allocation and programming. He said that the Vancouver Tennis Association wants to be accommodated on good courts operated by the Park Board on a long term basis, but it may be necessary to alter some Park Board rules for court usage for this to happen.

Staff explained that current allocation procedures allow non-profit organizations to access courts for program use, and 50% of available courts must remain open for public casual use. The policy review will seek to find a balance between public and league access, and resolution to ongoing programming problems.

5. Youth Service Strategy:

Booth Palmer, Greg Eng, Diane Murphy, and Nick Najda provided the Committee with an update on Park Board Youth Services, focusing on youth development through recreation.

Staff presented a spatial analysis of youth well-being, location of youth workers, centre funding levels and youth population distribution, and said that there are now youth workers at each community centre. Full time youth workers are concentrated in east Vancouver, with part time youth workers on the west side. Vancouver's youth services were compared with services provided by Coquitlam and Maple Ridge, and it was noted that Vancouver's youth services are delivered at 22 multigenerational community facilities for 50,000 youth aged 9-18.

Using Riley Park Community Centre as a case study, Nick described how Youth Development Services' long term goals are accomplished through direct action on youth and indirect action for youth. He said that about 300 youth are in contact with the many different youth programs at Riley Park each week.

The Committee discussed barriers to involvement, gaps in youth programming, and organizational support for youth workers, and staff explained that the Vancouver Park Board's service model is based on geographic service delivery, rather than ethno-specific services.

Summary:

Park Board youth development services have made progress, but work remains to be done in the areas of:

- Implementing best practices for supporting youth and youth workers
- defining local and citywide Logic Model Performance Measures and Indicators
- applying findings from Legacy Get Out! projects
- refining relationships and service gaps with partners, agencies and youth
- assessing youth satisfaction with Park Board services and fees

6. Park Programming:

Terry Walton, Diane Murphy and Greg Eng described existing park use, reviewed trends in park programming, and identified key strategies for the future. Terry told the Committee that park use is the highest of any Park Board facility, with 80% of Vancouver residents using parks approximately 3 times per month. The majority (90%) use parks on a casual or unstructured basis, and are satisfied with their experience. Other park uses include the summer playground program, cultural programs, VanDusen Gardens, and various projects. Partnership programming activities deliver over 300 special events each year, and over 40,000 residents participate in sporting activities, resulting in over 1,000,000 field-user sport visits per year in our parks.

Diane reviewed other municipalities' park programming, offered general observations about programming, staff, and partnerships, and identified new and emerging trends (environmental programs, stewardship opportunities, and developing park partnerships). Diane said that partnerships are key to facilitating community initiatives, programs and projects in parks. Greg talked about key strategies for the future in terms of:

- staff resources - review the need for additional or reallocated staff resources to focus on park programming, stewardship, special events and initiatives
- park partnerships - continue to expand, promote and strengthen park partnerships for programming focused on environmental, health and wellness, special events and community recreation services

Staff asked the Committee for input and direction about future park programming. Members of the Committee suggested that staff broaden programming for parks by looking for ways to expand seasonally, and for opportunities for small events in the smaller parks.

Next Steps:

Staff will review the summer playground program and continue to develop ideas for expanding environmental programming in existing partnerships.

Staff gave the Committee a brief update on the special event for Stanley Park, planned for June 18, 2005. A budget will be developed for review by the Finance Committee.

7. Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm. The next Culture and Recreation Committee meeting will be a special public meeting on February 16, 2005 on the Joint Operating Agreement, at the Langara Golf Course Clubhouse. This will be followed with another meeting on February 24, 2005 to discuss the recommendations after hearing from the community.

The next regular meeting of the Culture and Recreation Committee will be on March 2, 2005. Possible agenda items include:

- Francophone Association partnership
- 2006 BCRPA conference