

**Culture and Recreation Committee, Vancouver Park Board**

**Special Meeting  
Joint Operating Agreement Task Force Final Report  
at 2099 Beach Avenue**

**DATE OF MEETING:** May 18, 2005

**ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners**  
Commissioner Heather Deal  
Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps (Acting Chair)  
Commissioner Suzanne Anton  
Commissioner Anita Romaniuk

**Park Board Staff**

Susan Mundick      General Manager  
Lori MacKay        Director of Vancouver East District  
Terry Walton        Manager of Recreation Services  
Diane Murphy       Manager of Recreation Services  
Barbara Joughin    Recorder of Minutes

**Delegations**

Rick Evans            Champlain Community Centre Association  
Keith Jacobson       Killarney Community Centre Association  
Ken Thompson        Sunset Community Centre Association  
Kathleen Bigsby      Kerrisdale Community Centre Association  
Emmanuel Nicolas    Kerrisdale Community Centre Association  
Susan Duffy           Kerrisdale Community Centre Association  
Bill Harris            Kerrisdale Community Centre Association  
Susan Ronalds        Kerrisdale Community Centre Association  
Lori Dick              West End Community Centre Association  
Anita Daniels         False Creek Community Centre Association

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

Commissioner Poaps welcomed everyone to the special Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) Final Report meeting of the Culture and Recreation Committee, and said the purpose of the meeting was to summarize the input that has been received and to consider recommendations to be brought forward to the Board.

Lori MacKay reviewed the consultation process on this topic and presented a summary of feedback on the Final Report of the Joint Operating Agreement Task Force. She described four issues that are of concern and that received limited support, including:

1. Equity fund and Core Service Review
2. Partnership Review
3. Membership
4. Implementation

She said that there has been good participation in the consultation, broad consensus on the majority of recommendations in the final report, and strong momentum to move ahead. Staff suggested that further work was necessary on the issues of concern which could involve joint committees and said that this process should not delay progress elsewhere.

#### Delegations:

Ken Thompson, Sunset Community Centre Association, presented a joint response to the Final Report from eight community centre associations, including Champlain, Grandview, Hastings, Kensington, Kerrisdale, Killarney, Sunset, and Renfrew Park. He told the Committee their objective is to enhance the partnerships that exist between the Park Board and the community associations while not undermining the unique and vital qualities that characterize the operation of their associations. Those that developed the submission requested that the Culture and Recreation Committee take the nine different principles and perspectives included in their submission into account in its recommendations to the Board.

#### Discussion

- A member of the Committee stated that agreements must be flexible enough to accommodate whatever changes result from ongoing consultation. Staff said that agreements can accommodate changes, and agreements that are signed before issues are resolved will be amended to reflect changes.
- The delegation highlighted their concern that the agreements must clearly reflect the independence of the associations and identified Task Force recommendations that they feel create a perception of subservience. Staff noted that the Task Force was very respectful of association independence and that they will support this.
- The delegation requested that a mechanism for resolving operational disputes be included in the agreements. Staff explained that the Task Force thought this was better defined at the local level than with a universal clause, and the group discussed how to best address the issue.
- Staff reported that the Task Force received support for creating a common financial reporting period and language to facilitate system-wide reporting and decision-making. The delegation had several concerns about changing association accounting systems to align with the Park Board. Staff support the Task Force's recommendations to standardize association accounts and noted strong association support for this in earlier stages of the process. The Committee requested that common items for financial reporting be explicitly defined under the Park Board agreement.
- Staff reported that there is broad interest in creating a more level playing field for associations through a core service review, and very limited support for creating an equity fund. The delegation said they reject any proposal to create an equity fund, and want inequities resolved before agreements are signed. Staff told the Committee there are some associations that are ready to move ahead. Staff supports proceeding with discussions about both a core service review and equity review at the same time.
- Staff noted there has been strong support for a simpler, citywide membership system throughout the consultation process. The delegation expressed concern that the Task Force recommendation for reciprocal membership may impinge upon autonomous operations of the associations, and they would like further study of the implications.

## Recommendations:

The Culture and Recreation Committee moved that staff prepare a report for the Board recommending that the Final Report of the Joint Operating Agreement Task Force be approved as a framework for negotiating new agreements with the 20 Community Associations, and that recommendations include the following:

1. A joint committee of Community Association representatives and Park Board staff be established to undertake the details of the Core Services Review, including issues of core funding and equity, for future integration into the new agreements and report back to the Board with recommendations in one year;
2. The Partnership Review be done at least once per 5 year term, with additional annual meetings, using the list in the Final Report as a guideline;
3. The Community Associations work with staff to develop a system which accommodates citywide public access to programs and services at Community Centres, including membership structures;
4. The Community Associations work with staff to identify one common 12 month fiscal reporting period for services under this agreement for Community Associations, which may be different than December 31<sup>st</sup>, and outline a transition plan and completion date for Associations to adjust to the agreed upon date. The focus of this work is the common items that are under the Park Board agreement;
5. That a mechanism for addressing operational disputes be included in each agreement; and
6. That the report recommend that the General Manager develop an implementation plan and reallocate resources to support the negotiations, transition, and implementation of the new agreements.

- Carried Unanimously