

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

**DATE OF MEETING:** July 6, 2005

**ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners**

Commissioner Heather Deal  
Commissioner Lyndsay Poaps  
Commissioner Loretta Woodcock (arrived at approximately 8:30 pm)

**Park Board Staff**

Liane McKenna Director of Queen Elizabeth District  
Terry Walton Manager of Recreation Services, Stanley District  
Greg Eng Manager of Recreation Services, Vancouver East District  
Diane Murphy Manager of Recreation Services, Queen Elizabeth District  
Bill Manning Manager of Operations, Queen Elizabeth District  
Megan Stuart-Stubbs Community Arts Programmer  
Barbara Joughin Recorder of Minutes

**Delegations**

Nicholas Scapillati Musqueam Ecosystem Conservation Society (MECS)  
Traysea Stelmack

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

Megan Stuart-Stubbs presented members of the Committee with artist-painted umbrellas from the Rain or Shine Festival and thanked them for their support and encouragement in making the event possible. Staff will present a report on the event to the Board in the fall.

**1. Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the Culture and Recreation Committee meeting of June 15, 2005 were approved as presented. The minutes of April 6, 2005 were not reviewed.

**2. Musqueam Ecosystem Conservation Society:**

Nicholas Scapillati presented the Committee with information about the work of the Musqueam Ecosystem Conservation Society (MECS), a non profit organization with a mandate to protect and restore the Musqueam Creek ecosystem. He told the Committee that securing parkland at the confluence of Cutthroat and Musqueam Creeks in 1972-75 preserved rare and critical habitat for spawning salmon, and that Musqueam Creek is currently federally listed as an endangered stream. A 1996 inventory showed that this is the most biologically diverse forested area in Greater Vancouver. Musqueam Creek is Vancouver's last salmon stream, and MECS wants to develop an ecosystem-based management plan to save Musqueam Creek.

MECS asked that the Park Board work with MECS to create the Musqueam Park component of a management plan, and requested that Musqueam Park be considered in the waterfront park plan. He requested a letter of support from the Park Board to aid MECS in their fundraising efforts.

The Committee suggested that a public workshop be organized for stakeholders to discuss how to work together to develop a joint management plan for the whole watershed, and noted that MECS is well positioned to lead that process.

Nicholas Scapillati told the Committee that the dog offleash designation adversely impacts spawning habitat in Musqueam Park. He suggested that a seasonal on-leash period to keep dogs out of the creek would be effective in Musqueam Park because people are already engaged and informed. A member of the Committee suggested that installing living willow fences as barriers along the creek might be a workable compromise.

#### Next Steps:

Staff will work with MECS to develop ways to address the impact of offleash dogs in the creek during spawning season, and to support the development of a joint management plan workshop to be led by MECS. Staff will inform the Committee whether Musqueam Park and the creek are included in the Waterfront Study. The Committee asked staff to prepare a letter of support for MECS, and to consider adding Musqueam Park to the staff environmental awareness program for gardeners.

### **3. West End Dog Offleash Opportunities:**

Traysea Stelmark said that the lack of offleash dog areas downtown is causing the offleash problem because responsible dog owners who want to exercise and socialize their dogs have nowhere acceptable to go. She said that none of the existing offleash areas in the West End or downtown areas are safe for dogs. There are risks to dogs at the Sunset Park offleash area from boat activity and pollution, and at Nelson Park from needles and crime. She said she has a right to have dogs and a responsibility to keep them exercised, and she will continue to exercise her dogs offleash in parks that are safe for dogs.

A member of the Committee agreed that there is a need for more offleash dog areas downtown and that Nelson Park needs to be improved. Ms Stelmark was invited to suggest specific areas that she would like to have developed as offleash areas, and to become involved in the process to create positive solutions for Nelson Park. The Committee asked staff if other downtown sites are under consideration for offleash dog areas, and were informed that staff continue to receive input from various downtown groups about possible locations, and feedback about sensitive issues and problems. The Committee said that there are no plans to purchase new parkland downtown at this time, and noted that it is difficult to place offleash areas in intertidal zones due to adverse impacts on the environment and conflicts with other users.

The delegation stated that it was the Park Board's job to find new areas and the community should not be expected to wait two years for Nelson Park to be improved. She said she will not license her dogs or pay fines, and if she receives any tickets for her dogs she will send them to the Park Board for payment. The Committee informed her that the Park Board does not enforce

bylaws or administer fines, and suggested that her concerns should be directed to the City of Vancouver who have responsibility for enforcement.

#### 4. Rink Twinning Update:

Staff provided the Committee with an update on twinning rink programmer positions. Diane Murphy reviewed the process of rink twinning that began with Kitsilano and Kerrisdale Community Centres and expanded to Sunset and Riley in 2001. In 2002, the West End Community Centre twinned their rink and fitness centre programmer onsite, and in 2004 the process of centralized rink booking began when the booking clerk moved to Stanley District.

Current challenges facing twinned program staff include travel time between facilities, working in two facilities with two different staff groups, and redundancy. Kitsilano and Kerrisdale are considering twinning their fitness centre and rink programming onsite so that one programmer would have responsibilities for both areas at one community centre. Greg Eng told the Committee that Trout Lake's fitness programmer has been programming their rink since March 2004, and they have hired auxiliary floor staff for the fitness centre.

Terry Walton gave an update on the introduction of centralized rink booking and noted that while the full benefits will not be felt for another year, customer service has improved due to consistent application of the allocation policy, and user groups are satisfied. There are now three positions cross trained to do bookings, and the system is working more efficiently. Staff will continue to improve the roles of programmers and District Coordinators and implement marketing strategies to enhance rink revenues.

A member of the Committee asked about the impact of onsite twinning on staff and how the salary expenditures compare when auxiliary staff backfill for programming staff. Staff said the net saving was \$18,000 annually. Change management strategies are in place to support staff in adjusting to the new system, and the overall process has yet to be formally evaluated.

#### Next Steps:

There will be an ice allocation committee meeting on July 12, 2005. Programmer positions at Kitsilano and Kerrisdale community centres will be twinning in the fall. The Committee requested that staff provide an interim report that identifies the project's goals and issues and evaluates the progress.

#### 5. **Next Meeting:**

Liane McKenna provided the Committee with a preview of upcoming agenda items for the fall, including Accessibility Review, Seniors Policy, and reports on the Rest and Read project and Engine 374.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm. The next Culture and Recreation Committee meeting will be on September 14, 2005. Possible agenda items include:

- Art Display – World Peace Forum
- Moberly Field House