

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, MARCH 06, 2006**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Heather Holden
	Vice Chair	- Ian Robertson
	Commissioners	- Allan De Genova
		- Spencer Herbert
		- Korina Houghton
		- Loretta Woodcock
		- Martin Zlotnik
		- Susan Mundick
	General Manager	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Planning and Operations	- Anita Ho
	Director of Corporate Services	- Liane McKenna
	Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Mark Vulliamy
	Manager of Planning and Research	- Joyce Courtney
	Manager of Communications	- Julie Casanova
	Recorder	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, February 27, 2006 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair commended staff on a well organized and spectacular lighting of the Inukshuk as part of the countdown celebrations to the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver.

City Council Report

Park Board related items on recent Council and Committee agendas include the deferral of the decision on the permanent closure of Waterloo Street at McBride Park for eight months and the application to the World Health Organization to become a community partner in their Age-Friendly Urban Project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Parks and Recreation Planning and Finance committees have not met since the update at the last Board meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

2006 Capital Budget

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 23, 2006 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff reviewed the extensive process that was undertaken to establish the capital plan for 2006-2008. This plan was approved by the voters in November 2005. The work program and source of funding for year one of the three year capital plan was reviewed with the Board, this included the parks and infrastructure renewal projects, community legacy and street trees stocking plan.

Gail Uthoff, Renfrew Community Centre Association, Aquatic Sports, appeared before the Board to caution the Board on cost escalation. She advised the Board that they would like to work with staff to minimize the effects cost escalation will have on projects.

Board members questioned how the cost escalation was being handled. Staff advised that cost escalations have affected a number of projects and staff will report back to the Board on issues/solutions related to affected projects.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

- A. THAT the 2006 Capital budget of \$15,150,000 outlined in Appendix B to this Report be approved.**
- B. THAT the commitments of funds totalling \$281,000 from partner organizations of the Board, as outlined in Appendix C to this report, be approved.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Accomplishment Report 2005

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 20, 2006 recommending that the Board receive the report for information.

The General Manager advised the Board that the business plans for the Districts and Services are directed by the Strategic Plan. The achievements over the last year are outlined in the report and one significant highlight was the approval of the largest ever Capital Plan. The General Manager thanked the Board, stakeholders, partners and staff for their contribution toward our success.

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

THAT the Board receive this report for information.

- Carried Unanimously.

Operating Statement for the Year Ended December 31, 2005

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 6, 2006 recommending that the Board receive the report for information.

Staff reviewed the operating budget and the year end financial position. There were revenue challenges in the areas of golf, concessions and parking which were mainly due to the weather conditions. However, these were off set by increased revenues in other areas and savings in utility and equipment costs bringing the year end position to a surplus of \$541,000.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

THAT the Board receive this report for information.

- Carried Unanimously.

World Health Organization: Age-Friendly Urban Community Project

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 3, 2006 recommending that subject to Council's agreement, the Board endorse the City's application to become a BC Community Partner in the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Urban Community Project.

Staff advised the Board that the City and Park Board received an invitation to submit an application under the World Health New Organization's Program to become a BC Community Partner. The Park Board and many city departments have contributed significantly to making Vancouver an age-friendly community. If our proposal is successful, it will allow our work to be showcased to other cities around the world. If successful, staff will report back with the proposed approach and funding sources for this project.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT, subject to Council's agreement, the Park Board endorse the City's application to become a BC Community Partner in the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Urban Community Project.

- Carried Unanimously.

MOTIONS

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

Whereas the Park Board currently advises Vancouver residents about public consultations, and motions coming to the board through websites, advertisements in the media, emails to stakeholder lists, signage, and posters;

Whereas we often hear from people who say they have not seen any of these forms of advertising, or who have limited time to stay up to date with the Park Board website;

Whereas we want to ensure a broad range of opinion is involved in the creation of Park Board policy;

Whereas email technology has opened up a whole new range of consultation possibilities;

Whereas we want to 'personalise notification', and widen the scope of public awareness of Park Board business;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Park Board investigate and report back on establishing an email system whereby the public can sign up on the park board website to receive email notification specific to neighbourhood, stakeholder group, or other criteria as the case may be, when motions are coming to a committee or the board, or public consultation is happening on issues that affect those groups.

Board members discussed the motion and felt that although the idea was good, there are logistical problems. There was a concern with the impact on the budget as it would involve a lot of staff time. Staff already have a well organized system to get in touch with stakeholders on a project by project basis.

A vote was taken on the motion and it was DEFEATED.

(Commissioner De Genova, Holden, Houghton, Robertson and Zlotnik contrary)

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

Whereas International Women's Day has been celebrated annually on March 8 since 1909 to recognize women as makers of history and is an occasion marked by women's groups around the world, commemorated at the United Nations, and designated by many countries as a national holiday;

Whereas cities in Canada also recognize the important contributions of women to their communities and society as a whole;

Whereas the City of Vancouver is a city of celebration that honours the diversity of its citizenry through arts and cultural and recreational activities;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Vancouver Park Board request staff to work with the City's Equal Employment Office on ways to recognize and celebrate women on International Women's Day for the year 2007.

Board members discussed the motion and a member of the Board stated that the Park Board could add to the City's celebration of International Women's Day by putting forward creative ideas for a Park Board celebration. After further discussion, Board members indicated that the Park Board is already celebrating women everyday through its various programs. The mandate of the Board is to advocate for parks and recreation services to benefit people, communities and the environment. The Park Board should continue to participate with the City's plans to celebrate International Women's Day.

A vote was taken on the motion and it was DEFEATED.
(Commissioners Holden, Houghton, Robertson and Zlotnik contrary)

In-Camera Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

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 paragraph:

- (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of an activity, work or facility that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Board, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city if they were held in public.**

-Carried Unanimously.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Heather Holden
Chair