

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT STRATHCONA COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON MONDAY, MAY 01, 2006**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Heather Holden
	Commissioners	- Allan De Genova
		- Spencer Herbert
		- Korina Houghton
		- Martin Zlotnik
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Planning and Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Corporate Services	- Anita Ho
	Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Liane McKenna
	Director of Stanley District	- Jim Lowden
	Director of Vancouver East District	- Lori MacKay
	Manager of Revenue Services	- Philip Josephs
	Manager of Recreation Services – Vancouver East District	- Greg Eng
	Recreation Services Coordinator – Vancouver East District	- Jim McKenzie
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

The Chair thanked the Strathcona Community Centre Association for their hospitality and for hosting the Board.

The Chair advised the Board that Commissioners Robertson and Woodcock were absent due to their work commitments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, April 3, 2006 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported that the Park Board co-hosted the 2006 British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA) Symposium and the General Manager is the outgoing President of BCRPA. The Chair also stated that she was proud to announce the Park Board Sun Run team placed second amongst the 39 teams in the government category. Board members were reminded of the upcoming Volunteer Award Dinner to recognize the hard work of many members of the community.

City Council Report

The General Manager advised the Board that Council will be receiving the Board's communication regarding the naming of the new Yaletown Canada Line station, and Council will also be discussing the Draft Strategic Plan for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Planning Committee: The Planning Committee met on April 18 and discussed the Terms of Reference for the Dog Task Force, Airshow at Spanish Bank and Burrard View Day Care Centre.

Parks and Recreation Finance Committee: The Finance Committee discussed the 2006 Operating Budget at its meeting held on April 10.

OPEN QUESTION PERIOD

Steve Bouchard, President of Ray Cam Cooperative Centre stated that when the budget for a community centre is reduced, it affects program delivery. Ray Cam cannot raise fees to recoup the money to make up the budget. Board members advised Mr. Bouchard that the Board does not plan to raise user fees to off set the budget reduction, but will manage the budget reduction through efficiencies.

Blair Redland, National CUPE representative referred to the concession strategy report and questioned why the Board plans on subsidizing private restaurants to operate the concession facilities. Board members advised Mr. Redland that it was a normal practice for landlords to support tenants on capital improvements.

Betty Carter is a resident who lives near Nelson Park and she is looking forward to the improvements planned for the park but does not like the gravel base in the dogs off leash area.

Seja Magee, Spanish Bank East Concession Operator, stated that she was opposed to privatization of the food concessions. The concession at Spanish Bank East is a profitable operation. She does not support the concession strategy report as it eliminates the concessions, warehouse operations and staff. She urged the Board to keep the operations of the concession in-house, and to improve the façade of the concessions.

Patricia Channing thanked the Board for the gardening and maintenance of small parks. The proposed soccer stadium in downtown will have a negative impact on the community.

STAFF REPORTS

Concession Strategy Study

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 13, 2006 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

John Frittenburg, JF Group, consultant, reviewed the concession strategy with the Board. The report is based on research and analysis of the Board's concession operations compared to other jurisdictions' food and beverage business. The strategy suggests the Board's concession operation should be reorganized to include independent operators who would keep up with the trends and invest capital money to improve the aging infrastructures.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- CUPE Local 15 – Paul Faoro
- Eleanor Hadley
- Bob Janowicz
- Gerry O'Neil
- Aaron Jasper

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

- lack of open consultation with staff and concession operators;
- employer has breached the collective agreement;
- CUPE Local 15 was not consulted on this issue;
- Park Board has failed to maintain the existing facilities;
- request Board to defer recommendation B;
- Park Board should ask Council for funds from PEF to upgrade the concessions;
- Park Board should examine the problems identified in the consultant's report;
- close the concessions if they are not making money;
- the issue with the concessions is control and governance;
- shift the authority from management to a concession operator team;
- the operators can work together to come up with a work plan;
- allow the operators to make operational decisions;
- do not package the information booth with other concessions;
- have a request for proposal to operate the information booth;
- asked the Board to defer recommendation B for a public consultation.

Board members discussed the report and were encouraged with staff's recommendation to improve the operations and profitability of the concessions. A member of the Board stated that one model in the concession strategy to improve profits was to have supplies delivered directly to the concessions which would result in the elimination of the warehouse operations.

Moved by Commissioner Zlotnik,

- A. THAT the Board receive the attached report by the JF Group entitled Concession Strategy Study;**
- B. THAT the Board approve the implementation strategy contained in this report for changes to our food delivery processes.**

- Carried.

(Commissioner Herbert contrary)

2006 Operating Budget

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 20, 2006 recommending that the Board approve the Park Board Global Budget of \$54,878,800, including \$956,800 for Added Basic costs and one-time adjustments and the New and Non Recurring budget of \$370,000.

Staff reviewed the 2006 Operating Budget using the normal rules under the Global Budget methodology of Basic Budget, Added Basic and New and Non Recurring Budget. Council reduced the Park Board budget by \$400,000 with specific direction that the Board not increase its revenue budget to achieve this reduction, but to achieve them through efficiencies. The Finance Committee reviewed and recommended the efficiencies proposed which focus on maintaining service.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- CUPE Local 15 – Paul Faoro
- CUPE Local 1004 – Ken Davidson

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

- these are not efficiencies but cuts to staff hours;
- the Board should ask Council to supplement the \$400,000 from their contingency fund;
- Council refused to use the PEF to reduce the tax increase instead they cut Park Board's budget;
- the recommendation to close the saw shop was not discussed with the union;
- the saw shop was closed before, however, it had to be reopened because the quality of work from a contractor did not meet Park Board needs;
- would like the opportunity to discuss with staff on how to achieve the savings without closing the saw shop.

Board members discussed the 2006 Operating Budget and thanked staff for all the hard work to pull together this budget.

Moved by Commissioner Houghton,

THAT the Board approve the Park Board Global Budget of \$54,878,800 including \$956,800 for Added Basic costs and one-time adjustments and the New and Non-Recurring (NNR) budget of \$370,000.

A member of the Board expressed concern that the reduction of hours will cause program cuts at community centres and a report back to the Finance Committee on the impact of the budget cuts at the community centres should be done by staff.

An amendment to the motion was proposed.

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

THAT the Board direct staff to report back to the Finance Committee in September on the impact felt in the community due to budget cuts at the community level.

- DEFEATED.

(Commissioners Holden, Houghton and Zlotnik contrary)

The main motion was put forward and it was CARRIED.

(Commissioner Herbert contrary)

Active Communities

Board members received copies of staff report dated April 19, 2006 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to D.

Staff presented the Active Communities Plan for Vancouver which was developed in response to the challenge of increasing by 20% physical participation by the population by 2010. The priorities for the Active Communities Plan is to build an Active Communities brand, develop new programs, enhance and optimize current programs, network and collaborate with Active Communities partners and measure and support success.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Sharon Urton, Pacific Sport Board
- Emma Zelovic
- Dick Woldring, MoreSports

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

- commend staff on the report, waited a long time for it;
- ask Board to move the community's action plan forward;
- increase in physical activities will reduce health costs;
- MoreSports need the Board's support;
- the passport project put on activities for the inner city community;
- the children were able to participate in a whole range of activity with the passports;
- created new partnership and parent advisory committees;
- support the concept of active communities and will continue to partner and work with the Board.

Board members thanked the delegations and agreed that there are many health benefits from physical activity. It is good to see support from the schools and participation by high performance athletes.

Moved by Commissioner Houghton,

- A. THAT the Board approve the report entitled "Active Communities - Action Plan for Vancouver" attached as Appendix A, and direct staff to implement the recommendation;**
- B. THAT the Board request City Council approval of the Active Communities – Action Plan for Vancouver and request consideration of funding to support the implementation;**
- C. THAT staff seek additional support from other levels of government and partner organizations to fully implement the recommendations outlined in the "Active Communities – Action Plan for Vancouver";**
- D. THAT staff be directed to report back to the Board annually on the progress of Vancouver's "Active Communities" initiative.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Conceptual Plan for Nelson Park

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 18, 2006 recommending that the Board approve the conceptual design as illustrated in the report.

Staff advised the Board that the consultant has now refined the previous conceptual plan for Nelson Park and based on discussions with the School Board includes revisions which have been approved by the School Board. The consultant reviewed the details of the plan which include a fenced dog area, entry areas, seating and lighting in the main pathway, water feature and a plaza area. The washrooms/fieldhouse will remain in the park until the possibility of installing free standing washrooms is finalized.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Rowly Johnson, West End Citizens Action Network
- Duncan Wilson
- Steve Wansleeben
- Laurie Lee
- Linda Lawson
- Lori Brasil
- Christopher Pennell
- Mike Heller

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

- urge Board to approve the concept plan as presented this evening;
- would like fieldhouse demolished, it is a magnet for unsavoury activities;
- improved lighting is needed;
- would like to have more diagonal access;
- need to put aside enough money for this project;
- the diagonal path is the main transportation corridor, now it is gone;
- have a public consultation on the three plans;
- there are a lot of families in downtown, this option provides a playground and a playing field;
- make the water feature child-friendly;
- felt the residents' opinions were heard, time to create a safer and cleaner park;
- the fenced dog off leash area is too small, would like to have grass instead of gravel.

Board members thanked the community and staff for developing the plan, noting that the plan was a compromise to accommodate the needs of the whole community.

Moved by Commissioner De Genova,

THAT the Board approve the attached Durante Kreuk Ltd.'s conceptual design for Nelson Park as illustrated in this report.

- Carried Unanimously.

Memorial South Park Small Field House

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 13, 2006 recommending that the Board approve the decommissioning of the small field house and the area restored to green space.

Staff advised the Board that there is a larger fieldhouse with a washroom in Memorial South Park, and that the smaller fieldhouse is a surplus building and is in a dilapidated condition.

Moved by Commissioner De Genova,

- A. THAT Memorial South Park small field house is decommissioned and the area restored to green space;**
- B. THAT all arrangements be made to the satisfaction of the General Manager and Director of Legal Services.**

- Carried Unanimously.

NOTICE OF MOTION

The following notice of motion was put forward by Commissioner Herbert,

Whereas Park Board youth workers' primary role is in providing services to children and youth;

Whereas children, and youth have distinct needs which are often not considered when decisions are made at the political level;

Whereas children, and youth sometimes don't have the resources or confidence to advocate on their own behalf;

Whereas the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate worked with children and youth to define their needs, assist them with networking with community groups, politicians, and service providers like Park Board Youth workers in making their voices heard;

Therefore be it Resolved that the Park Board request Council to reconsider its decision on the elimination of the Child and Youth Advocate, and Youth Advocate Mentor position.

Commissioner Herbert requested to refer the motion to the next Board meeting on May 15 as there a number of young people who are interested to speak to the Board. The request was granted by the Chair.

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 pm

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Heather Holden
Chair