

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
HELD AT KENSINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE  
ON MONDAY, MAY 15, 2006**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>- Heather Holden</b>
	<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>- Ian Robertson</b>
	<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>- Allan De Genova</b>
		<b>- Spencer Herbert</b>
		<b>- Korina Houghton</b>
		<b>- Loretta Woodcock</b>
		<b>- Martin Zlotnik</b>
	<b>General Manager</b>	<b>- Susan Mundick</b>
	<b>Director of Planning and Operations</b>	<b>- Piet Rutgers</b>
	<b>Director of Queen Elizabeth District</b>	<b>- Liane McKenna</b>
	<b>Director of Stanley District</b>	<b>- Jim Lowden</b>
	<b>Director of Vancouver East District</b>	<b>- Lori MacKay</b>
	<b>Manager of Park Development</b>	<b>- Kate Davis Johnson</b>
	<b>Supervisor of Parks – Queen Elizabeth District</b>	<b>- Mike Mackintosh</b>
	<b>Business Analyst</b>	<b>- John Brossard</b>
	<b>Manager of Communications</b>	<b>- Joyce Courtney</b>
	<b>Recorder</b>	<b>- Julie Casanova</b>

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A member of the Board referred to page 3 of the minutes with regard to the Concession Strategy report. He stated that the last sentence should include the comment that a member of the Board was concerned with affordability and commercialisation. The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, May 01, 2006 were adopted as amended.

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair reported that Commissioner Spencer Herbert received the 2006 Youth Award in the Outstanding Youth 19-24 category at the Youth Awards Ceremony and Exhibition during Youth Week.

## City Council Report

The General Manager advised the Board that Council will be receiving a communication from the City Manager with regard to the City's involvement in celebrating international events, a report on Community Gardens and on replacing Firehall 15. The 2009 World Police and Fire Games Board will be making a presentation to Council at the City Services and Budget Committee.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Parks and Recreation Planning Committee:** The Planning Committee discussed the naming of the park site at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Osler and the GVRD Right of Way at Sunset Beach.

**Parks and Recreation Finance Committee:** The Finance Committee has not met since the last report at our previous meeting.

## PRESENTATION

### **2006 BCRPA Environmental Leadership Award**

The Director of Vancouver East District advised the Board that the Everett Crowley Park Management Plan was the recipient of the 2006 British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association Environmental Leadership Award. Staff worked with members of the community and community organizations to develop the future guide on park use and management of Everett Crowley Park. The award honours the plan and the people who advocate for the preservation of parks and the environment.

## OPEN QUESTION PERIOD

Terry Slack stated that he and his children had an unpleasant encounter with the baseball players at Chaldecott Park. He asked the Board to mark the field to identify a boundary to separate the baseball players and regular users of the park. Board members stated that marking the field would be a positive solution to the problem as encountered by Mr. Slack.

Susan Reimar, a neighbour of Jones Park, asked the Board to consider making improvements to the park, including better drainage, the children's play area, and adding additional garbage cans and a sign asking drivers to slow down. Board members thanked Ms. Reimar and will forward her request to staff for further review.

## Dogs Off-Leash

Board members received copies of a staff report dated April 24, 2006 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised the Board that proposals to extend off leash hours in two currently designated off leash parks and proposals to create three new off leash areas in Stanley Park, Devonian Park and Creekside Park were put out for consultation. The results of the consultation were discussed at the Board's Planning Committee.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Elizabeth Wilkinson, Vancouver Children's Safety Association
- Carol Konkin
- Don Larson

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

- need to accept responsibility to provide safety in parks, off leash areas are a problem;
- to increase hours for off leash areas is morally and ethically wrong;
- posting notices in winter months gives dog owners an advantage, results do not reflect all users;
- need more enforcement officers;
- the public consultation period was too short;
- issues should be dealt with by the dog task force;
- concerned with the quality of the process, numbers need to be recorded;
- safety is paramount for people on bikes, seniors and children;
- education and enforcement are important;
- notification was not appropriate, was surprised to hear this item was on the agenda;
- putting an ad in the paper does not work for people living in the Downtown Eastside;
- Ray Cam Community Centre has a strong concern as they run a summer program for children in Portside Park;

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

- A) THAT the Board extend the off leash hours at Cooper's and Portside (Crab) parks to all day use;
- B) THAT the Board refer the results of the public process for Stanley, Devonian and Creekside parks to the "Dog off leash task force" for review and recommendation.

Board members discussed the recommendation and comments provided by the delegations. A member of the Board stated that if Portside (Crab) Park is used by Ray Cam Community Centre for summer programming, he would suggest that this issue be referred to the dog task force. An amendment to the motion was recommended.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

**THAT the Board extend the off-leash hours at Cooper's Park to all day use and,**

**THAT the Board refer the decision of off leash hours at Portside (Crab) Park to the Dog Task Force.**

**- Carried Unanimously.**

A member of the Board stated that he would like City Council to be aware of the negative impact of the budget cut to the Animal Control program and would like to add another recommendation to the motion.

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

THAT Park Board staff prepare a report outlining the issue that Park Board faces around animal control and provide a report to Council.

**- DEFEATED.**

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

The amended main motion was put as follows:

**A. THAT the Board extend the off-leash hours at Cooper's Park to all day use and,**

**THAT the Board refer the decision of off leash hours at Portside (Crab) Park to the Dog Task Force;**

**B. THAT the Board refer the results of the public process for Stanley, Devonian and Creekside parks to the "Dog off leash task force" for review and recommendation.**

**- Carried Unanimously.**

## **Oak and 37<sup>th</sup> Park Site Design and Funding**

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 3, 2006 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff reviewed the design in detail for the park site at Oak and 37<sup>th</sup>. This design was supported by the majority of people who attended an open house to view and comment on the design.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Don Larson
- Terry Slack

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

- Park Board staff did an excellent job;
- came up with a win-win situation;
- the design plan saves the passive greenspace and bird habitat;
- hope park will be named after one of the bird species in the park;
- hope staff will transplant the trees carefully;
- good to see a sports field and passive area for people to enjoy;
- would like to see a newsletter with updates on the work being done;
- be considerate of the neighbours during construction.

Board members discussed the design plan and agreed with the delegations that staff have done a good process. Some Board members indicated that the idea of a newsletter was a good one and updates on the project could be provided to stakeholders via email.

Moved by Commissioner Zlotnik,

- A. That the design plan for the park site at Oak Street and 37th Avenue described in this report and illustrated in Appendix A be approved;**
- B. That the Board endorse the approach to identify potential sites for an interim BMX/mountain biking facility as presented in this report.**

**- Carried Unanimously.**

## **Replacement of Firehall Number 15**

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 12, 2006 recommending that the Board encourage City Council to seek options for the replacement of Firehall Number 15 that do not involve the use of Renfrew Park.

Staff advised the Board that there is a recommendation to Council to rebuild Firehall Number 15 in Renfrew Park. There is also interest in the community to retain the present building, some of the options involve the use of Renfrew Park. This building is not on the heritage inventory. Staff have explored these options and concluded that the potential use of parkland as identified in the scenarios are not within the mandate of the Board.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Bryan Young, Vice President, Renfrew Park Community Centre Association
- Bob Smith, Deputy Chief for Operations, Fire

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

- lack of community consultation regarding the demolition of the firehall;
- need to have a broader engagement of the community on this issue;
- the building is in need of a lot of repairs;
- have opportunities to locate the firehall elsewhere, but placement is important.

Board members discussed the replacement of Firehall 15 and suggested that Council explore other locations to site the new firehall as they were not in support of losing park space. A member of the Board disagreed and stated that this was a landmark and the Board should be willing to consider the transfer of greenspace and give the community a chance to save the building.

Moved by Commissioner De Genova,

**THAT the Board encourage City Council to seek options for the replacement of Firehall Number 15 that do not involve the use of Renfrew Park.**

**- Carried.**

(Commissioner Herbert contrary)

### **Prince of Whales Tour Boat Proposal**

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 4, 2006 recommending that the Board approve recommendation A to C.

The motion to put the recommendation on the table for discussion was not seconded.

Board members thanked the delegations and the operator for attending the meeting.

### **Stanley Park Heronry Management Report**

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 5, 2006 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff reviewed the Stanley Park Heronry Management Report with the Board by describing the habits and life cycle of this species which is known as a species of concern. The heronry in Stanley Park is unique as it is in a high traffic zone, and an activity guideline has been developed to compensate for the 60 feet buffer zone that is desired for the habitat of this species.

Board members congratulated staff on an excellent report and encouraged public participation and education to better understand the life habits of this species.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

- A. That the Board receive the accompanying Stanley Park Heronry Management Plan which identifies operational guidelines to be included as part of a developing program of wildlife management for Vancouver Parks;**
- B. That the Board approve in principle the recommendations presented in the plan for management and stewardship of the Stanley Park heron colony, recognizing that the species is protected by federal and provincial legislation.**

**- Carried Unanimously.**

**Park Board Pre 2000, 2000 – 2002, 2003-2005 Capital Plan Close Outs**

Board members received copies of a staff report dated May 5, 2006 recommending that the Board endorse the recommendation in the City Council Administrative Report “Park Board Pre 2000, 2000-2002, 2003-2005 Close Outs”.

Staff advised the Board that capital projects are reviewed periodically and completed projects are closed out and any source of funds are transferred to other projects to balance deficits. This periodic review improves the monitoring of project costs and ensures funds are available for all capital projects.

Moved by Commissioner Zlotnik,

**THAT the Board endorse the recommendation in the City Council Administrative Report “Park Board Pre 2000, 2000-2002, 2003-2005 Close Outs”.**

**- Carried Unanimously.**

**MOTION**

The following motion put forward by Commissioner Herbert was referred from the meeting of the Board held on Monday, May 01, 2006.

Moved 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.



Board members discussed the motion and a member of the Board stated that the Youth Advocate pushes youth issues onto agendas and works to ensure that youth are not forgotten. Board members discussed the reporting structure for the Youth Advocate position and were advised that the Youth Advocate reported directly to Council. Members of the Board felt that Park Board youth workers are on the front line with youth and we engage them through various programs offered through the community centres.

The motion was put forward and it was DEFEATED.  
(Commissioners Holden, Houghton, Robertson and Zlotnik contrary)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

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Susan Mundick  
General Manager

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Commissioner Heather Holden  
Chair