

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2007**

PRESENT:	Vice Chair	- Korina Houghton
	Commissioners	- Allan De Genova
		- Spencer Herbert
		- Heather Holden
		- Loretta Woodcock
		- Martin Zlotnik
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Planning and Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Stanley District	- Jim Lowden
	Director of Corporate Services	- Anita Ho
	Manager of Operations – Stanley District	- Bill Manning
	Research Planner	- Michel Desrochers
	Coordinator Sports Fields and Diamonds	- Doug Taylor
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

Commissioner Robertson was absent from the meeting as his mother passed away on the weekend. Board members offered their condolences to Commissioner Robertson and his family.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, December 11, 2006 were adopted as circulated.

The minutes of the special meeting of the Board held on Monday, January 08, 2007 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Vice-Chair reported that the major storms over the last month caused a lot of devastation in Stanley Park, VanDusen Garden and toppled a lot of trees in city parks and streets. She thanked the staff for their hard work and quick response to secure and clean Stanley Park. The Vice-Chair thanked the stakeholders in the park for their patience as staff assessed the damage. She extended the Board's appreciation to Commissioner Holden who secured a donation of \$300,000 from HSBC towards the restoration of Stanley Park. The Vice-Chair also extended the Board's appreciation to Commissioner

De Genova for organising fundraisers including the very successful Global Telethon. With an eventful start to 2007 she looks forward to new initiatives in Stanley Park and other parks and recreation facilities for the well being of the citizens of Vancouver.

City Council Report

Council approved a Project Civil City motion at its December 12 meeting, this motion speaks to homelessness, panhandling and other social issues. The General Manager has been appointed to this task force. Council will be receiving a report on the 2007 Operating Budget – Major Initiatives, and the City Services and Budget Committee will be receiving reports on Annual Event Guidelines – Honours/Awards and National/International Events and Development Cost Levies in South East False Creek (SEFC) and consolidation and modernization of Area-Specific Development Cost Levy by-laws.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Planning Committee: the Committee discussed skateboard initiatives at Leaside tunnel and the Downtown skate park and the status of the pools at Mount Pleasant and Sunset.

Parks and Recreation Finance Committee: the next meeting will be on Monday, January 22, 2007.

PRESENTATION

The Stanley Park Ecology Society presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Board for their generous support and ongoing commitment to help them connect people with nature.

Vancouver's Vital Signs

Faye Wightman, President and CEO of the Vancouver Foundation presented *Vancouver's Vital Signs* to the Board. Vancouver's Vital Signs is a snapshot of the wellness and livability of the City as part of a national Vital Signs initiative of Community Foundations of Canada. The research examined 12 key areas on the liveability of Vancouver. A group of about 200 Vancouverites were asked to identify two top priorities that needed to be addressed with each key area. A survey on the quality of life in Vancouver was conducted by Ipsos Reid and nearly all those surveyed rated the quality of life as being good or very good. There is also awareness of the challenges faced by Vancouver such as homelessness, poverty and the need for affordable housing.

STAFF REPORTS

Stanley Park Forest: Preparation of Restoration Plan

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 9, 2007 recommending that the Board approve the preparation of a restoration plan for the Stanley Park forest as outlined in the report.

Staff advised the Board that on December 15, 2006 a major windstorm damaged about 41 hectares of Stanley Park. Two areas comprising more than half the damaged area lie between Third Beach and Prospect Point. This area presents a unique problem as the cliffs and steep embankments above the seawall have many downed and hung up trees and rootballs. Their instability makes the seawall unsafe and their removal will be a slow process. The seawall has also been damaged by high waves and will require repair. Stanley Park is a managed forest and is enjoyed by thousands of people every year. All park roads have been reopened but the damaged trees close to the roads and trails will need assessment and removal. A recovery plan is being proposed to re-establish safe public access to all of the park as soon as possible and create a recovery plan for the park that sets out the community vision for the recovery and the method to achieve it. The clean up costs are significant and were not planned in the budget. A fundraising program is underway from higher levels of government and private and corporate donors for the Stanley Park Restoration Project.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

1. Bob Whitney, CUPE Local 1004
2. Eleanor Hadley
3. Jim Cuthbert, Western Canada Wilderness Committee
4. Kaytlin Cooper, Western Canada Wilderness Committee
5. John Nightingale, Vancouver Aquarium
6. Ron Rothwell
7. David Cook
8. Peter Woods
9. Patricia Thomson, Executive Director, Stanley Park Ecology Society
10. Stuart Mackinnon, Green Party of Vancouver

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

- CUPE Local 1004 toured the park and was surprised at the amount of damage in Stanley Park;
- Local 1004 does not oppose contractors removing the big logs;
- restoration plan by staff is reasonable; replanting could be done by CUPE Local 1004 members, would like to see their members employed rather than have volunteers;

- they are not opposed to volunteers but would like to see the job done well;
- Park Board and staff have ignored the mandate for Stanley Park and gave away free Stanley Park land to the Aquarium;
- return Stanley Park to its natural state;
- Stanley Park has been gradually destroyed with roads and Aquarium expansion;
- the trees were diseased and unhealthy, park has been neglected and mismanaged;
- the restoration plan must be compatible with the commemorative statement;
- leave the wood and let nature take its course, allow natural regeneration;
- congratulate park staff on a tremendous job which is outside their scope;
- staff have put together an excellent plan which recognises community issues;
- take the Halifax approach, take it slow;
- encouraged with public response and congratulate the Park Board and staff;
- Stanley Park has many friends and a managed forest, do nothing is not enough;
- park needs to be maintained and cliffs stabilized;
- physical removal of the trees will cause damage to the root system, leave the logs there to return nutrients to the soil;
- worst hit areas must be replanted but leave the fallen timber;
- Stanley Park is a dedicated national historic site, ecological management was specified;
- Stanley Park Ecological Society encouraged with the assistance they received from staff;
- there will be a huge diversity of ideas, however, must be careful with what is brought back into the park;
- idea of a steering committee is good, do nothing is not a choice;
- ideas should be drawn from both profit and non profit groups;
- would advocate a natural process and watch it heal itself naturally;
- need a comprehensive and long term master plan;
- let staff do what they plan and do not be influenced by self interest groups.

Board members thanked the delegations for their input and discussed the time line for the public consultation process. They were pleased with the systematic approach and thanked staff for their tireless work in the cold weather.

Moved by Commissioner Holden,

THAT the Board approve the preparation of a restoration plan for the Stanley Park forest, as outlined in this report.

- **Carried Unanimously.**

Park Improvement – Victoria Park

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 2, 2007 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised the Board that two conceptual plans were discussed at an open house and the significant difference was the location of the bocce courts. Although there are concerns about the association of alcohol use and bocce courts in the park, there was overwhelming support for retaining the bocce courts. The community police officers have been involved and they are supportive of the proposed improvements. The existing washroom will be renovated to improve accessibility, and generally upgraded.

James Evans, resident, appeared before the Board to support staff's recommendation and he looks forward to construction.

Board members were pleased with the design which will improve safety and commended staff on their ability to retain the washroom facility in the park.

Moved by Commissioner Holden,

- A. THAT the Board approve the attached conceptual design for Victoria Park as illustrated in this report (Appendix 2);**
- B. THAT the Board reserve \$50,000 in the 2007 Capital Budget field house account for the upgrade of the washrooms in Victoria Park.**

- **Carried Unanimously.**

English Bay Bistro

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 5, 2007 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised the Board that the Concession Strategy Study includes the development of a new bistro to replace the existing concession at English Bay. A Request for Expression of Interest was advertised and Acton Ostry Architects Inc. was selected for the design of the English Bay Bistro project.

Aaron Jasper, West End Residents Association, stated that the bistro proposal is a changed use in English Bay and should be brought to a public consultation to gather opinion on whether the public would like to have a bistro at English Bay.

Board members discussed the issue and were glad to see the next step in the concession strategy. Acton Ostry is a good architectural firm and Board members look forward to their unique design. A member of the Board was concerned with the cost of food services to families and cannot support the project when she did not have a full discussion on what type of facility it would be.

Moved by Commissioner Zlotnik,

- A. THAT the Board award a contract for architectural services for the new English Bay Bistro, up to and including all submissions required for approval of a Development Permit, to Acton Ostry Architects Inc. for a fixed fee of \$59,000, plus GST and disbursements;**
- B. THAT no legal rights shall arise hereby, and none shall arise until execution of the contemplated contract. The Board may rescind this resolution at any time up to the execution of the contemplated contract.**

A member of the Board stated that he was interested in the proposal, however was concerned about a public consultation process. He did not want to see a repeat of the problems encountered during the construction of the restaurant at Kits Beach. An amendment to the motion was proposed.

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

THAT motion A and B be deleted and replaced with:
THAT the Park Board consult the West End residents on the proposed English Bay Bistro before awarding contracts for architectural services for the new English Bay Bistro.

Board members discussed the amendment motion and stated that this was a different situation than the Watermark. It would be more meaningful to go out to the community with a design.

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

The main motion was put forward and it was Carried.
(Commissioner Woodcock contrary)

Andy Livingstone Playfield

Board members received copies of staff report dated January 5, 2007 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff reviewed the conditions of Andy Livingstone playfield and stated that a change in the turf would provide greater use of the field and continued use of the lighting system. The restoration of this field will cost \$1.5 million and the park is located in an area which is not eligible for citywide DCL funding. Funding from Community Amenity Contributions could be used if available. Other sources of funding could be from the payment in lieu of developing a community centre adjacent to the Firenze complex.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Jeff Malmgren, Vancouver Fields Sports Federation
- Randy Brophy, Point Grey Soccer Association
- Celia Plottel

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

- encourage the Board to support staff's recommendation;
- support the new infill, field can be used for all types of field sports;
- VFSF members will help to find funding;
- there is a huge number of soccer players underserved;
- Vancouver has the least amount of turf fields compared to other neighbouring municipalities;
- youth soccer participation is big and we need a place to play;
- would like to see field hockey back at Andy Livingstone.

Board members discussed the issue and, referring to the different field sports interested in playing on Andy Livingstone, and suggested that the sports group should meet and develop an assessment of what turf(s) work for different sports. .

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

- A. THAT the artificial fields at Andy Livingstone Park be replaced with an infill type artificial surface;**
- B. THAT staff be instructed to identify a source of funding to proceed with this project.**

- Carried Unanimously.

China Creek Park: Concept Plan for Park Upgrade

Board members received copies of a staff report dated January 5, 2007 recommending that the Board approve the Concept Plan for upgrading China Creek South Park.

Staff reviewed the concept plan for upgrading China Creek Park. The plan was discussed at community meetings and the Parks and Recreation Planning Committee meeting. The plan preserves key park features and replaces aging ones. In order to balance the needs of the skateboarders and residents, the skateboard facility will be modified by removing the noisiest elements and constructing a grassy berm to buffer noise from the skateboard bowls

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Gavin Ross
- Jeff Chan
- Howard Redekopp
- Edward Dinter

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

- support recommendation for option 1;
- don't see the need to set conditions regarding the skateboard bowl;
- not enough activity for older pre teens and teens;
- rails around the bowl are not a problem;
- thank the Board for support to retain the skateboard bowl;
- proud of the park, know that park rejuvenating;
- have a plaque to commemorate the historic value of the park;
- ensure ramps not a problem later;
- there are problems associated with the washrooms;
- need some peace during summer evenings;
- would like neighbourhood and boarders to work together.

Board members thanked the delegations and stated that the community has developed around this park and need to look for capital dollars for ongoing restoration of this park. Board members thanked staff for working hard to steer this through.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board approve the Concept Plan, as described in this report and illustrated in Appendix A, for upgrading China Creek South Park.

- Carried Unanimously.

Park Naming – Selkirk Street and 72nd Avenue Park Site

Board members received copies of a staff report dated December 14, 2006 recommending that the Board approve one of the names for the park site at West 72nd Avenue, Selkirk and Osler Streets.

Staff advised the Board that according to the park naming guidelines there are two general categories, one is based on the geographic (or constant) feature and the other is commemorative. During the design phase of the park some members of the community suggested that the name of the park reflect the historical significance of the neighbourhood which was home to a significant community of Japanese fishermen.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Don Larson
- Graeme Brownlee
- Stuart Mackinnon, Green Party of Vancouver

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

- long time resident of Marpole, strongly support the name Gyoson Park;
- the name will acknowledge the history of Marpole;
- thanked the Board for creating the park;
- staff have done a good job at the park;
- many names were discussed, Gyoson Park is a perfect name;
- Gyoson recognise a feature of Marpole;
- Joy Kowgawa was recently acknowledged for her book Obasan;
- Obasan Park will be a fitting tribute.

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

THAT the Board approve one of the following names for the park site at West 72nd Avenue, Selkirk and Osler Streets:

- Selkirk Park
- Or
- Gyoson Park

Board members discussed the issue and a member of the Board stated that the Marpole Oakridge Community Association would prefer to name the park after David Suzuki.

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

THAT the Board approve David Suzuki Park for the park site at West 72nd Avenue, Selkirk and Osler Streets.

Board members discussed the amendment motion and stated that there are numerous names that can be considered and the Board should engage in a full discussion for all the names.

Moved by Commissioner Holden,

THAT the amendment motion be referred to the Planning Committee for further discussion.

- Carried Unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

THAT the report on Park Naming – Selkirk Street and 72nd Avenue Park Site be referred to the Planning Committee.

- Carried Unanimously.

A member of the Board requested that in consideration of the delegations waiting to speak to the Motion the agenda be re-arranged.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the agenda items be re-arranged and the Motion be brought forward for discussion.

- Carried Unanimously.

MOTIONS

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

THAT the Board reconsider the October 30, 2006 Park Board resolution to raise marina fees by approximately 15% for all slips at the Burrard Marina.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Jacqueline Roussin
- Heather Wylie

- Leane Neufeld
- Glen Mitchell

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

- 15% increase is against the law, rent increases should be at 4%;
- increase in rate will reduce participation in people who want to learn to sail;
- need to introduce children to the sport of sailing, but cannot afford to sail;
- the moorage fees are subsidizing other programs;
- would never have questioned a rate hike but this is too high;
- inflation has not gone up by 15%;
- docks have not received maintenance for a number of years;
- manner in which the hike was presented was disappointing;
- no proper consultation, only a notice at the entrance to the marina;
- discouraged with the Board's action;
- fairness is part of Park Board's strategic plan, everyone should be treated fairly.

Board members discussed the issue and a member of the Board stated that the boaters will no longer be able to afford their sport. The Vice Chair advised the Board that information on this issue is being brought back to the Finance Committee. The General Manager advised the Board that this matter was referred from the meeting of the Board on December 11, 2006 to the Finance Committee.

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

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

Whereas at the October 30, 2006 Park Board meeting, moorage costs at Burrard Marina were increased up to 15.35% and the 10% seniors discount eliminated;

Whereas deficiencies in upgrading and repairing moorage facilities have been noted;

Be it resolved that staff be instructed, in conjunction with boat owners at Burrard Marina, to explore in greater detail, an overall marina strategy that includes maintenance and capital improvements and pricing, while at the same time maintaining or increasing future revenues at Burrard Marina.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Sean Smith
- Don Evans
- Jordan Dobrikin

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

- the Board is making a profit from the marina;
- they would like to have a greater input on how rates are set;
- how did the Board decide on a 15% rate increase;
- no notification of the increase;
- not a lot of improvement at Burrard Marina,
- a lot of money was spent on consultant studies;
- Board should completely revisit Burrard Marina and revamp the management of the marina.

The Vice Chair advised the delegations that this issue is being discussed at the Finance Committee.

The motion was put and it was DEFEATED.
(Commissioner Holden, Houghton and Zlotnik contrary)

STAFF REPORT

Implementation of 311 Service in Vancouver

Board members received copies of a staff report dated December 14, 2006 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised the Board that in endorsing the policy objective for the implementation of 311 service in Vancouver the current level of citizen services are protected while taking the opportunity to enhance the citizen's access to information.

Board members discussed the service and a member of the Board stated that although she supports customer service, she does not support a large capital cost and there are insufficient operating budget details in the capital plan. This will increase taxes and impact community centre service and potentially their operating budget.

Moved by Commissioner Zlotnik,

- A. That the Board receive the attached Council report for information; and**

- B. That the Board endorse the policy objective that all citizen services that can be delivered using the 311 model be accessible through the new service centre unless transitioning the process to 311 would result in diminished service to citizens.**

- Carried.

(Commissioner Woodcock contrary)

Administrative Report – Position Changes

Board members received copies of a staff report dated December 14, 2006 recommending that the Board approve the deletion of one regular full-time position, the creation of three regular full-time positions and one regular part-time position with the source of funds listed in the report.

Staff advised the Board that in order to provide appropriate staffing levels to provide service to the public and the Board's changing priorities, reviews of positions are done periodically. The creation and deletion of positions listed in the report supports the need of the organization.

Moved by Commissioner Zlotnik,

THAT the Board approve the deletion of one regular full-time position, the creation of three regular full-time positions, and the creation of one regular part-time position, with the source of funds as indicated below.

- Carried Unanimously.

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A member of the Board commented that it was punitive to restrict the time allowed to a late delegation.

A member of the Board stated that motions should be available on the website faster.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Korina Houghton
Vice Chair