

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2007**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Ian Robertson
	Vice Chair	- Korina Houghton
	Commissioners	- Allan De Genova
		- Spencer Herbert
		- Martin Zlotnik
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Planning and Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Lori MacKay
	Acting Director of Stanley District	- Bill Manning
	Manager of Planning and Research	- Mark Vulliamy
	Manager of Recreation Services – Stanley District	- Greg Eng
	Supervisor of Maintenance Management	- Ian Harvey
	Coordinator of Special Events	- Daisy Chin
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

Commissioners Holden and Woodcock were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, February 12, 2007 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported that a few Board members attended the ground breaking for the Hillcrest Curling Venue and Percy Norman Aquatic Centre site. The event was well attended and included Premier Gordon Campbell, Minister David Emerson, Minister for International Trade, the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics and Industry, Chief Leah George, representative of the Four Host First Nations, Mayor Sam Sullivan, Jack Poole, Chairman of the Vancouver 2010 Board of Directors and many residents. The Chair thanked staff for organizing a spectacular event.

City Council Report

Council will be receiving a report on the 2007 Operating Budget Interim Estimates. The Planning and Environment Committee will be receiving a report regarding the two year trial review of the Downtown Skateboard Plaza. The City Services and Budgets

Committee will be receiving a report back on Phase 1 (Upgrade to Work to City Hall) and Phase 2 (Park Board Energy Performance Contract) of the Green House Gas Reduction Strategy – Corporate Climate Action Plan.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Planning Committee: report from the Parks and Recreation Planning Committee was postponed as the Chair of the committee was absent from the meeting.

Parks and Recreation Finance Committee: the committee discussed the 2007 operating budget and capital projects. The Chair of the committee made a presentation to Council regarding the 2007 operating budget.

PRESENTATION

Chris Woods, Director of VanDusen Botanical Garden, advised the Board that VanDusen Botanical Garden received the National Award of Landscape Excellence, Project Evergreen Stewardship Award presented by the BC Landscape and Nursery Association. The Chair thanked Mr. Woods for his presentation and asked him to share this award with staff at VanDusen Botanical Garden.

STAFF REPORTS

Downtown Skate Plaza – Trial Period Review

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 14, 2007 recommending that the Board endorse the ongoing retention of the Downtown Skateboard Plaza on the terms described in the companion Council report.

Staff advised the Board that the Downtown Skateboard Plaza was installed on a trial basis, subject to an evaluation and report back after two years of operation. The review has found that the plaza is heavily used and supported by a majority in the community. There are some concerns regarding the skateboarding traffic to and from the plaza along the Quebec Street east sidewalk. Staff have worked to encourage stewardship amongst the users and to build a positive relationship with the surrounding community. The heavy use of the plaza reinforces the need to support this recreational activity and the need to retain the present facility.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Travis Cutler, Past President Vancouver Skatepark Coalition
- Martin Collacott, City Gate Residents Representative

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

- thank everyone who made this skatepark in downtown possible;
- healthy environment for skateboarders to be at;
- facility is popular with the younger people who enjoy their independence;
- the skatepark is a gift to the skateboarding community;
- the users are diverse, come from all backgrounds;
- used to be harassed by the police, but not at the skatepark;
- skateboarding is a useful activity for the youth, however, concerned with the noise and safety issue;
- appreciate that the skateboarding association does its best to respect the rules;
- need to encourage the skaters to use the other side of Quebec Street across from the residences;
- until the skaters stop skateboarding in front of City Gate residences, the skate plaza should not be made permanent.

Board members discussed the issue and stated that they support the skate park being retained, however, the skateboard coalition needs to address the concerns of skateboarding on the sidewalk and a stronger effort should be made to control the noise.

Moved by Commissioner Houghton,

THAT the Board endorse the ongoing retention of the Downtown Skateboard Plaza on the terms described in the companion Council report dated February 13, 2007.

- Carried Unanimously.

Park Board CO2 Reduction Strategy

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 8, 2007 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised the Board that as part of the Corporate Climate Change Action Plan to reduce Green House Gas emissions by 20% by 2010, aging facilities will be retrofitted with more energy efficient technologies. The project will be funded by a loan paid by the City. This will not be a Park Board serviced loan rather, the City will cover the loan payments by the reduction in utility costs.

Eleanor Hadley appeared before the Board and stated that there was no consideration for emission control in Stanley Park in the staff report. The number of vehicles in Stanley Park has increased and emissions from these vehicles have made it impossible to sit in the Rose Gardens. The number of vehicles and especially the tour buses going through Stanley Park should be reduced.

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

- A. THAT the Board endorse recommendations A, B,C & D in the attached Council report entitled Corporate Climate Change Action Plan Phase 2 (Park Board Energy Performance Contract) dated February 1, 2007 (Appendix 1);
- B. THAT the Board reserve \$310,000 from the 2007 Major Maintenance account – Community Centres \$130,000, Rinks \$60,000 and Pools \$120,000 – to contribute to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction program.

Board members discussed the issue and a member of the Board stated that though he was excited to see a plan to reduce 20% of green house gas, however, he felt that 80% was a burden on future generations, the Board needs to provide a leadership role in setting a target to become carbon neutral. An amendment to the motion was suggested.

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

THAT recommendation C be added to the motion as follows:

- C. THAT the Board direct staff to prepare a phased plan for the Board's consideration to make the Park Board's corporate operations carbon neutral.

Board members discussed the amendment motion and questioned staff on how the proposed direction would work. The General Manager advised the Board that Council and the Park Board adopted a corporate climate change strategy, and the Park Board is working towards the objectives in this plan. This is a new direction and staff would need to research and report back to the Board on the impact. Some Board members stated that though they support the idea, it is unreasonable to develop something in isolation.

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

Another amendment to add a recommendation C was proposed.

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

THAT in buildings not captured by this renewal program and greenhouse gas reduction strategy, that staff be encouraged to explore further reductions in emissions when buildings, and or mechanical plants breakdown or are in need of repair.

After further discussion, a member of the Board stated that the Board should encourage staff to explore further reductions in emissions when retrofitting smaller buildings not covered under the renewal program. The Director of Planning and Operations advised the Board that staff already consider energy efficient strategies when retrofitting smaller buildings.

The amendment motion was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

The main motion as amended was put forward:

- A. THAT the Board endorse recommendations A, B, C and D in the attached Council report entitled Corporate Climate Change Action Plan Phase 2 (Park Board Energy Performance Contract) dated February 1, 2007 (Appendix I).**
- B. THAT the Board reserve \$310,000 from the 2007 Major Maintenance account – Community Centres \$130,000, Rinks \$60,000 and Pools \$120,000 – to contribute to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction program.**
- C. THAT in buildings not captured by this renewal program and greenhouse gas reduction strategy, that staff be encouraged to explore further reductions in emissions when buildings, and or mechanical plants breakdown or are in need of repair.**

- Carried Unanimously.

2007 ITU Triathlon World Cup

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 15, 2007 recommending that the Board approve the use of Ceperley Park on June 6 to 10, 2007 and the partial road closure in Stanley Park on June 10, 2007, 6:00 am to 6:00 pm for the 2007 International Triathlon Union World Cup event.

Staff advised the Board that the International Triathlon Union, the governing body for the Olympic sport of Triathlon, have requested the use of Ceperley Park to host the 2007 World Cup in Vancouver. The partial closure of Park Drive from 2nd Beach Pool to the Beach Avenue entrance would be required on event day. This closure would affect some of the stakeholders in the park. The organizers have contacted the majority of stakeholders to mitigate the impact to the various facilities affected by the extended road closure.

Board members discussed the event and commended staff on working with the organizers within a short time frame. This event fits well with the Active Communities program.

Moved by Commissioner Houghton,

THAT the Board approve the use of Ceperley Park from June 6 to 10, 2007 and the partial road closure in Stanley Park on June 10, 2007, 6:00 am to 6:00 pm for the 2007 International Triathlon Union World Cup event. All arrangements will be to the satisfaction of the General Manager.

- Carried Unanimously.

In-Camera Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Zlotnik,

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:

- (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the city or another position appointed by the city.**

- Carried Unanimously.

In-Camera Session

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A member of the Board requested an update on the status of the leak which shut down the Aquatic Centre.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Ian Robertson
Chair