

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2007**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Ian Robertson
	Vice Chair	- Korina Houghton
	Commissioners	- Allan De Genova
		- Spencer Herbert
		- Heather Holden
		- Loretta Woodcock
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Planning and Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Director of Stanley District	- Jim Lowden
	Director of Vancouver East District	- Liane McKenna
	Manager of Operations – Stanley District	- Bill Manning
	Manager of Facility Development	- Rudy Roelofsen
	Manager of Major Maintenance	- John Grant
	Manager of Planning and Research	- Mark Vulliamy
	Manager of Revenue Services	- Philip Josephs
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

Commissioner Zlotnik was absent from the meeting.

The Chair advised the Board that the General Manager has advised that there is an error in the Park Board 2007 Capital Budget staff report and sought the Board's concurrence to refer the report to the April 2 meeting of the Board.

The Report was referred to the April 2 meeting of the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, February 26 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported that he attended the dedication of a Tai Chi Arbor at Queen Elizabeth Park hosted by a generous benefactor who contributed towards the construction of an arbour in memory of her late husband.

City Council Report

Council will be receiving a report on the Oakridge Centre Policy Statement for future zoning and development of the mall and neighbourhood.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Planning Committee: the Committee discussed the EcoDensity Initiative, Southeast False Creek Community Centre and Trout Lake Rink design, McCleery Golf Course/Southlands Riding Club and a proposal for an observation tower in Queen Elizabeth Park.

Parks and Recreation Finance Committee: no report as the Chair of the Finance Committee was absent.

PRESENTATION

The Chair on behalf of the Board presented a cheque for \$173,058, proceeds from the annual Bright Nights in Stanley Park event to the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund. The Chair thanked the volunteers, sponsors and donors for a successful event despite the storm in December.

Ray Boucher, Chair, Bright Nights, BC Firefighters Committee and Ken Mollan, BC Firefighters Burn Fund thanked the Board for their partnership and a successful event. This is a major fund raiser for the burn fund, the proceeds go toward a camp for burn survivors.

STAFF REPORTS

Trout Lake Arena Design / Funding

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 2, 2007 recommending that the Board approve the development permit schematic design plans for Trout Lake Ice Rink and Trout Lake Community Centre.

Staff advised the Board that the schematic design is now final and ready to be submitted for a development permit. Walter Francl, the architect for the project, presented the schematic design for the ice rink reconstruction and the future community centre replacement. The architect reviewed the structure of the ice rink and the space within the new building and how it will complement the community centre.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Chris Payne, President, Grandview Community Association
- Tim Ames, Building Committee, Grandview Community Association
- Joe Czvekovitch

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

- generally supports the plan, however, does not support the reduction of square footage in order to cut cost;
- the architect and staff have done a tremendous job;
- the association is willing to contribute \$250,000 towards the cost for building the ice rink;
- the association will commit to a fund raising campaign on the condition that the design will go ahead without any reduction in size and space, the association will be consulted and acknowledged for their efforts;
- Grandview does not have any parking or bingo revenue, but they are committed to meet the users' needs;
- as a member of the building committee he has not seen the figures and drawings before tonight;
- lowering the square footage and removing the skaters' lounge is a mistake;
- the size planned for the community centre is too small, Grandview is a growing community
- thank the Board for a \$12.5 million project in East Vancouver.

Board members commended staff and the architects for working well within the budgetary constraints and thanked the Grandview Association for their monetary contribution and the willingness to fund raise. A member of the Board stated that there should be more contribution from VANOC and she liked that staff were exploring an in kind contribution from them. A member of the Board stated that although there are difficulties with costs we should hear what the user groups and the Association have to say.

Moved by Commissioner Houghton,

THAT the Board approve the development permit schematic design plans for Trout Lake Ice Rink, as illustrated in Appendix A, and the schematic design for a future new Trout Lake Community Centre, as illustrated in Appendix B.

- Carried Unanimously.

Stanley Park Restoration: Update on Activities and Community Consultation

Board members received copies of a staff report dated March 2, 2007 recommending that the Board receive the report for information.

Staff provided an update on the recent activities and community consultation around the restoration of the parts of Stanley Park destroyed by a windstorm in December 2006. An inter-disciplinary staff team is assisting with preparation of the Restoration Plan. Crews continue to clean up and a comprehensive mapping and analysis of the park has begun. Through a series of questions on the web site and in newspaper ads, the public

is being asked for their advice on shaping the upcoming recovery plan and a telephone survey will also be conducted. A report on the restoration plan will be brought to the Board in April.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Eleanor Hadley
- Ralf Kelman
- Joe Czvetkovich

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

- sustainable is a word used to cover up inappropriate actions;
- Stanley Park should be returned to its natural state;
- dense shrubberies should be cleaned up;
- the trees were blown due to bad management and too much development in the park;
- the Big Tree Committee is a group under the Ministry of Environment;
- the tree clearing crews do not have enough information to guide them;
- need an inventory of big trees to provide guidance;
- the Big Tree Committee would like to join the restoration work;
- develop a strategy for an inventory of trees in the park;
- urge you to not take out any trails and recycle the wood;
- interested citizen would like to be considered to help with the committee for restoration of Stanley Park.

Board members thanked staff for the update and were impressed with the work done on information gathering, analysis, mapping and community involvement to restore Stanley Park.

Moved by Commissioner Houghton,

THAT the Board receive this report for information.

- Carried Unanimously.

Storm Damaged Park and Street Trees – Citywide

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 21, 2007 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to C.

Staff advised the Board that the heavy snowfall in November 2006 and the wind storm in December, 2006 and January 2007 damaged and destroyed a large number of street trees and trees in parks and VanDusen Garden. Due to the limited ability of the district horticultural maintenance budget to implement an effective replacement program a one time funding from the Corporate Sponsorship program is proposed.

Recess was called at 8:42 p.m. and the Board reconvened at 8:49 p.m.

Eleanor Hadley appeared before the Board and stated that the damage to Stanley Park was man made and related to the mismanagement of the park. There are too many dogs and vehicles in the park polluting the trees. There should be security in the park and the park should be returned to the people for their enjoyment.

Board members discussed the issue and a member of the Board stated that he went on a tour with the City Arborist to look at the damage and was encouraged with the work done by staff.

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

- A. **THAT the Board adopt the Park and Street Tree Recovery Initiative as outlined in this report;**
- B. **THAT the Board approve \$50,000 from the Corporate Sponsorship Fund for the City wide park tree recovery program;**
- C. **THAT the Board approve \$50,000 from the Corporate Sponsorship Fund for the VanDusen Botanical Garden recovery program as the Park Board contribution towards an anticipated jointly funded program with the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Park Board 2000 to 2002 and 2003 to 2005 Capital Plan Close Outs

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 27, 2007 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised the Board that the process of periodic monitoring of capital projects ensures ongoing compliance to financial policies and identifies funds that can be transferred to other projects to balance deficits and surpluses.

Eleanor Hadley appeared before the Board and stated that the amount of \$400,000 being transferred to a 2010 project should be dedicated to Stanley Park instead. The Board is commercialising Stanley Park to pay for the damage.

Board members stated that staff did an impressive job in trying to get as many projects done as possible.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

- A. THAT the Board approve and request that Council close out and make the transfers between Park Board capital projects as outlined in this report.**
- B. THAT the Board approve and request that Council transfer funding of \$176,367 in Development Cost Levies (“DCL”) for Phase I of Emery Barnes Park in Downtown South as described in this report and close out this project.**

- Carried Unanimously.

MOTIONS

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

Whereas it is estimated that there are over 60,000 dogs in Vancouver’s city limits;

Whereas the dog waste produced is estimated at over 26,000 pounds per day;

Whereas much of this ends up in the landfill;

Whereas Portland is currently investigating treating the dog waste created in their dog parks in the sewage system;

Whereas San Francisco is currently looking at turning dog waste into bio fuel to heat homes;

Whereas Lees and Associates has prepared an excellent report on the possibility of dog waste composting at Everett Crowley Park;

Therefore be it resolved that the Park Board request staff to prepare a report on current work relating to the environmentally friendly disposal of dog waste with some next steps laid out for the Planning Committee’s consideration.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Celena Benndorf, Informed Citizens Advocating for Responsibility and Enforcement
- Megan Carvell-Davis
- David Rotsztain

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

- support the motion;
- dog droppings are a primary cause of e. coli;
- there is a pilot project in Everett Crowley Park composting dog waste, is there a cost involved, where is the money coming from?
- would be admirable for the Park Board to take this initiative;
- even if dog owners pick up there are still traces left behind which gets into the storm sewer;
- main contributor to water contamination;
- dog waste recycling could be tied in to licensing;
- create a relationship between animal control and Park Board for funding;
- GVRD has a zero waste policy;
- suggest GVRD and Park Board do a joint project;
- proper composting eliminates the spread of disease;
- will be added responsibility for dog owners;
- composting of dog waste should not be done at home but in a park in a controlled environment.

Board members discussed the issue and a member of the Board stated that other cities such as Portland, San Francisco and Ottawa are looking at the dog waste composting program. There is already a pilot project at Everett Crowley Park and he has been approached by businesses and environmental groups to environmentally dispose of dog waste. Some members of the Board considered this motion inappropriate as a report from the Dog Task Force and the Everett Crowley Park project was expected in the future.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Ian Robertson
Chair