

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 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 Vancouver East District	- Liane McKenna
	Director of Corporate Services	- Anita Ho
	Director of Special Projects	- Jim Lowden
	Director of Planning and Operations	- Piet Rutgers
	Manager of Facility Development	- Rudy Roelofsen
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

Commissioner Zlotnik was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, October 29, 2007 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on the Remembrance Day ceremony held at the Japanese Monument in Stanley Park on November 11, and the temporary re-opening of the Stanley Park Seawall on November 16.

Parks and Recreation Planning Committee - the Committee received an update on non-motorised boating in False Creek and playing fields status.

Parks and Recreation Finance Committee – the Committee discussed the 2008 Operating Budget and the 2009-11 Capital Budget.

STAFF REPORTS

Active Communities Vancouver Progress Report

Board members received copies of a staff report dated November 15, 2007 recommending that the Board receive the report for information and that staff continue to work with the Active Communities Network to ensure the widest possible implementation of the goal to increase activity levels of citizens “20% more by 2010”.

Moved by Commissioner Holden,

THAT the Board receive the Active Communities Vancouver progress report for information.

THAT staff continue to work closely with our Vancouver Active Communities Network (VACNet) partners to ensure the widest possible implementation of the goal to increase activity levels of citizens “20% More By 2010”.

Staff advised the Board that the Active Communities Progress Report will be received by Council at its City Services and Budget Committee on Thursday, December 13, 2007. The progress report describes the implementation of the Active Communities Vancouver action plan in 2007 and outlines priority objectives for 2008. The Active Communities Vancouver initiative provides the structure and programs to showcase the City’s commitment to active living and enable Vancouver to be one of the healthiest municipalities to host an Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

1. Sharon Urton, Co-Chair, VAC Net
2. Nicholas Foxcoft
3. Russel Black
4. Rhonda Alvarez
5. Dale Albertson
6. Chris McNally
7. Julie Marzolf

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

- there is social, health and economic benefits with this program;
- wants to be the healthiest city to host the Olympics;
- ask the Park Board to work with city street design to have rubberised surface on the sidewalk so that walking or running can be more enjoyable;
- for a community basketball program to be successful would need access to gyms operated by both Park Board and School Board;

- run a street soccer program for homeless and substance abuse kids,
- homelessness is an issue in Vancouver, need to address it in a positive way;
- there is a lack of recreation space and infrastructure;
- the ticketing program for Kids Up Front was well received.

Board members discussed the issue and a member of the Board stated that the report to Council relates what is being done, however, she was concerned that the report does not have specific recommendations from VACNet. She would like to defer the report to the next meeting of the Board so that a report with specific recommendations from VACNet Steering Committee can be included.

Moved by Commissioner Holden,

THAT the Active Communities Vancouver Progress Report be deferred to the next meeting of the Board on December 10, 2007 for specific recommendations from VACNet.

- Carried.

(Commissioner De Genova contrary)

Stanley Park 120th Anniversary Celebration

Board members received copies of a staff report dated November 16, 2007 recommending that the Board approve the plans to celebrate the 120th Anniversary of Stanley Park in 2008.

Staff advised the Board that as part of the celebration of the 120th Anniversary of Stanley Park, a historical exhibition showcasing both the natural and human history of the park is being proposed. The “legacies” portion of the Restoration Plan would be directly supported by a series of 30-36 permanent interpretive panels showcasing important aspects of the park’s history. A second exhibition is planned in partnership with the Vancouver Museum to display over 250 artifacts in a 36,000 sq. ft. curated exhibition at the Vancouver Museum, September 2008 to February 2009. This exhibition will be confirmed pending a donor contribution.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Mary Jewell
- Peter Woods

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

- supports the museum’s proposal to create a historical exhibition, but not throughout the park;

- proposed the idea to recognize donors by creating a book similar to the Carmanah project;
- include fine art artists for environmental art in the budget as part of the 120th Anniversary celebration;
- was caught off guard with the plans for the celebration;
- understood there would be an education committee as part of the restoration project;
- need to have a coherent approach for interpretation;
- legacy project should address the natural landscapes and forests;
- would like to see more flexibility with the interpretative signs;
- asked the Board to defer this report to allow more input from the public.

Board members discussed the report and thanked the delegations for their presentation. Board members stated that the interpretive panels would be an important legacy and the park is in need of a good signage program.

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

THAT the Board approve the following to celebrate the 120th anniversary of Stanley park in 2008:

- **Mounting a display of 30-36 permanent interpretative panels throughout the park;**
- **Commissioning the Vancouver Museum to mount an historical exhibition, pending the confirmation of a donation to fund the exhibition.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Donor Recognition and Stewardship – Stanley Park Restoration Progress Report

Board members received copies of a staff report dated November 19, 2007 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised the Board that the donor recognition and stewardship program reports on the use of all donated funds. It is an opportunity to thank donors and provide them with information on the impact of their gifts and engage them further.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

- A. THAT the Board receive and approve the Stanley Park Restoration Progress Report.**

B. THAT the Board approve that this report be sent to all donors who designated financial contributions to the Stanley Park Restoration as part of the Donor Recognition Program.

- Carried Unanimously.

Stanley Park Restoration – Progress Report – November 2007

Commissioner Holden left the room on a potential conflict of interest.

Board members received copies of a staff report dated November 15, 2007 recommending that the Board receive the Progress Report for information.

Staff reported on the restoration work done in the environmentally sensitive areas, removal of dangerous trees and the insect monitoring program.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Eleanor Hadley
- Peter Woods

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

- do not understand why the restoration work would cost so much money;
- concerned with bulldozers going through the park;
- consider using smaller machinery and manual labour;
- concerned that staff is rushing through the work to open the park to tourists, should allow nature to heal and rebuild;
- it was only a windstorm, why all this expense;
- have noticed root butt fungus on Douglas fir stump and some live trees also affected;
- suggest an expert be consulted to see how the fungus will affect the seedlings.

Board members discussed the report and was impressed with the progress. Board members acknowledge and commended staff for their work.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the Board receive the attached Progress Report for information.

- Carried Unanimously.

Stanley Park Restoration Project – Contract Extension

Board members received copies of a staff report dated November 15, 2007 recommending that the Board extend the consulting and forestry contracts as outlined in this report for work related to the Stanley Park restoration project.

Staff advised the Board that the contracts were set with pricing that allowed a strict control over the projects and to respond to the environmental and safety challenges of the forestry operations. The project has moved slower than originally hoped but have not faced any significant environmental or safety criticism, the extension will allow the completion of the restoration work.

Board members discussed the issue and felt confident that the contractors have been doing a good job and is worthy of the extensions of their contracts.

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

THAT the Board extend the consulting and forestry contracts as outlined in this report for work related to the Stanley Park restoration project.

- Carried Unanimously.

There was a five minute recess at 9:28 p.m.
The Board reconvened at 9:35 p.m.

Commissioner Holden returned to the meeting at this point.

Hillcrest Curling Venue/Percy Norman Pool/Fall'07 Update

Board members received copies of a staff report dated November 14, 2007 recommending that the Board receive the attached Council report entitled "Hillcrest Curling Venue/Percy Norman Aquatic Centre Fall'07 Update" dated November 14, 2007 for information.

Staff advised the Board on the status of the project and the funding to-date.

Board members thanked staff for the update and expressed an interest for a site tour of the facility.

Moved by Commissioner Houghton,

THAT the Board receive the attached City Council report entitled “Hillcrest Curling Venue/Percy Norman Aquatic Centre Fall’07 Update” dated November 14, 2007 for information.

-Carried Unanimously.

Trout Lake Ice Rink Award of Contract

Board members received copies of a staff report dated November 14, 2007 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A to D.

Staff advised the Board that Bird Construction provide construction management services including pre-construction services and the obtaining of competitive trade bids on behalf of the Board. The contract is for the reconstruction of Trout Lake Ice Rink, including the demolition, excavation, site servicing and other related work.

Board members discussed the report and were glad to see that the construction work on Trout Lake Ice Rink is progressing.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

- A. THAT, subject to the conditions set out in these Recommendations, the General Manager of Parks and Recreation be authorized to enter into a contract with Bird Construction Company, Limited Partnership for \$2,168,767, plus GST, with funding to be provided from the Capital Budget.**
- B. THAT the General Manager of Parks and Recreation be authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the Park Board all legal documents required to implement Recommendation A.**
- C. THAT all such legal documents be on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager of Parks and Recreation in consultation with the Director of Legal Services.**
- D. THAT no legal rights or obligations will be created or arise by the Board’s adoption of Recommendations unless and until such legal documents are executed.**

- Carried Unanimously.

MOTION

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

Whereas in the last two years the Park Board has seen the planned elimination of green space for increased building footprints in Burrardview, China Creek, Stanley, Hillcrest/Riley, Trout Lake, and Killarney Parks;

Whereas a policy to guide decision-making on such expansion proposals, and that protects existing green space, while still providing the flexibility to deal with pressures for increased space in community facilities, is needed;

Whereas with Vancouver's population increasing, green space in parks will be of even greater necessity and value to the well being of the community;

And, Whereas pressures on our parks for development and other uses are rising while net green space has not kept pace;

Therefore be it resolved that the Park Board request that staff research, and develop a policy on no-net loss of green space that would be used to guide future decision-making;

And Be It Further Resolved that staff report back to the Board for further guidance by April 2008.

The following delegations requested to speak to the motion:

- Jamie Lee Hamilton
- Eric Lorenz, Sierra Club of BC
- Aaron Jasper, West End Residents Association
- Jerri-Lee Cerny
- Milos Zach
- Georgina Nicholson

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

- has potential for a serious outcome for communities that are park deficient;
- the policy will create animosity between communities as the loss of space could be replaced in another part of the city;
- the motion is premature and would like it withdrawn;
- supports the motion as it would force Park Board to create green space;
- quality of green space must be considered in comparison to net loss as forests absorb carbon dioxide better than a playing field;
- there are many park deficient neighbourhoods;
- include beaches and marine areas as green space;
- enhance the green space and get the most use out of it;
- projects take up space, must be careful in creating a use and then situation;

- work with the public on a win-win situation;
- protect the green space and keep them natural;
- do not trade green space around the city;
- why lose green space?
- ask citizens to pay for the preservation of green space;
- Hastings Park is a sad example of green space not being protected;
- even though there is a promise to green Hastings Park, there is still a lot of activity there;
- parks such as Hastings Park will be targeted for more tarmac and buildings.

The Chair thanked the delegations for their input.

Board members discussed the motion and a member of the Board stated that in reviewing a number of board reports he was concerned about the loss of green space now and in the future and looks forward to developing a policy. Several members of the Board did not support the motion and stated that the Board is developing a land acquisition policy and staff is always vigilant about the preservation of green space while considering the development of new community centres, seniors' centre, day care facilities and skate parks. A member of the Board stated that there were a lot of different perspectives on green space, and referred to the recent First Nations land settlement where green space was lost. The motion asks for research and would provide a useful tool for public consultation.

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

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A member of the Board enquired whether staff was aware that some of the Eburne Lands were up for sale. Staff advised the Board that they were aware of the property availability.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Ian Robertson
Chair