

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2008**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Korina Houghton
	Vice Chair	- Ian Robertson
	Commissioners	- Allan De Genova
		- Spencer Herbert
		- Loretta Woodcock
		- Martin Zlotnik
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Corporate Services	- Anita Ho
	Director of Stanley District	- Peter Kuran
	Director of Queen Elizabeth District	- Lori MacKay
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, February 11, 2008 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair advised the Board that some members of the Board attended the second annual meeting of Active Communities Vancouver and highlighted the many initiatives of the program to encourage residents to get 20% more active by 2010.

Presentation

Ray Boucher and Kristy Storey, Director, BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund, Bright Nights Committee, advised the Board that this year they celebrated the 10th year of their partnership with the Vancouver Park Board in raising funds through Bright Nights in Stanley Park to provide burn victims with counseling and support. They have also embarked on a capital project to build a house for families of burn victims to stay in while they are in treatment in Vancouver. A cheque in the amount of \$71,847.70 was presented to the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund.

International Women's Day

The Chair referred to the celebration of International Women's Day on March 6, 2008 and requested an update. The General Manager advised the Board that on Thursday, March 6th the celebration of International Women's Day will include a series of speakers, Proclamation by the Mayor followed by a Reception. This year's theme is *Sports: Inspiration and Achievement*. The Park Board is planning a 6-month project honouring women in Vancouver starting in May culminating in October. "*Remarkable Women: honouring women from our Vancouver communities*" is a poster project that will see 112 posters created, each celebrating a woman who contributed to her Vancouver community; they will be from a range of neighbourhoods and cultural backgrounds. There will also be workshop opportunities for people in Vancouver to create their own posters honouring the women in their lives. Workshops will happen over the spring and summer, potentially also in early fall, and, the posters will be up in all of the community centres in October.

City Council Report

Council will be receiving reports on the 2009-2011 Capital Plan. There will be a Special Council Meeting to discuss EcoDensity - Draft Charter & Draft Actions - Next Steps.

COMMITTEE REPORT

At the Committee meeting on Monday, February 18th, Chris Cooper presented a paddle carved from wood from Stanley Park. On the agenda were the Oppenheimer Park Design, Brockton Oval Vision, Burrard Civic Marina Capital Infrastructure Update, Commemorative Naming and the World Championship Triathlon Event.

STAFF REPORTS

2008 Operating Budget

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 15, 2008 recommending that the Board approve the proposed 2008 Park Board Global Budget of \$59,339,100 including the Basic Budget, Added Basic and New and Non-Recurring Costs.

Moved by Commissioner Zlotnik,

THAT the Board approve the proposed 2008 Park Board Global Budget of \$59,339,100, including the \$58,598,500 Basic Budget, \$444,600 for Added Basic costs and the \$296,000 for New and Non-Recurring cost subject to Council approval in April 2008.

Staff provided an overview of the 2008 Operating Budget which is comprised of three components, Basic Budget, Added Basic Budget and New and Non-Recurring Budget. The Basic Budget represents the 2008 Operating Budget adjusted by inflation and other factors to provide current programs, Added Basic represents net new operating costs associated with new or expanded capital additions and a one year adjustment, and the New and Non-Recurring Budget provides for replacement of equipment and other one time expenditures. As part of the city-wide budget adjustment, Park Board's share of staff turnover savings adjustment is \$105,800. A \$346,200 efficiency initiative is proposed. These initiatives are structured so that impact to staff and service delivery will be minimal. The Global Operating Budget allows the Board to operate and maintain the current level of park and recreation services with inflation and efficiency adjustments, and the operating costs for the new and expanded facilities.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Paul Faoro, President, CUPE Local 15
- Eleanor Hadley

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

- ask the Board to put the budget to a public consultation process;
- need a true definition of impact to staff, similar to the language in Council's report;
- CUPE 15 would like confirmation that no staff positions will be affected;
- the Board should lobby for sustainable funding from the City;
- the level of funding to the Park Board needs to be increased;
- citizens are paying a lot through their taxes;
- reduce the number of consultants and unnecessary projects.

Board members discussed the 2008 Operating Budget and several members of the Board stated that they would not support the motion and referred to the various projects such as Civil City, Downtown Ambassador Program and EcoDensity Project which are funded by the City while the Park Board is constantly being asked by City Council to reduce our budget.

The motion was put forward and it was DEFEATED – tie vote
(Commissioners De Genova, Herbert and Woodcock contrary)

Financial Statements for the Year ended December 31, 2007

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 14, 2008 recommending that the Board receive the report for information.

Staff advised the Board that the Board's Operating Budget in 2007 was significantly impacted by the 12-week work stoppage both in terms of services to the public and financial results. Expenses were below budget in most service areas, due to savings from the work stoppage. As of the end of 2007, the Park Board had a surplus of \$7,957,928, of which \$8,032,109 was attributed to the stoppage, leaving a small deficit of \$74,181 or 0.1%. Under the Global Budget arrangement, the Net Operating Budget approved by Council each year represents the maximum funding for the Board of Parks and Recreation for that year. While the arrangement requires the Board to manage its operations within the funds approved by Council, in view of net Park Board savings and the difficulty in determining the impact of the work stoppage, the City will absorb the additional operating costs.

The Donation program had a net increase of \$539,427 bringing the total donation balance as of December 31, 2007 to \$2,020,522.

The Stanley Park Restoration project collected \$8,135,162 in donations, earned \$227,015 in interest and generated \$107,135 in revenue from log sales for a total increase in funds of \$8,469,312. Once expenses of \$3,020,669 are accounted for, \$5,448,643 remain in the fund to complete the restoration and legacy work for Stanley Park.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

THAT the Board receive the Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 2008 for information.

- Carried Unanimously.

Accomplishment Report 2007

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 15, 2008 recommending that the Board receive the report for information.

The General Manager reported on the 2007 Accomplishments which was organized on the Board's priorities and addressed the key directions from the Strategic Plan. Some highlights were the completion of the Vancouver Technical Artificial Turf field, Active Communities programs, successful fundraising for the restoration of Stanley Park following the windstorm in December 2006, the completion to the new Sunset Community Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park Plaza and the Air India Memorial. Some of the major projects which are in progress are the energy efficiency projects and all Olympic related projects. The Board also received awards of excellence for a number of projects such as the Lieutenant Governor Award of Merit for Killarney Pool and the City of Vancouver Heritage Award for Coal Harbour. A significant event in 2007 was the civic strike for three months when most of the services were withdrawn from the public. In 2007 focus was also placed on the clean-up of Stanley Park and reopening of the park as soon as possible. A complex recovery process was carried out and the team is working on legacy planning and planting has started and will continue this Spring.

Board members discussed the accomplishment report and were impressed with the work and achievements. Board members thanked staff for their hard work and accomplishments.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

THAT the Board receive the Accomplishments Report 2007 for information.

- Carried Unanimously.

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

The Chair advised the Board that the Hastings Community Little League would like a letter of support from the Board for Little League BC to host the 2011 Canadian National Baseball Championships. Board members discussed the request and offered their support provided there is no competition from other Little Leagues to host this event.

Notice of Motion

The following notice of motion was submitted by Commissioner Woodcock:

Whereas International Women's Day has been celebrated annually on March 8th since 1909 to recognize women as makers of history and is an occasion marked through celebrations in communities and countries throughout the world;

Whereas the United Nations designated 1975 as International Women's Year and governments began to recognize March 8th as the official date of celebration;

Whereas cities in Canada also recognize the important contributions of women to their communities and to their society as a whole by recognizing IWD;

Whereas the Vancouver Park Board has spearheaded many celebrations throughout the City to honour the diversity of its citizenry through arts and cultural and recreational activities; and

Therefore be it resolved that the Vancouver Park Board request staff to work with its community partners to recognize and celebrate International Women's Day city-wide in the year 2009.

In-Camera Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Herbert,

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:

- (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of an activity, work or facility that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the Council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city if they were held in public.**

- Carried Unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Korina Houghton
Chair