

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Korina Houghton
	Vice Chair	- Ian Robertson
	Commissioners	- Allan De Genova
		- Spencer Herbert
		- Heather Holden
		- Loretta Woodcock
	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

Commissioner Zlotnik was absent from the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Monday, February 25, 2008 were adopted as circulated.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair advised the Board on her attendance at the City's celebration of International Women's Day on March 6, 2008. The theme of the celebration was *Inspiration and Achievement in Sport*. The Chair advised the Board on the plans to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racism on March 21, 2008.

City Council Report

Council will be receiving a report on By-law Enforcement and Enhanced Civil Order.

COMMITTEE REPORT

There was no update.

The Chair recognized former Park Commissioner Anita Romaniuk.

STAFF REPORTS

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 27, 2008 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised the Board that the draft 2009–2011 Capital Plan addresses parks and recreation upgrades and renewal projects, consistent with strategic priorities of the City and the Park Board. The development of the draft Capital Plan was based on submissions from Park Board partners and stakeholders, previously approved long-range renewal plans and current assessment of parks and facilities. The projects included in the draft Capital Plan represent the continuation of long-term initiatives that would not be prudent to postpone beyond 2009–2011. Upon Board approval, the draft Capital Plan will be released for the purposes of City inter-departmental review, and public consultations with Board partners and stakeholders.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

1. Kate Perkins, Grandview Community Association
2. Lorna Gibbs
3. Bert Massiah, South East Vancouver Seniors Centre
4. Milt Bowling
5. Kamlesh Sethi
6. Des Burke, Killarney Seniors
7. Richard Saunders, Hastings Little League
8. Keith Jacobson, Killarney Community Association
9. Nicholas Foxcroft, Urban Trail Network
10. Chris Young, Vancouver Skateboard Coalition
11. Eleanor Hadley
12. Friends of Grandview Park
13. Jeff Cole
14. Thor Larson
15. Travis Cutler
16. Jeff Malmgren
17. Margery Duda
18. Jeff Chan, Vice President, Vancouver Skateboard Coalition
19. Nathaniel Adie, Skaters for Public Skate
20. Kathleen Bigsby, Association Presidents Group
21. Gayle Uthoff
22. Henry Hawthorn, VanDusen Botanical Gardens Association
23. Anita Romaniuk
24. Peter Jackson, Vancouver Indoor Tennis
25. Eric Harms, President, Hastings Community Association

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

- Grandview Community Association Board thanked the Board and staff for including Trout Lake Community Centre in the Capital Plan; the community is growing and need a community centre to meet their needs; will reiterate commitment of financial contribution to the project;
- Southeast Vancouver is in need of a seniors' centre; most suitable location is at Killarney as it is central and on a bus route; would prefer the seniors' centre to be built like the Kerrisdale model; do not remove the seniors' centre as part of the East Fraserlands project; would like to have a multi-cultural seniors' centre; request to have a Federal, Provincial and city matching fund model;
- Hastings Community Little League would like the drainage in the field improved; need a bigger diamond and a new backstop; men's and women's washroom need upgrading;
- glad to see that requests which are not the Board's responsibility are excluded from the draft Capital Plan;
- BMX and freestyle skateboarding are Olympic events; asked the Board to continue to provide a facility for BMX users;
- not enough skateparks in the city; provide funding for a skatepark indicates that the Board cares about youth; complete the Leaside project in memory of Lee Matasi; the design and plans are ready; skateparks are always eliminated from designs for parks; the existing skateparks are heavily used, retrofit old wading pools into skateparks;
- reclaim, reinvent and renovate Grandview Park; park is used for unauthorised demonstrations, drugs are a problem; playground area is unfenced, traffic in neighbourhood is increasing; playground equipment is a target for vandals; residents and Friends of Grandview Park will participate in any renewal project;
- why is maintenance for grass fields included as capital plan money? need to put more money into sports fields, playing catch up will cost more;
- Vancouver should invest in outdoor swimming pools and not water spray parks; was promised that the pool at Mount Pleasant will be replaced; anxious to begin fundraising and work with the Board to achieve the vision to replace Mount Pleasant Pool;
- need to provide sufficient community amenities for growing neighbourhoods; need community centres to support Active Communities Initiatives; Vancouver's population is projected to rise, the life of a community centre is 50 years to keep them operationally sound; this capital plan lists only one community centre, there should be two;
- thank the Board for including Renfrew changeroom in the capital plan; the people have waited a long time for this project to be completed;

- Park Board has a jewel in VanDusen Garden but the garden facilities are in need of repairs; there is a need for expanded public programs and replace the building and make it more energy efficient; the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association have raised funds and urged the Board to not let it be eroded in the process;
- need to fight for money in the capital plan for land acquisition and get more public washrooms;
- the Board should consider developing an indoor tennis facility, it will be a good source for revenues; move the indoor tennis facility from the non-urgent list to the 2009-2011 Capital Plan;
- Hastings Community Centre was under consideration for replacement, but is not in the draft Capital Plan;
- would like the Board to consider locating Hastings Community Centre on Hastings Park.

Board members thanked the delegations for their input and stated that there is a lot of work involved in reviewing and evaluating the different projects. A member of the Board stated that the request from skateboarders will be reviewed and the need to replace aging infrastructure will be considered. A member of the Board stated that the public should be advised on the money left over from previous capital plans. A member of the Board stated that the Board should pursue funding from VANOC to cover the Hillcrest conversion, provide support to the community for rebuilding Mount Pleasant Pool, consider providing land and operating funds for the seniors' centre at Killarney and the development of an urban trail network. After further discussions, a member of the Board stated that he hopes Council will be receptive to the community's requests and not reduce the envelope size for the Board's 2009-2011 Capital Plan.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

- A. **THAT the draft 2009-2011 Capital Plan (Appendix A) be approved as the basis for City Capital Plan review and community consultations.**
- B. **THAT opportunity for public input on the draft Capital Plan be provided through one or more community meetings, and via the Park Board website.**

- Carried Unanimously.

Oppenheimer Park and Field House Upgrade: Concept Plan Approval

Board members received copies of a staff report dated February 27, 2008 recommending that the Board approve the concept plan for the proposed upgrade of Oppenheimer Park and Field House as illustrated in Appendix 1.

Staff advised the Board that the proposed plan for Oppenheimer Park and Field House addresses the community's desire to increase the opportunities for the use and enjoyment of the park by local residents. The improvements include relocating and building a new field house, children's play area and basketball court, additional seating areas, upgrades to the irrigation system, drainage and pathways and commemorating features highlighting the cultural and historical significance of Oppenheimer Park.

Board members discussed the improvements to Oppenheimer Park and a member of the Board stated that the improvements were long overdue and thanked staff for working with the community to develop the plan.

Moved by Commissioner Holden,

THAT the Board approve the concept plan for the proposed upgrade of Oppenheimer Park and Field House as described in this report and illustrated in Appendix 1.

- Carried Unanimously.

MOTIONS

International Women's Day

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

Whereas International Women's Day has been celebrated annually on March 8 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 8 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 International Women's Day;

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.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

1. Jamie Lee Hamilton
2. Sal Bhullar
3. Carly Teng
4. Anita Romaniuk

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

- many aboriginal and other ethnic women are not well represented;
- many women have expressed their bad experiences in the city;
- would like Park Board to take an active role to recognize women;
- women have an important role in society and they need to be empowered;
- Park Board and community partners should celebrate and appreciate women;
- Vancouver is known for being inclusive and celebrates diversity and youth week;
- celebrating International Women's Day is important to give them a voice;
- a great opportunity to recognize the women in our community;
- there has never been a level playing field for women.

A member of the Board stated that Council's celebration of International Women's Day does not engage the whole city. The Board's 'Remarkable Women' poster project should be complimented, but the motion speaks to a celebration for next year. After further discussion, a member of the Board stated that the Board supports women and International Women's Day as already being celebrated therefore the motion is redundant.

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

Non-Confidence in Chair

The procedure for voting on this motion was chaired by the Vice Chair.

A member of the Board challenged the Vice Chair on a point of order that the Chair should not participate in the discussion of a motion which relates to her performance as Chair.

The Chair advised the Board that she sought legal counsel and she has been advised that she is not in conflict.

The Vice Chair ruled the challenge out of order.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

Whereas Commissioner Korina Houghton appeared before Council on February 26th to speak to issues related to EcoDensity in her capacity as Chair without consultation with the entire Board;

Therefore be it resolved that the Board support a motion of non-confidence in Commissioner Korina Houghton in her role as Chair of the Vancouver Park Board; and

Therefore be it further resolved that the Board respectfully request that Commissioner Houghton step down as chair of the Vancouver Park Board immediately.

The mover of the motion stated that her colleague and herself were concerned the Chair addressed Council regarding the EcoDensity plan whilst they expressed concern with expenditure for this program and without consulting the Board. The Chair misrepresented the Board by committing to an EcoDensity plan which is still going through the public consultation process. It appeared that the Chair used her position to facilitate the Mayor's election campaign and to achieve her own political goals. To have the Chair vote on a motion of direct personal interest erodes the democratic process. If the Chair does not step down from the Chair position then it is hoped that there will be an opportunity to build a relationship of respect and openness among the members of the Board and the Chair should rise to the level of responsibility invested in her as Chair of the Board.

A member of the Board stated that there needs to be open dialogue amongst all the members of the Board and as an Independent member would have welcomed the opportunity to convey his opinion to Council through the Chair.

The Chair advised the Board that her presentation to Council was based on the Board's strategic plan for parks and recreation and was not support for EcoDensity. She acknowledged the need for open dialogue as stated by a member of the Board.

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

The Chair provided a statement at this point with regard to the conduct of the Board.

The Chair stated that it was unfortunate for the citizens of Vancouver that the Board has been unproductive at this time due to petty politics beginning with the voting down of the operating budget and now the charge of lack of consultation with the Board regarding her presentation on EcoDensity at a Council meeting where she advocated for parks and recreation amenities in accordance with our Mission statement. The Chair stated that she was willing to be more consultative with the Board and would request that political charade at the Board discontinue as it is a waste of taxpayers' money and the Board and staff time. The Chair requested that members work together for the good of parks and recreation rather than for political re-election campaigns.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Korina Houghton
Chair