

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION
HELD AT THE VANCOUVER PARK BOARD OFFICE
ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2008**

PRESENT:	Chair	- Korina Houghton
	Vice-Chair	- Ian Robertson
	Commissioners	- Allan De Genova
		- Heather Holden
		- Loretta Woodcock
	General Manager	- Susan Mundick
	Director of Vancouver East District	- Liane McKenna
	Director of Stanley District	- Peter Kuran
	Director of Planning Operations	- Pieter Rutgers
	Director of Special Projects	- Jim Lowden
	Manager of Business Development	- Octavio Silva
	Manager of Recreation Services	
	- Queen Elizabeth District	- Diane Murphy
	Senior Business Analyst	- Meg Elliott
	Manager of Communications	- Joyce Courtney
	Communications Coordinator	- Barb Pocock
	Recorder	- Julie Casanova

Commissioners Herbert and Zlotnik were absent from the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board held on Monday, October 6, 2008 were adopted as circulated

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported on the Active Communities Adventure Passport awards to the top three schools, and ceremonies at City Hall celebrating the start of the Diwali festival. She also acknowledged Commissioner Robertson on his recent recognition by BCIT as a Distinguished Alumnus.

PRESENTATION

The Park Board received the 2008 Canadian Parks and Recreation Association Award of Excellence and Innovation for the submission: Stanley Park Restoration - From Crisis to Opportunity.

City Council Report

There will be a presentation of the Cultural Harmony Awards at Council followed by a tree planting at the Cultural Harmony Grove on Thursday. Council will be receiving reports on 2008 Sport Hosting Grants, Consultant Contracts for Hastings Park Master Plan, and Changes to City Council Procedural By-laws.

COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee met on October 20 and on the agenda were Stanley Park Entrance Public Art, Evaluation of Kits Farmers' Market, Vancouver Olympic/Paralympic Centre Program Update, Administrative Report - Position Change, and Fees & Charges - Policy Review.

STAFF REPORTS

Stanley Park – Hollow Tree Update

Board members received copies of a staff report dated October 17, 2008 recommending that the Board receive the following report for information.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

THAT the Board receive the report for information.

Staff advised the Board that the report from the Stanley Park Hollow Tree Conservation Society was received and reviewed. Staff cannot comment on the solution proposed in the report and approval of any of the recommendation from the Hollow Tree Conservation Society should wait until a detailed plan is signed off by a structural engineer for the process of moving the snag into a vertical position and a sealed set of drawings and specifications for the design of a supporting structure to safely retain the Hollow Tree in its new vertical condition. In the absence of critical structural engineering components of this report, there remains inadequate information for staff to judge the merits of the conservation proposal and provide advice to the Board.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Lorne Whitehead
- Hal Kalman
- Reid Costley
- Eleanor Hadley
- Anita Romaniuk
- Steve Cochran
- Aaron Jasper

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

- the hollow tree is an amazing structure and admired by everyone;
the Stanley Park Hollow Tree Conservation Society is reporting back on suitable solutions to keep the tree upright;
commend the Board's decision to allow further study;
- research has provided that the tree can be kept upright, need a conditional approval from the Board to enable fundraising and production of a detailed engineering drawing;
the hollow tree is important to many in the city and plays an important part in their lives;
this is an iconic resource and must be kept for the future;
- this is an interesting project for engineers to find a way to right the tree;
- the hollow tree would not be in a state of rot and decay if it were maintained well;
- would like to support the request for the process to go to the next step;
citizens react to Stanley Park very strongly, believe they can raise the funds to restore the tree;
there should not be any cost to tax payers;
- it is up to us to decide what future generations can enjoy;
this could be the oldest tree and naming the tree would connect it to memory for future generations;
- thank the Conservancy Society for their diligence and passion;
worked as tour bus driver and have brought lots of people to see the tree;
this will be a good legacy to the people of Vancouver by the Board.

Board members discussed the report and a member of the Board stated that they were encouraged by the work of the Stanley Park Hollow Tree Conservation Society and would like to put forward an amendment motion.

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

THAT the Board receive the following report for information, and, encourage the Stanley Park Hollow Tree Conservation Society;

- 1. to continue fundraising;**
- 2. to prepare the required structural engineering report (with a seal of certification) on the entire project including:**
 - a. methodology for straightening the Hollow Tree**
 - b. plans and specifications for the structure required to maintain the tree in a safe, vertical position**
- 3. to submit a final report for the Board at least two weeks prior to the end of the 60 day fundraising period (December 4, 2008); at which time the Board can consider approval of the concept, having the appropriate background materials in hand.**

Board members discussed the amendment motion and stated that the Board is concerned about safety and should be prudent in embarking on this project.

The motion was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

Park Naming – 37th Avenue & Oak Street and 72nd Avenue & Osler Street Park Sites

Board member received copies of a staff report dated October 10, 2008 recommending that the Board approve recommendations A and B.

Staff advised the Board that a new park naming process ensuring more consistent public involvement was approved by the Board in 2007. A citizen based Park Naming Committee was formed to bring community and historical views to the process. Staff used a number of techniques and incentive offers such as a Flexipass recreation pass and VanDusen Garden admission passes to invite the public to submit names for the two parks. The Committee reviewed the submissions based on the park naming guidelines of geographic and commemorative relevance.

Board members thanked the members of the Park Naming Committee for their hard work on this project.

Moved by Commissioner Holden,

- A. That the Board approve the name Oak Meadows Park for the 37th Avenue & Oak Street park site.**
- B. That the Board approve the name Ebisu Park for the 72nd Avenue & Osler Street park site.**

- Carried Unanimously.

(Commissioner Robertson was not present at the time of the vote)

Vancouver Sport Hosting Grant – 2008 Allocations

Board members received copies of a staff report dated October 15, 2008 recommending that the Board endorse the recommendations in the attached Council report.

Staff advised the Board that the Sport Hosting Policy and Sport Hosting Grant Program approved by Council in 2006 supports a range of sporting events not eligible under the Hosting BC program. The report to Council outlining the second recommendations on the second intake of the 2008 Vancouver Sport Hosting Grants reflect a careful and considered process of the Review Panel members, against the policy and guidelines provided by Council.

Moved by Commissioner Holden

THAT the Board endorse the recommendations in the attached Council Report.

- Carried Unanimously.

(Commissioner Robertson was not present at the time of the vote)

Administrative Report – Position Change

Board members received copies of a staff report dated October 10, 2008 recommending that the Board approve the creation of one regular full time position for the Aquatic Centre at Hillcrest Park subject to classification by the General Manager of Human Resources.

Staff advised the Board that an Aquatic Centre Supervisor is required to address the management requirements for the new Aquatic Centre at Hillcrest Park. The specific duties of this position would include human resource management, recruitment, discipline, grievances, coaching, establish policy and procedures for program delivery, financial and facility management and health and safety issues. This position is expected to be within the exempt group and is subject to a job classification review by the General Manager of Human Resources.

Board members discussed the report and a member of the Board stated that she would not support staff's recommendation as the position is not required until 2009 and the Board had recently created fifteen exempt positions.

Moved by Commissioner Holden,

THAT the Board approve the creation of one regular full-time position for the new Aquatic Centre at Hillcrest Park subject to classification by the General Manager of Human Resources.

- Carried.

(Commissioner Woodcock contrary)

MOTIONS

First Tee

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

WHEREAS it has been well established that golf is an excellent educational and life-skill building medium. The First Tee Program, established in 1997, capitalizes on this and has grown to include more than 170 cities in the US including one City in Canada being Montreal, Quebec;

AND WHEREAS most chapters are either a partnership with the municipality or a non profit such as the Boys & Girls Club or the YMCA/YWCA;

AND WHEREAS lengthy discussions have taken place over the last 18 months with the Vancouver Park Board and the Kids First Sport Foundation (the "Foundation"), organized to partner with the Vancouver Park Board ("VPB") and the Royal Canadian Golf Association ("RCGA") on this venture;

AND WHEREAS the Foundation's main purpose is to raise funds to support inner city youth and the administration of the First Tee Program; the RCGA's main purpose is to provide instructional help; and the VPB's main purpose is to provide access to the public golf courses in Vancouver, in particular Fraserview and McCleery;

AND WHEREAS presently both Fraserview and McCleery have existing junior programs, it is the intention to bring the additional life-skill component of the First Tee Program to enhance what is already in place;

AND WHEREAS the common purpose of the “First Tee of Metro Vancouver” is to help expand golf and character-building programs in the metro Vancouver Area and to make them more accessible and affordable to youth of all ethnic diversities, social strata and those with physical disabilities, particularly those who may not otherwise have the financial means to learn and play golf;

AND WHEREAS in order to fully implement the program, the First Tee of Metro Vancouver chapter needs to enter into a 15 year facilities agreement with the VPB (to be approved by “The First Tee” World Golf Foundation, Inc.) that will provide a minimum of 250 hours of access to the courses/driving ranges/practice facilities specified;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the staff of the VPB be instructed to negotiate a Facility Agreement with the First Tee of Metro Vancouver for the use of Vancouver Park Board facilities subject to consideration and approval by the Board.

A video presentation by the Vancouver Chapter of “The First Tee” was provided to Board members.

Michael Carroll, First Tee Program, appeared before the Board and stated that they were looking to partner with the Vancouver Park Board on the First Tee program. This program can be used to introduce more children to the sport of golf and also a good life skill teaching tool. They will raise the funds to pay for the use of the golf courses, not asking for a donation from the Board.

Board members discussed the motion and stated that they recognized the work put in by Commissioner Zlotnik on this project. The Board recognises the value of leadership skills that young people can develop with this program.

The motion was put forward and it was Carried Unanimously.

Buy Canadian

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

WHEREAS the current economic crisis in global markets will impact the Canadian economy;

WHEREAS in recognition of deteriorating business conditions the federal government is implementing policies to ease the credit crunch within the Canadian economy;

WHEREAS other levels of government need to recognize and create policies such as maintaining jobs in Canada;

WHEREAS Canada's manufacturing sector is a critical part of the economy; it is highly productive, generates the highest value-added in the economy, accounts for two thirds of our nation's total exports and funds three-quarters of all private sector research;

WHEREAS citizens expect their governments to spend wisely, invest in their communities and recognize that the creation of healthy communities, good jobs and a strong economy are the responsibility of all levels of government;

WHEREAS governments the world over clearly understand the benefits of domestic purchasing rules including the direct and spin off employment created, taxes generated, and the environmental benefits of local sourcing;

WHEREAS Vancouver Park Board can work to keep jobs in our communities by implementing policies such as:

- **requiring a minimum of 50% Canadian content and domestic final assembly in the purchase of department vehicles**
- **requiring purchase of goods and services with the highest possible level of Canadian content**
- **requiring potential vendors to identify the source of goods and services, and the overall level of Canadian content, as part of the tendering process;**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to review and report on identifying opportunities to enhance the level of Canadian content in future purchases.

The following delegations requested to speak to the Board:

- Anita Romaniuk
- Mabel Elmore

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

- support the motion for economic and environmental reasons;
- buying Canadian and particularly local sourcing will reduce pollution;
- with increase in unemployment and economic turmoil in all sectors it is important to purchase goods made in Canada;
- there are restrictions on purchase of foreign goods in Japan, China and the European Union;
- Vancouver Park Board could be a leader in buying Canadian.

Board members discussed the motion and a member enquired about the purchasing policy and guidelines currently in use. Staff advised the Board that the purchasing policy is based on best value and we also have shared services with the City. A member of the Board suggested an amendment to the motion which will include the city with regard to goods and services purchased under shared services.

Moved by Commissioner Woodcock,

THAT the following be added to the end of the Therefore Be It Resolved:
And review city policies regarding purchasing off shore and outside of Vancouver.

- DEFEATED.

(Commissioners Holden, Houghton and Robertson contrary)

Board members discussed the main motion and a member of the Board stated that this was a significant shift and would involve review of the present policy. This work could be considered by the new Board.

The main motion was put and it was DEFEATED.

(Commissioners De Genova, Holden, Houghton and Robertson contrary)

In-Camera Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Robertson,

THAT the Board later this evening go into a meeting which is closed to the public, pursuant to Section 165.2 (1) of the *Vancouver Charter*, to discuss matters related to paragraphs:

- (e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the Council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the city;**
- (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.

Enquiries, Other Matters and New Business

A member of the Board enquired about the cost for the conversion of fifteen Community Recreation Coordinators to Community Recreation Supervisors. The General Manager advised the Board that it is not known how many will accept the conversion. The financial information will be available upon implementation of the reorganization.

Susan Mundick
General Manager

Commissioner Korina Houghton
Chair