

**Minutes of Meeting  
Committee Meeting, Vancouver Park Board**

**DATE OF MEETING:** March 17, 2008

**ATTENDEES: Park Board Commissioners**

Commissioner Marty Zlotnik, Chair  
Commissioner Spencer Herbert  
Commissioner Korina Houghton  
Commissioner Loretta Woodcock

**Park Board Staff**

Susan Mundick	General Manager
Peter Kuran	Director of Stanley District
Jim Lowden	Director of Special Projects
Lori MacKay	Director of Queen Elizabeth District
jil p. weaving	Arts and Culture Coordinator, Stanley District
Yuna Flewin	Recorder

**Delegation**

Sean Smith	False Creek Boaters Association
------------	---------------------------------

**Consultant**

Russell Acton	Acton Ostry Architects Inc.
---------------	-----------------------------

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm, with the following Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes of February 18, 2008 Meeting
2. Vancouver International Sculpture – Biennale Temporary Installation Update
3. English Bay Bistro Design / Coal Harbour Restaurant Update
4. Stanley Park – Legacy Project
5. Hollow Tree Status
6. Burrard Civic Marina – Capital Infrastructure Update

**1. Approval of Minutes of February 18, 2008 Meeting**

The minutes of the February 18, 2008 meeting were approved with two minor amendments. Commissioner Spencer Herbert's first name under the Attendees was amended. The chair of the meeting was amended to Commissioner Marty Zlotnik.

## **2. Vancouver International Sculpture – Biennale Temporary Installation Update**

Staff provided an update on the Vancouver International Sculpture Biennale. In 2005 an agreement was signed between the Park Board and the Biennale Foundation to exhibit 18 art works in the park land for duration of 18 months. Four sculptures still remain in the park. In July of 2007 staff recommended the Board to initiate a public consultation process regarding the Biennale's proposal to have three of the works loaned to the Park Board in perpetuity. The organizers have modified their proposal since the July 2007 meeting. The current proposal suggests that:

- the number of exhibitions and their duration will not change;
- the number of sites and their locations will stay the same as in the inaugural Biennale exhibition;
- sculptures may remain in a single location beyond 18 months with written permission of the Park Board; and
- sculptures may be brought back with written permission of the Park Board.

Staff recommends a public consultation as the latest proposal substantially alters the temporary nature of the exhibition.

The Biennale Foundation is offering to donate Michel Goulet's work "Echoes" to the Park Board. Staff recommends following the Board's standard donation process for this piece. Staff also recommends working with the Foundation to identify an alternate location for the Biennale's remaining exhibition to accommodate the permanent installation.

"Device to Root Out Evil" was deemed appropriate for the temporary exhibition in its current site but is now recommended for removal according to the existing agreement. It is not appropriate for a long-term installation due to the view corridor issue, its disproportionate size to the surrounding green space, and negative public opinion.

### Discussion:

- A member of the Committee asked if "Device to Root Out Evil" will be loaned to the Park Board in perpetuity. Staff responded that the Biennale Foundation is only interested in a long-term loan and not in perpetuity.
- A member of the Committee commented that "Device to Root Out Evil" is a very popular piece, and many people seem to enjoy it.
- A member of the Committee asked if insurance was part of the reason for the Biennale Foundation not to pursue loans in perpetuity. Staff responded that the Foundation is mainly interested in long-term loans of between 10 and 30 years, and the reason for this is not to do with insurance.

- A member of the Committee asked for clarification on the difference between the previous proposal and the current one. Staff responded the primary difference between the two proposals is what “perpetuity” meant in the first proposal. The Foundation intended to have the works loaned to the Board for 10 to 30 years and not for an indefinite period of time.
- A member of the Committee asked if staff and the Foundation were working on a specific term for the loan under the current proposal. Staff responded under the current agreement, works could stay until September 2015. However, “Echoes” if accepted as a donation, would belong to the Park Board.
- The General Manager commented that the current proposal alters the agreement that was previously accepted by the public and needs to be put through another public consultation process with the new terms.

Next Step:

Staff to return to the Board with an official report.

**3. English Bay Bistro / Coal Harbour Restaurant Update**

Staff provided background information regarding the English Bay Bistro and Coal Harbour Restaurant development. The proposal to develop English Bay Bistro and Coal Harbour Restaurant was initiated as a response to the Park Board’s long-term business plan to upgrade existing concession services to a more versatile food service provider. The first project of the series, Watermark Restaurant, has been well received. The construction of Coal Harbour Restaurant will begin after the 2010 Winter Olympics.

The project consultant, Russell Acton from Acton Ostry Architects Inc., presented the design scheme for both restaurants. The main design feature for the Coal Harbour Restaurant is a wall facing Harbour Green Park. The wall has been designed to take on an expressive form to reflect its surrounding environment of water and foliage. Other features include a grand stair that connects the seawall and the Thurlow Plaza and its view corridor. The ground floor bistro is planned to seat 70 indoor and 36 outdoor seats. The second floor restaurant will seat 100 indoor and 32 outdoor. The roof top garden will seat 60 outdoor with a green roof to mitigate interactions between the structure and the parkade.

Discussion:

- A member of the Committee asked for clarification on the kitchen site on the second floor. It will be placed in a location that does not block the ocean view.
- A member of the Committee asked if the restaurant can be accessed by bike through the grand stair. Staff responded there will be a switchback bike path that is being developed as part of the Convention Centre along the grand stair from the Thurlow Plaza and the seawall.

- A member of the Committee inquired how the glass wall will be secured from vandalism. The consultant explained the security issue will be discussed at a later stage once the development permit is issued.
- A member of the Committee inquired if the entire façade of the restaurant will be covered with glass. The consultant explained the glass façade is the proposed design under the City's direction.

The consultant presented a plan for the English Bay Bistro. The proposed bistro will replace the existing concession stand with a two-level structure of 4,000 square feet. The upper level acts as an entry point to the bistro from Beach Avenue and down to the restaurant on the seawall level. The loading zone will be located on the rooftop of the main restaurant on the Beach Avenue level, which also acts as a viewing point for the park visitors. The bistro will seat 75 indoors and 106 outdoors including the small kiosk area located on the south side.

Discussion:

- A member of the Committee asked if the depth of the new structure will farther encroach into the seawall. The consultant explained that about one metre from the existing edge of the concession stand will be extended for the new structure.
- A member of the Committee inquired about how the beach users will feel about their privacy. Staff responded the proposed outdoor seating is located lower than the current seating and the indoor seating will go back farther away from the beach, which functions better as a buffer between the restaurant and the beach.
- A member of the Committee asked for clarification on the size of the existing concession stand. Staff will return with the data at a later date. The main difference is the current loading zone in the back will be absorbed by the new structure and the new loading area will be dedicated on the street level.
- A member of the Committee asked what the next step is. Staff responded a public consultation will be undertaken, and the result will be presented to the Board prior to applying for a development permit. Staff will also consult the City Engineering Department regarding the technical detailing of the loading zone.
- A member of the Committee asked what kind of public process will be expected. Staff responded there will be a couple of public consultation meetings and design open houses.
- A member of the Committee asked if there will be a loss of foliage. Consultant responded there may be a couple of street trees to be removed in the back to accommodate the loading zone.

- A member of the Committee asked if the design team has considered the safety implications to the cyclists along the new loading area. Staff clarified the new loading zone is off of the bike route. It will be considerably safer as all service vehicles will be able to drive in and out of the loading zone as opposed to the current system that requires the vehicles to back up onto the bike lane. In addition, the bistro will be equipped with a greater storage capacity to reduce the number of service vehicle trips.

Next Step:

Staff will report back to the Board at its regular meeting.

**4. Stanley Park – Legacy Project**

Staff provided an update on the Stanley Park Legacy Program. The Legacy Program is envisaged to have five components.

- Interpretive signage program: 36-38 signs to be installed all through the park. The sign will be a resin-fused product that has proven to withstand the forces of nature and vandalism. An example can be found at the Lost Lagoon’s bio-filtration system. The size of the panel will be 20” by 40” on a single pedestal. There will be three general topics for interpretation – ecology, aboriginal history and the European history. These signs will be in place by September for the Vancouver Museum’s special exhibit that celebrates Stanley Park’s 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Audio component to the program: A dial-up link to each site/ sign that provides a broader explanation of the site in various languages, which can be accessed via cell phone.
- Stanley Park companion guide: A pocketbook-sized spiral coil bound guide that has largely ecological/ environmental information, which can be purchased inexpensively as a souvenir. The notion is unlike pamphlets the guide will be purchased and therefore kept. The guide can be purchased at various locations throughout the park.
- Expanded environmental programming: This will be handled largely through the Stanley Park Ecology Society. Some of the examples are an educational on-site module, person to person guided tours, and a guest lecture series that invites experts in various aspects of the park ecology.
- 20-year forest management plan: Staff will work with the UBC Faculty of Forestry to plan long-term forest maintenance and management.

Discussion:

- A member of the Committee asked how the project would involve the First Nations and accommodate the two primary languages used by these groups. Staff responded a project consultant with good working relationship with the First Nations will be hired.

- A member of the Committee asked if the educational component of the project will be based on a school curriculum. Staff explained the module will be developed and delivered as part of the school curriculum primarily for elementary schools.
- A member of the Committee asked if staff has identified areas without cell phone access in the park. Staff confirmed there is one zone between Third Beach and Prospect Point, where cell phones cannot be used.

Next Step:

Staff to report back to the Board at its regular meeting.

**5. Hollow Tree Status**

Staff presented a summary of findings on the Hollow Tree. The Hollow Tree has been severely affected by the December storm of 2006. It now leans approximately 11 degrees to the east. The tree has been progressively falling over and apart over the years. What remains now is a collection of barrel staves held together by metal cables and structures. The base cannot support the body any longer due to its rot and poses a safety concern for the public. There is no living portion to the Hollow Tree and has not been for a long time. Staff has retained a structural engineering firm and had it review the tree's condition. The only feasible option is to put an external metal bracing in front of the tree with a concrete base from two sides. This operation will cost about \$70,000. The other option to internally brace the tree would run the risk of shattering the entire body of the tree, and the cost will run in the range of \$200,000.

Staff therefore recommends taking the Hollow Tree down with a large crane, lay it on its side on the lawn area and create a walkway for people to stand in and take a photograph. The root base will remain on site and be filled with soil, and a new cedar seedling will be planted.

Discussion:

- A member of the Committee asked if an interpretive sign will be placed at the Hollow Tree. Staff responded in addition to the interpretive sign a special collection of photo collage comprised of historical and current shots of the tree taken by the public will be installed.
- A member of the Committee asked if a special ceremony will be held when the tree is taken down. Staff responded that it will certainly attract media's attention.
- A member of the Committee asked if old families who have taken photographs in front of the tree can be invited to the special ceremony. Staff responded there have not been any families identified, but it is possible to ask for submission of historical photographs and memorabilia from the public.

### Next Step:

Staff to report back to the Board at its regular meeting.

## **6. Burrard Marina Improvements**

Staff provided background information about the proposed Burrard Marina infrastructure upgrades. In 2006 the Board approved the moorage fee increase, and at that time the boaters requested for infrastructure upgrades to justify the increase. In July 2007 staff recommended hiring a consultant to work out a detailed cost estimate and work plan in consideration for the next capital program. At that time the Board referred the matter to the Committee for further discussions. In February of 2008 staff provided the Committee with a cost estimate in the range of 2-3 million dollars to undertake the basic upgrades to keep the facility operating. The Committee asked the staff to consider various options and return with the findings.

The marina is 40 years old, and some of the facilities are reaching the end of their lifecycle. The staff's current estimate includes basic infrastructure upgrades such as electrical, fire protection, environmental areas in particular contaminant collection, public boat launch and the washroom facility. There is a large market demand especially for larger berths. The marina is currently used by loyal patrons who understand and request the basic upgrades; however, there are concerns that these upgrades may trigger a fee increase. The current fee is at the lower end of market, and this reflects the condition of the marina. The facility generates about \$1 million in revenue that supports the Board activities. The marina's future will be affected by the Esso's decision to cease its operation on the west coast, the City's Burrard Bridge widening project to allocate a bike lane and other regulatory and stakeholders' interests in the area.

The Committee expressed interest in undertaking a visioning process for the Burrard Marina, which will take about nine months and cost about \$100,000. The Committee also inquired about a broader visioning process involving Vancouver's boating community. This will take about 18 months and cost approximately \$200,000. The proposed upgrades were also included in the draft capital program at \$3 million with an option to organize the visioning process. Staff seeks direction from the Committee on the proposed upgrades.

### Discussion:

- A member of the Committee inquired about the status of the proposed survey to be conducted with the False Creek Boaters Association. Staff responded that the idea was discussed, but there was not a clear direction to proceed at the February meeting.
- A member of the Committee stated that it is important to find out what the boaters envision for this marina and to this end some sort of a visioning process is required.

- Sean Smith from the False Creek Boaters Association commented that in general the marina patrons understand the need for the basic upgrades but are concerned that some aspects of the upgrades go beyond the framework of essential upgrades. A public consultation process will be desirable to inform the marina users about the proposed upgrades and receive feedback.
- A member of the Committee asked for clarification on the boaters' immediate needs for upgrades and resulting cost estimate. Staff responded that the cost breakdown was provided to the Board to describe the prioritized items required for the most basic upgrades that do not include a redevelopment of the entire marina.
- A member of the Committee asked if the estimated cost of \$3 million can be further reduced to only undertake necessary improvements. Staff's recommendation is set at \$3 million and cannot be reduced any further.
- A member of the Committee asked for staff's input regarding the general direction on the proposed improvements. Staff suggested with the Board's approval staff will proceed with the highly prioritized upgrades and also undertake either the Burrard Marina visioning process or the broader boating visioning process within the capital budget.
- A member of the Committee asked for staff's comments on the anticipated visions from the boaters. Staff responded that the contemporary marina has a different look compared to a 45-year old marina. There is a wide range of options available to accommodate more boating capacity, change the current focus of the recreational boating to accommodate smaller boats, human-powered boats, sailing and larger vessels. The current layout of the floats does not allow maximized use of the marina.
- A member of the Committee asked if the proposed upgrades should be scheduled after the visioning process to accommodate any changes the new vision may bring forward. Staff commented that the proposed improvements are required for any future redevelopment of the marina.
- A member of the Committee inquired about the potential cost overruns and how it will be managed. Staff responded that the itemized improvements will be handled individually, and should an unexpected need for an extra funding arise some of the components of the project could be phased out.
- A member of the Committee asked if the cost overruns may result in eliminating the visioning process from the project. Staff asked for the Board's direction on the priority in spending.
- A member of the Committee suggested that it is important to find out what the boaters envision for the marina through the visioning process and maximize the resources available to the Board.
- A member of the Committee expressed support for the Burrard Marina visioning process to make sure the boaters are provided with an opportunity to voice their opinion about the marina's future.



Next Step:

Staff to proceed with the proposed upgrades that include a visioning process for the Burrard Marina as part of the capital plan.

**7. Next Meeting**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 21, 2008.